

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 5, 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
Greg Pearce
Terry Pena

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Cieplak *
Don DeVoe *

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Paul Bowers, Airport Manager
Darlene Sivyler, 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.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Noise

Airport Manager Paul Bowers reported no aircraft noise complaints have been logged so far this year. He commended the helicopter flight instructors for doing a good job in following arrival and departure protocols.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD)

The first vehicle/pedestrian deviation of the year occurred in February when an unaccompanied six year old child left a leasehold building and unknowingly crossed the painted/marked taxiway edge line onto a controlled taxiway. The ATCT diverted a helicopter operation as a result of the VPD. Airport management met with the leaseholder and impressed upon him the magnitude of the situation.

C. Leasing Update

Chuck Miller, Lot 7C Leaseholder, is pursuing building permits for an aircraft only paint facility; however, an option to use the fixed wing repair side of the facility for future auto painting will be retained in his lease of future conditions dictate a dual use. Construction is expected to begin this spring.

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.

The lease for the lot where the Kontor Development Quonset hut hangars are located will expire in June, 2015. Current lessee Mark Renner, Kontor Development, presented preliminary plans to remove the four Quonset hut buildings and construct two parallel buildings, each with four stacked-box type hangars each. Mark is in the process of acquiring permits for the new development and plans to begin demo and construction this summer.

D. Project Updates

The **Security & Lighting Upgrade Phase 3 Project** slated to start in 2015 will include installation of a MRI parochial fiber optic cable from Stoddard Way to the west side of Wilbur Circle; modifying the existing vertical stake fencing along 5th Avenue by adding outward-curved extensions and adding 3-stranded barbed wire atop the chain link fencing; installation of security cameras on the air traffic control tower to provide Runway 7-25 surveillance; and reducing the size of Taxiway Kilo on the north side of Runway 7-25.

The **Taxiway Quebec Phase 4 Project** is a continuation of the dynamic compaction process whereby the underlying landfill material is compacted. We anticipate the project to be advertised for bid soon with construction starting this spring.

The **Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Phase 2 Project** is underway with HDR Engineering Consultants under contract; three sub-contractors are on board as part of the AMP team. HDR is currently evaluating the alternatives for subsequent refinement to a preferred plan for future development. This process includes addressing comments submitted from the public and the Master Plan Review Committee. When asked about the possibility of increasing the 12,500 lb. aircraft weight limit at MRI, Carl Siebe, HDR, responded that this is being investigated; however, FAA standards would need to be modified for MRI to do so. Dick Armstrong asked to be on the MP Review Committee.

The **Orca Street Buildings Re-Roofing Project** includes new roof structures on three airport properties located on Orca Street: USGS at 1209 Orca Street, SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training at 1570 E. 12th Avenue, and the multi-unit commercial building at 1025 Orca Street. The apparent low bidder, Earhart Roofing, is still being vetted; work is expected to begin in May.

The **City Electric Property Acquisition Project** is in progress. MRI has received approval from FAA to move forward with appraisals, title search and State Historic Property Office (SHPO) evaluation. Seven lots with four buildings are included in this acquisition.

E. User Group Meeting

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 3:00PM – 5:00PM. The group will meet in the Airport Manager’s Office conference room, 800 Merrill Field Drive.

F. Ongoing Bird Control

Paul noted that to eliminate the grasshopper hatch this spring airport maintenance will be applying pesticide to the runway medians and approaches. Grasshoppers are a natural attractant and contribute to the increased number of seagulls on MRI. Starlings have also made a notable presence on the field over the past couple years, and we are addressing that as well.

G. Other: Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

Paul explained the current “recreational” use for ‘small unmanned aerial systems’ (less than 55 pounds) generally follows the model aircraft use guidelines. Flying a UAS within five miles of an airport requires user coordination with FAA, subject to the multiple recreational use restrictions of less than 400’ AGL max height, line-of-sight retention, operation clear of and non interference with manned aircraft operations, see and avoid other aircraft and obstacles at all times, 25 ft. separation from obstacles, under 100 MPH, etc.

Commercial event applications are currently addressed by FAA on a case-by-case basis while FAA develops a defined protocol for commercial use drones. On February 23, 2015, FAA issued a ‘notice of proposed rulemaking’ on this subject, a process that will likely take years to resolve.

Meanwhile, MRI will work with FAA and MRI ATCT to coordinate a ‘guideline’ document all can use. When completed we will have information and protocols available for all.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

No report.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

No report.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

No report.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

No report.

E. Bryant Army Airfield

No report.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MRI Marketing

Sharon Chamard provided a written report based on discussion of the Tie-Down Usage Committee meeting on December 16, 2014 and feedback from the MAAAC meeting on January 8, 2015. She summarized the committee explored financial incentives, promotion of MRI existing features; and improvements that can be made to attract pilots and marketing.

Jim asked the committee to meet before the next MAAAC meeting scheduled for May 5.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. MERRILL FIELD BUSINESS SHOWCASE: LAND AND SEA AVIATION

Land and Sea Aviation Owner Key Ma, introduced Manager Brian Avola. Brian explained that Land and Sea is a Part 61 flight school where private pilot and commercial pilot training is available with six instructors on staff. Land and Sea Aviation is an FAA testing center and offers four Cessna 172s and a tail wheel Citabria for rent. The rental aircraft along with a Piper Arrow and Beechcraft Duchess are used for flight training. Although their name implies otherwise, Land and Sea no longer offers float rating. They do provide Private Pilot Ground School at no cost to high school students actively pursuing a private pilot license with Land and Sea.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

None.

11. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

