

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 7, 2010
Anchorage Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dick Armstrong
Rick Davis
Don DeVoe
Tony Follett
Erin Marston
Kimball Forrest

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Powell *

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Scotty Auton, MRI Air Traffic Control Tower
Hugh Youngers, UAA Aviation Technology Division
Kevin Cramer, Elmendorf Air Force Base

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

David A. Lundeby, Airport Manager
Darlene Sivyer, Commission Secretary (343-6303)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Tony Follett, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Airport Commissioners and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

David Lundeby noted there was a total of four Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPDs) in 2009; all were caused by pedestrians crossing Runway 7-25. There were four in 2008, six in 2007, six in 2006 and five in 2005. The new taxiway barrier gates should deter pedestrians and vehicles from entering the movement areas.

No noise complaints were received during the past month; however, one individual called from 12th Avenue and C Street to report that some obstruction lights on the tower(s) atop the Sheraton Hotel were out. The individual also called the Sheraton to report the outage. Dave noted that it was a nice, informative call.

The Municipal Assembly approved the 2010 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets at the Assembly meeting held on December 8.

* excused absence

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

A water service line that was not properly disconnected in the early 1990s began leaking on the west side of Janssen Hangars. AWWU fixed the very slow leak, which was noticed about two months ago. This spring, AWWU will properly disconnect the abandoned service line from the water main located at 14th Avenue and Orca Street. Merrill Field will not be assessed the repair costs.

Dave reported that on February 2, a public hearing will be held on an Assembly Ordinance that abolishes compensation for all Boards and Commission members. If the AO passes, the stipend funds that are used for Airport Commission lunches will be eliminated. Dave added that meeting times could be reconsidered if meeting during the middle of the day is no longer feasible. Dick asked if there would be funding for the Merrill Field picnic, and Dave replied that he is uncertain at this time. Tony Follett asked how much savings the Municipality would realize by eliminating the stipend; Dave responded that the Summary of Economic Effects is attached to the AO. Dave offered to send a copy of the AO to the Commissioners after it has been introduced to the Assembly.

Airport maintenance has been busy with snow and ice removal, and as of today they are caught up.

Dave stated that as appointed officials, Boards and Commissions members are subject to the provisions of the Municipal Ethics Code. Dave also noted that he sent each Commissioner an email containing the details of members' responsibility to comply with the Ethics Code, to annually review the Code, and to submit a Disclosure of Present Economic Interest Form if necessary. The e-mail also contains a link to Ethics Code information on the Municipal Website.

Kimball Forrest asked Dave if the number of VPDs includes occurrences on the ski/gravel runway. Dave referred to the VPD chart that shows historical incursion information and noted that the numbers include all Merrill Field movement areas.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Scotty Auton stated that there is nothing new to report from the tower, and he extended an invitation to visit the tower. This is a good time to tour the facility.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Hugh Youngers commented that the longer daylight hours may help increase the number of flights. There were a lot of cancellations in December because of poor weather conditions. Renovations to the former ERA hangar are complete, and they should be moving into the facility on Monday, January 11.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

Kevin "K.C." Cramer reported the Elmendorf Open House and Air Show, Arctic Thunder, is slated for July 31 and August 1, 2010. The U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron Blue Angels and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Demonstration Team are scheduled to perform. A practice time will be scheduled on Thursday, July 30. K.C. also noted that the north-south runway, 16-34, will be closed for resurfacing during the construction season.

Dave asked Kevin if he had more airspace closure information and dates of the event planning meetings. K.C. reported that the demonstration team representatives will be here in February or March to finalize plans.

- D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base
None.

- 6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS
None.

- 7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION
None.

- 8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. H2H, Highway to Highway Project

Dave stated that he spoke with Jim Childers, State of Alaska DOT, and John Tolley, H2H Coordinator. They asked Dave to inform the Commission that there is not any new information to report. The Federal Highway Commission will be reviewing the route alternatives over the next few months. John Tolley asked if Merrill Field would like a public meeting for the airport stakeholders: Merrill Field users, Alaska Regional Hospital, and the Fire Training Center. The project team is willing to set up a meeting near the end of January at a convenient location and time. Hugh Youngers suggested the meeting be held at the UAA Aviation facility on Merrill Field. The Commissioners recommended the meeting be scheduled at the end of the work day, 5:00 p.m., so people could attend on their way home. Dave will relay the Commission's response to the project consultant, HDR.

- B. Memorializing Merrill Field – Kim Halverson, Wyndham Publications

Tony Follett gave a recap of Kim Halverson's presentation in December where he described a book project to memorialize Merrill Field. In January, Kim followed up by sending Tony a letter and proposal for creating a book. Tony also clarified that Wyndham Publications funds these projects by selling subscriptions to businesses, non-profits, governments, etc. In return for their subscription fee, the subscribers will have space in the book, one or two pages, to tell the story about their company. Books are not sold; but each subscriber gets a supply to give to their clients, business partners, etc. The Commission's role is to be sounding board for Wyndham Publications so they can determine if such a project is feasible.

Dave responded that if private enterprise wants to invest in a book memorializing Merrill Field, they should pursue it. Tony agreed that it would be difficult for public entities to participate. Tony will respond to Kim Halverson advising him that it would be up to Wyndham Publications to pursue this project and that there are reservations due to the limited number of potential subscribers on Merrill Field.

- 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION
None.

- 10. COMMISSION COMMENTS
None

- 11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.