

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2015
Anchorage Fire Training Center
1150 Airport Heights Road, Building "C" Room 4A
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Powell, Chair
Sharon Chamard, Vice Chair
Dick Armstrong
Jim Cieplak
Don DeVoe
Greg Pearce

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Terry Pena*

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Elmendorf Airfield Operations – Kevin Cramer, Airfield Manager

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Paul Bowers, Airport Manager
Darlene Sivyer, Commission Secretary (343-6303)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Jim Powell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jim asked all attendees to introduce themselves. As an entertaining exchange of information ice breaker, Jim asked all to let the others know how far south in the world they had traveled.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Noise

Airport Manager Paul Bowers reported that we received only one aircraft noise complaint last month. The helicopter operators have been doing a good job following the newly established MRI arrival and departure protocols.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD)

Paul reported that there has been one VPD in the last quarter of 2014. Among other efforts to reduce VPDs, he has visited with tenants whose lots abut Taxiways Alpha and November and discussed VPD prevention measures. Also, to make it easier to identify the location of the controlled movement area, airport maintenance is keeping the taxiway edge lines cleared of snow with a cleared path on the apron-side of the taxiway edge line. Preventing VPDs at MRI is an ongoing challenge primarily because there is no physical separation between the controlled taxiways and lease lot apron edges and will require constant vigilance.

* excused absence

C. Leasing Update

Paul reported that Chuck Miller, Lot 7C Leaseholder, has put the construction of the combo aircraft/auto paint facility on hold for the winter. While retaining the combo design, Miller is planning on operating an aircraft only paint facility large enough to accommodate a DHC-8 size aircraft. The "auto" side of the facility will be used for various fixed-wing repairs.

All nine 'stacked' hangars in the Janssen Hangars LLC project on Orca Street have been erected, and work is now being done on the interior of each unit. The project should be completed this spring.

Mark Renner, Kontor Development Owner, recently presented preliminary plans to remove the four Quonset hut buildings on his lease lot and construct two parallel buildings with four stacked box type hangars each. Renner noted that openings to the hangars will face on the east and west sides of the buildings. Hangar plan details include 45 ft. wide and 17 ft. high hangar doors, with a full mezzanine across the back of each unit.

D. Project Updates

The **Security & Lighting Upgrade Phase 3 Project** slated to start in 2015 will include these elements:

- Installation of fiber optic cable from Stoddard Way to the west side of Wilbur Circle. This parochial cable will satisfy needs for transferring camera image data as the existing wireless system is unreliable. Upgrade will also include the replacement of motion sensor devices (currently on the airside of some vehicle access gates) with key pads and proximity card readers, which will require airport users to know the access keypad code or have a "Smart Card" to enter or exit a lease lot. Part of the purpose for this change is to discourage airport users from entering through one gate and driving along the taxiway to exit through a different gate, which should reduce the Taxiway Alpha VPD incidents.
- The fencing portion of this project will focus on upgrading the fence along 5th Avenue by adding a curved extension atop the existing vertical stakes; this security improvement will add about two feet to the existing fence height. Three-strand barbed wire will be added atop existing chain link fabric sections along 5th Avenue.
- Security cameras will be installed on the air traffic control tower to provide Runway 7-25 surveillance.
- The width of the Taxiway Kilo connection between TWY Alpha and RWY 7/25, now approximately 350 ft. wide, will be reduced to match the section on the south side of the runway. This smaller taxiway footprint will reduce the time it takes to remove snow from the taxiway and will reduce times when only a portion of the taxiway is cleared (as well as reducing pavement area to maintain). Signage and lighting will reflect this re-sizing.

The **Taxiway Quebec Phase 4 Project** is a continuation of the dynamic compaction process whereby the underlying landfill material is compacted. This process reduces the amount of methane gas produced by the refuse and stabilizes the ground for the compacted area.

D. Project Updates (continued)

The **Merrill Field Master Plan Phase 2 Project** is underway with HDR Engineering Consultants under contract, with three sub-contractors on board as part of the AMP team. Project information and updates can be found on the Merrill Field web site; work products will be shared with the surrounding Community Councils. Dick Armstrong asked if there will be a dedicated Master Plan review team: Carl Siebe, HDR Airport Engineer, responded that yes, there will be a review team, membership to be determined.

E. User Group Meeting

Paul reported that that ATCT procedures regarding directional operations was the main topic brought forward at the Airport Manager/Airport User meeting held on January 7. The issue appears to have been largely resolved following a conference call with the ATCT Manager Brian Ochs. The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 3:00PM – 5:00PM.

F. Ongoing Bird Control

Paul noted that bird species visiting the airport has seasonally changed from seagulls, to geese, now to ravens. To help reduce the summer grasshopper hatch--a natural sea gull attractant--MRI plans to aggressively spray for grasshoppers in 2015.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

No report.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

No report.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

Kevin Cramer reported a night-flying exercise will be in effect until the first week in March. Due to construction projects, there will be numerous runway closures for this summer; the exact time periods have not yet been established.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

No report.

E. Bryant Army Airfield

No report.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MRI Marketing

Committee Chair Sharon Chamard reported the committee met on December 16. During that meeting Paul presented a variety of data: key points being tiedown pricing and incentives. The group discussed first-time MRI user discounts, welcome packets with possible service discount coupons, and public relation campaigns. Sharon concluded that the Committee will meet again and provide a report to the Commission.

A. MRI Marketing (continued)

Committee Member Dick Armstrong mentioned that a digital sign board that provides an array of information for visiting pilots was recently installed at ACE Hangars. Perhaps this type of device would be helpful for all airport users. Commissioner Greg Pearce commented that incentives are good, but he sees that one of the limitations for MRI is location. Lowering rates may not have much impact: additional infrastructure might make MRI more attractive. Paul noted that additional drive-through tiedowns with electric power will be added this summer. Discussion ensued regarding how to advertise Merrill Field's attractive assets and services. Possible development of economical, covered parking was also discussed.

Jim Powell asked anyone with ideas to share them with Sharon.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

Steve Straight, Alaska Aviation Advisory Board, noted it is expected that the FAA will release new compatible use guidelines this spring which should bring clarification on acceptable uses under aviation leases. This is significant as the State of Alaska owns 254 airports and must comply with FAA grant assurances.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Jim Cieplak reported the FAASTeam provides runway remedial training for interested parties. He also noted that following changes to the Mat-Su Valley CTAFs, changes in CTAF frequencies for areas along the Glenn Highway corridor are being considered.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

