

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2010 MEETING REGARDING ACQUISITION
OF THE ORIGINAL SITE OF COLUMBIA AIR CENTER**

The meeting was held at Chairman Samuel W. Parker's Office (County Administration Building, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772).

The following were present:

1. Mr. Samuel W. Parker, Chairman, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission.
2. Council Member, District 9, Marilyn M. Bland
3. Council Member Bland's Chief of Staff, David J. Billings, III Ph.D
4. Council Member Tony Knotts
5. Mr. Melvin Cooper
6. Mr. Stephen Isaacs
7. Wayne A. Tonkins, Esq.

The meeting convened approximately 1:10 p.m.

Councilman Knotts began with comments about the compelling historic significance of the project. He also stated his support for the project to move ahead.

Council member Knotts and Councilmember Bland stated Mr. Parker requested the Society for the Preservation of Black Aviation History to submit a business plan for review prior to this meeting. The Strategic & Tactical Business Plan was submitted (hand delivered) to all parties February 12, 2010. The council members stated the work done on the business plan was produced by a yeoman's effort.

Council member Bland asked Mr. Parker if he was satisfied with the business plan and the other documents submitted pertaining to the project.

Mr. Parker stated he did not think the Society for the Preservation of Black Aviation History, Inc. could raise the money needed to build the airport. Mr. Parker also stated he thought we (The Society for the Preservation of Black Aviation History, Inc.) were just dreamers and he was not comfortable giving 450 acres to a dream.

Council members Bland and Knotts reminded Mr. Parker that the historic significance of the project is overwhelming and that a majority of the Prince George's Council support the project moving forward.

Mr. Parker was also reminded that the County has given property to other projects with far less historical significance.

The Council members also pointed out to Mr. Parker that no progress (fund raising etc.) could begin until the Society for the Preservation of Black Aviation History Inc., had legal access to the 450 acre site.

Mr. Parker was also reminded that the title to the land remains with Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission.

Mr. Parker was also reminded that the project does not require Prince George's County dollars.

Mr. Parker was also reminded that the 450 acre site licensed by the state of Maryland as the Columbia Air Center (Airport) already exists. A new use for the 450 acre site is not an issue.

Mr. Parker was also reminded that the project could go forward in increments to ensure its success.

Mr. Parker stated he was uncomfortable taking the risk of such a project.

The Council Members reminded Mr. Parker that there is no risk associated with this project. The County has 450 acres of empty land and if the project were unsuccessful the County would continue to have a 450 acre empty field. However, a successful project would greatly benefit Prince Georges' County and the state of Maryland.

Dr. Billings continued the conversation with Mr. Parker after Council members Bland and Knotts returned to council proceedings.

Dr. Billings pointed out to Mr. Parker that the Society for the Preservation of Black Aviation History, Inc. submitted numerous documents supporting the project while Mr. Parker has not substantiated his position with anything except a verbal "No."

Dr. Billings requested and Mr. Parker agreed to submit to the council members and to the Society for the Preservation of Black Aviation History, Inc., relevant documentation that supports his spoken position.

Dr. Billings also requested the matter be submitted to Mr. Parker's staff for their opinions.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Billings.

These minutes were prepared by: Wayne A. Tonkins, Esq.

