



Meeting Summary

**NAS JRB Fort Worth Regional Coordination Committee
October 18, 2021
1:30 p.m.**

**Lake Worth Multi-Purpose Facility
7005 Charbonneau Road
Lake Worth, Texas 76135**

The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth (NAS JRB Fort Worth) Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) convened at 1:30 p.m. on October 18, 2021. The meeting was hosted by the City of Lake Worth at the Lake Worth Multi-Purpose Facility.

Voting Members in Attendance

Mike Coleman, Chair, City of Westworth Village
Councilmember Dr. Larry Marshall, Vice Chair,
City of Benbrook
Jeff James, Treasurer, Tarrant County
Councilmember Dan Chisholm, Secretary, City
of River Oaks
Stacey Almond, City of Lake Worth
Councilmember Leonard Firestone, City of Fort
Worth
Councilmember Brian Libbey, City of Westworth
Village
Councilmember Laura Mackey, City of
Benbrook
Councilmember Paul Moore, City of White
Settlement
Randy Skinner, Tarrant County
Councilmember Gary Stuard, City of Lake
Worth

Councilmember Clint Narmore, City of Lake
Worth
Roger Peimann, Fort Worth Air Power Council
Emily Randolph, Tarrant County
Landon N. Rollins, City of Lake Worth
Wannisa Sanftner, 301 Fighter Wing, Carswell
Dennis Shingleton
Diane Smith
Councilmember Jim Smith, City of Lake Worth
Ed Spurlin, NAS JRB Fort Worth
Kelli Stuard
Maritta Sumner, Fort Worth Air Power Council
William Wessel, Tarrant County
Councilmember Geoffrey White, City of Lake
Worth

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Dan Kessler, NCTCOG
Captain Mark McLean, NAS JRB Fort Worth

NCTCOG Staff in Attendance

Nicholas Allen
Paul Paine
Kyle Roy
Amanda Wilson

Others Present

Ryan Arthur, City of Lake Worth
Brandy Barrett, City of Westworth Village
Mayor Walter Bowen, City of Lake Worth
Cody Cooke, City of Westworth Village
Councilmember Gregg Geesa, City of White
Settlement
Doug Howard, City of Benbrook
Joe Lester, City of Lake Worth
J.T. Manoushagian, City of Lake Worth
David McCurdy, Tarrant County
Stephen Murray, City of Fort Worth
James Myrick, City of River Oaks

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Meeting Summary Outline

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of July 19, 2021 Meeting Summary (Action)
4. NAS JRB Fort Worth Tenant Commands Series: Marine Aircraft Group-41
5. Lake Worth Emergency Response to September 19 Incident
6. Defense Community Infrastructure Program Overview
7. Development Review Tool Update
8. NAS JRB Fort Worth Update
9. Mission Statement and Consideration of Bylaws Update: First Reading
10. Administrative Updates
 - New RCC Logo
 - Scheduling Update
 - Transportation Project Implementation Update
 - Media Alerts
 - Correspondence
 - Attendance Report
11. Public Comments

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge

Chair Mike Coleman called the Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

Item 2. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair presented former Fort Worth city council member and committee chair Dennis Shingleton with a certificate of recognition. The Chair also announced two new members from the City of Fort Worth and a new member from the City of Westworth Village. The members in attendance and audience members introduced themselves.

Item 3. Approval of July 19, 2021 Meeting Summary (Action):

The motion to approve amended minutes was requested by Chair Mike Coleman. Secretary Dan Chisholm made the motion. Stacey Almond seconded the motion. The meeting summary for July 19, 2021, passed unanimously.

Item 4. NAS JRB Fort Worth Tenant Commands Series: Marine Aircraft Group-41:

Colonel Matt Brown of the Marine Aircraft Group-41 was unable to attend the meeting due to an extenuating circumstance. This item was held for the January 24, 2022 meeting.

