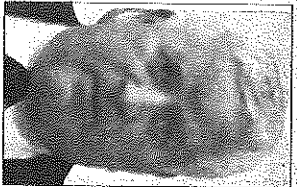


Airport, director, part ways

Board wants 'fresh perspective' on Smith Reynolds as economic force

By Wesley Young
JOURNAL REPORTER

Larry Scantlin is no longer the director of Smith Reynolds Airport after a decision by the airport's board to focus on developing the economic potential of the airport.



LARRY SCANTLIN

Forsyth County Commissioner Ted Kaplan, who is also a member of the Airport Commission of Forsyth County, said he couldn't get into specifics of Scantlin's departure because the airport panel discussed the matter in a closed session. Kaplan did say that Scantlin "was not fired" and that "both this board and he came to a mutual understanding."

Tom McKim, the chairman of the airport commission, said that he and the commission's attorney met with Scantlin on Thursday and that Scantlin left the same day.

"We had an amicable parting," McKim said. "The commission has really appreciated Larry's service for the past three years. We hope to go in a some-

what different direction, so we are going to be looking for a candidate to fill that slot who will be able to assist in developing Smith Reynolds Airport consistent with some pretty exciting regional development plans."

Area leaders have been pushing the idea of establishing the Piedmont Triad as an "aerotropolis" — an industrial cluster built around strong transportation links. McKim said that the airport commission wants to coordinate with that effort and see how Smith Reynolds will fit into the concept.

Scantlin began as the director of Smith Reynolds in the spring of 2006, coming to Forsyth County from a similar position at the Craven County Regional Airport in New Bern. At the time, Scantlin said that his main challenge would be to bring more business to the airport and improve transportation services.

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Scantlin did not return a telephone call yesterday.

McKim said that some of the financial arrangements surrounding Scantlin's departure may not have been completed and declined to comment on the terms. Scantlin's salary was about \$85,000 a year when he left, McKim said.

Asked if the airport commission felt that Scantlin was not the right person to better promote the airport as an economic asset, McKim said he thought that "the commission determined that it would be useful to get some fresh perspective on that task."

"We have also begun a new master planning process at

Smith Reynolds, and it should take about eight months to complete," he said. "We are hoping to take an inventory of the existing strengths and capabilities of the airport and reach out to all the relevant users and constituencies of the airport, so that we can get input from the broader community to better serve their needs."

Kaplan said that the airport commission will begin the process of hiring a new director but isn't sure what form the search will take.

"My goal is for it to become a much stronger economic engine for the county," he said of the airport.

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