

November 26, 2016

From: EAA Chapter 983

To: All Members of EAA and Pecan Plantation Airpark

NOTE: Please distribute this to your neighbors who aren't on our mailing list.

Perhaps you have heard rumblings about a proposed building at the airpark. Let us bring you up to date on the latest developments and hopefully dispel some of the misinformation being bandied about.

Pecan Plantation has allocated approximately \$89,500 dollars in next years budget to upgrade and improve Plane-view Park. This is the covered picnic area on the North East end of the runway that is often used by families to sit and watch airplanes while they enjoy a picnic. In addition various workers also use it for not only lunch but also a convenient restroom stop. This area also houses the electrical equipment for the runway and approach lights. These funds are to repair the restrooms, replace the awning and bring the septic system up to date, which is beyond its useful life.

EAA thought it might be a great opportunity, with our financial input, to help Pecan upgrade the building to a higher level than just the picnic area currently there. EAA would donate money to help upgrade the building, just as the facilities in the campground, Archery Range, Golf and the Tennis courts were supplemented by those organizations. A higher quality of building would be a more valuable asset for not only the Airpark Community but to the entire Pecan community and would give your EAA chapter a permanent meeting place and storage for equipment.

Our hope would be that we could build a more enclosed building, yet one that would still allow all members of the Pecan Plantation community to sit outside, eat and watch the airplanes and also provide a building that would allow the various aviation groups such as the 99's, Swift Association, Bonanza Association, Grumman Group and the W.A.S.P's to have a facility at which they can have their annual meetings. All these groups bring revenue to Pecan Plantation. In addition this structure would also act as a mini-terminal building where those who fly into or out of Pecan Plantation could meet and greet their guests.

Right now your EAA chapter is in the planning stages of a proposed building. We have made many modifications based on input from those in the Airpark community. Currently we have members who have pledged over \$75000 towards

this effort but we do have a small vocal faction, which doesn't want to see improvements on the airpark. They have told EAA that their major concern is the safety of non-aviation people milling around this building and possibly walking onto the runway; though for the life of the runway there has never been a problem. Most Pecan members are intelligent enough and familiar with the runway environment so I don't expect any more people to wander onto the runway with any new building than have in the past with the current Planeview-park. However, to accommodate these concerns we have shortened the building to take away the public-meeting aspect, which was one of the early proposals being floated, and are offering several additional sites further from the runway. In any one of our proposals the building would be safer than the current Plane-view Park. Additionally, we feel like we have addressed all of their numerous issues and continue to listen before any final proposal will be made.

WHEN EAA has finalized the proposal it will be presented to the Airport Committee for discussion, review, corrections and suggestions and EAA will address all of those concerns. When that is completed it will be presented to the Pecan BOD for their review and IF they like the idea then it is in their hands to proceed forward.

We realize that not everyone on the runway or in the airpark is an EAA member and some aren't even pilots, but all are aviation enthusiasts and we want to give you the opportunity to ask questions, provide input and make your views known.

EAA Chapter 983 will have an OPEN meeting to all who wish to come on January 14th 2017 at a location to be determined (we lost our normal meeting place and have to move around. Watch our web site for meeting location. <http://eaa983.org/wp1/>). The meeting will begin at 1000 and the location will be made available to you as soon as that has been determined. This is by no means the only way you can obtain this information. You can call any of the EAA officers listed below and ask your questions.

You can also go to the EAA 983 Web site: <http://eaa983.org/wp1/community/building-proposal/> for details including an updated presentation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

First, you can become informed by attending the January meeting. Keep an open mind and don't be misled by the scare tactics of a few. Pilots like to have all the information before they make a decision. Come with your ideas and/or your concerns, but come out to listen and be heard.

Thank You EAA 983

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