Item 5. Lake Worth Emergency Response to September 19 Incident

City of Lake Worth staff provided an overview of the emergency response to the September 19 aircraft crash in a residential neighborhood. A fighter jet on a training mission crashed after a possible bird strike. Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Laster said the crash was the first serious military incident since the base opened in Lake Worth in 1942. He expressed gratitude to the 17 partner agencies who participated in the emergency response and said this level of

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response was made possible due to mutual and automatic aid contracts. Fire Chief Ryan Arthurs said the response required locating the pilot and co-pilot, who had ejected from the crash, putting the fire out at the crash site, and assessing injuries and damage to property. Unfortunately, the pilot landed in powerlines and suffered significant burns during the rescue; the pilot was transported to Parkland Hospital in Dallas County by helicopter and will have a long recovery process, but the co-pilot's injuries were less severe. There were no injuries to first responders. Chief Arthur said the operation to extinguish the fire was difficult because it was unknown to the first responders whether the aircraft contained hazardous materials. The Chair asked Chief Arthur for more detail about how firefighters had to approach this situation. Chief Arthur explained that all firefighters wore full protective gear and treated the situation as if they were responding to a hazmat incident. Dan Kessler asked whether bystanders were an impediment to the emergency response, but the Chief indicated bystanders kept a respectful distance. Mr. Kessler also asked whether staff had any lessons they took away from the experience. Chief Arthur said they would have evacuated surrounding residents more quickly. Mr. Kessler wondered whether residents needed more education about how to prepare for future incidents, and the Chief indicated emergency preparedness education is always beneficial. The Chair asked whether a larger response would be necessary in the future, but the Chief said the response was sufficient and actually larger than necessary. The Vice Chair said he thought the large response was successful and cautioned against minimizing the response in the future.

Police Chief JT Manoushagian then outlined the police response to the incident and showed where their force established perimeters and explained how they handled witnesses and onlookers. Road closures were necessary, resulting in a 10-mile backup on State Highway 199, which had the unintended consequence of delaying resources traveling from west of the city. The response also included management of calls through their 911 communications center. Chief Manoushagian also explained the effort to provide public information, including through social media and a press conference that was orchestrated with the help of a Department of Defense public affairs staff. The Chief said there were four areas for improvement: 1) Clearer communication about the pilot's need for medical attention when he was caught in the powerlines away from the crash site; 2) better information control since some public information officers were disseminating conflicting details; 3) proactive communication with Lake Worth City Manager Stacey Almond; and 4) more training and emergency planning with surrounding cities.

Roger Peimann asked whether the power company was involved in removing the pilot from the powerlines, and the Chief said the company was on site. Captain McLean said the base had recently conducted a crash simulation on base to prepare for an emergency response and said the base would collaborate with community emergency responders for future trainings and provide more information about the base's procedures for handling incidents. He commended Lake Worth staff for their handling of the response and noted that both Chiefs were veterans. The Chair asked what caused the debris field over SH 199. The Captain explained the ejection seat had disintegrated. Lake Worth Councilmember Jim Smith asked Chief Manoushagian to consider ways the city can better equip first responders in the future. The Chair asked about Lake Worth's next steps. Mr. Laster said he had submitted paperwork to the Federal Emergency Management Administration and would be leading a debriefing for city staff next week. Captain McLean said he would invite Lake Worth and the other RCC member cities to the base in the coming months to discuss lessons learned and provide more information about how the base can be involved in future incidents.

Item 6. Defense Community Infrastructure Program Overview

Dan Kessler presented an overview of the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP), a federal funding program by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to address deficiencies in community infrastructure that are supportive of a military installation, in order to enhance military value, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. He outlined applicant and project eligibility criteria and noted proposals must be construction-ready within the first 12 months after a grant is awarded. The program's maximum award is \$20 million, and the minimum is \$250,000. Recent DCIP awards have focused on infrastructure and recreation and education facilities. He said the program presented an opportunity for funding infrastructure projects affecting NAS JRB Fort Worth. Candidate projects might include State Highway 183, a community recreation center, and a medical facility or pharmacy. Ridgmar Mall could be redeveloped through this grant. Mr. Dennis Shingleton suggested the Ridgmar Mall site could become a park. Mr. Randy Skinner asked how often funds are available through DCIP. Mr. Kessler said the funds are available annually and encouraged members to propose projects for consideration by the Committee.

Item 7. Development Review Tool Update

Chair Coleman stated the importance of reviewing developments for compatibility near the base, especially in light of the September 19 incident. Amanda Wilson presented comments provided to Fort Worth for a project they had submitted to the RCC Development Review Tool. The project was determined to be incompatible, and a letter was sent to explain the RCC's determination.

Item 8. NAS JRB Fort Worth Update:

Captain Mark McLean began with an update on how the base is gradually resuming normal activities as the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control. The federal vaccine mandate has increased the rate of vaccination at the base from 50 to 95 percent, including civilians. The Air Force is preparing to break ground on ramp construction for the F-35 in November, and the F-18 squadron was dispatched to Japan until March. The base is hosting a 10-mile race on November 13, and there will be a new sign at the gate to mark the occasion. The base is also planning to co-host a "Holidays and Heroes" event in December in partnership with Westworth Village. Finally, the City of Fort Worth is wrapping up its work on their Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance grant application to the Texas Military Department. The proposed project would refurbish the vacant Omni Bank Building next to the exchange and commissary. This 17,000 square foot building would become a new Life Skills Center, which would house several organizations currently located in a building from the 1950s that is expensive to maintain. The project cost is \$5.9 million.

Item 9. Mission Statement and Consideration of Bylaws Update: First Reading

Amanda Wilson presented a final draft of the updated bylaws and a mission statement. She provided an overview of the Bylaws Committee's process, the officers' involvement, and outlined the major changes. Those changes are the addition of 1) a requirement that voting entities pass a new resolution supporting the mission statement; 2) an annual requirement to review the membership of nonvoting entities; 3) a codification of the process for communicating new committee appointments in writing (although the type of writing is not specified); 4) a requirement for each voting entity to appoint two members; 5) removal of the option to appoint alternate

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members; 6) removal of the immediate past chair from the executive committee (in keeping with the current practice); 7) a revision of the section on elections to outline procedures for filling officer vacancies and appointing an officer nominating committee; 8) a revision to the meeting section to clarify that meetings will be quarterly; and 9) removal of the requirement for meetings to comply with the Open Meetings Act, which would give the committee greater flexibility to conduct business in the future while maintaining standards of openness and transparency. Ms. Wilson asked members to provide feedback in advance of the Second Reading and the action planned for the January meeting.

The Vice Chair asked for clarification about whether the RCC was subject to the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Wilson explained that the RCC is not legally subject to the Open Meetings Act but said the current bylaws were written to require the RCC to follow Open Meetings Act standards. She said the updated bylaws would allow the RCC to follow the spirit of the Act without being fully subject to all of its requirements. The Chair added that the change would give the committee flexibility to meet virtually in any circumstance, which it is not currently able to do, since the Governor's Order suspending the Open Meetings Act during the COVID-19 pandemic has expired. Dr. Marshall asked for additional information about the Governor's Order, since he knew the committee had recently met virtually, for example, by holding officer meetings. Ms. Wilson clarified that because official action is not taken in officer meetings, the Open Meetings Act does not apply to them.

Item 10. Administrative Updates:

- **New RCC Logo:** Amanda Wilson presented the new RCC logo, as determined by the results of a vote at the July 19, 2021, meeting.
- **Scheduling Update:** The next RCC meeting will take place Monday, January 24, 2022, in the City of Westworth Village.
- **Transportation Project Implementation Update:** Dan Kessler provided updates on several projects. Meandering Road is scheduled to let in January 2023. Plans for the IH 30/SH 183 interchange are being finalized, but discussions are still ongoing regarding bicycle/pedestrian access.
- **Media Alerts:** Included in the packets.
- **Correspondence:** Included in the packets.
- **Attendance Reports:** Included in the packets.

Dan Kessler introduced former committee member Paul Paine as a new member of NCTCOG staff, working as a Senior Program Manager on Department of Defense initiatives, including the agile curriculum project, which will be a collaboration with several defense firms, including Lockheed Martin, Bell, and Raytheon as well as local colleges and universities. The initiative will prepare students to work for defense manufacturers.

Item 11. Public Comments:

No public comments were made during the meeting.