

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 4, 2010  
Anchorage Planning and Development Center  
4700 Elmore Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Gordon Edmiston, MRI Air Traffic Control Tower  
Rocky Capozzi, 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 January 7, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Dave announced that Gordon Edmiston has been appointed to the Merrill Field Air Traffic Control Tower Manager position. Dave introduced Gordon and welcomed him to Merrill Field.

Dave reported that there have been no Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations on the runways so far this year. However, on two different occasions an unauthorized vehicle entered the Taxiway Alpha movement area.

No noise complaints were received during the past two months.

Airport Maintenance is busy moving snow and scraping ice.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Dave provided information on two airport improvement projects. The Runway 16-34 Reconstruction Project includes lighting upgrades, frost heave repairs, asphalt surface rotomilling and repaving, and pavement markings. The bid opening for this project will be Friday, March 5. Grant funding is expected by mid-March; the Assembly has already approved the appropriation of these funds when tendered. The Notice to Proceed should be issued for May 1, and the project is expected to take three months to complete. The Taxiway Quebec Rehabilitation Project is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project area begins at Merrill Field Drive and goes east toward Taxiway Golf. Several aircraft will need to be relocated; a temporary taxiway access will be created for the duration of the project. Safety and access plans have been developed, and all areas will have access during this project.

Three pieces of aging snow removal equipment will be replaced this summer; two loaders and one sweeper. These pieces of equipment are expected to be delivered in the fall. Also, the airport is in the process of acquiring a residential property south of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are trees on the lot that are considered an obstruction to the Runway 34 approach zone. This property acquisition is FAA grant fundable and recommended by the Airport Master Plan. Following acquisition, the obstructions will be removed and the structures on the lot will be demolished.

Dave received correspondence explaining that the public meeting process for the Seward Highway to Glenn Highway Connection Project (H2H) is on hold. The consultants hope to be back on schedule by mid March. Dave will forward any additional information he receives to the Commission.

Rocky Capozzi asked Dave if there will be any changes to the lighting on Runway 16-34. Dave replied that the project consultant will be making a presentation at the May commission meeting. The project may include replacing the **Pulse Light Approach Slope Indicator (PLASI)** system with a **Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI)** system. The **Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI)** system is no longer supported by FAA.

Kimball Forest asked about the status of the hangar development project located on the west side of Runway 16-34. Dave responded that the small residential lots were platted into one large lot. The leaseholder has been encouraged to demolish the old structures on the lot. Following demolition the plan is to construct a large hangar building, several small hangar units, or one or two larger hangars.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Gordon Edmiston noted the latest media event has caused access to the ATCT facility to be restricted for the next 90 days. Tours and general visiting are not allowed; however, tower personnel will continue accepting telephone calls. Staffing is adequate at this time; all controllers are trained and certified.

Gordon announced that it's nice to be working at Merrill Field again and explained that fourteen years ago he was a controller at Merrill tower for three years. Gordon invited the Commissioners to call him anytime and added that he is big on providing service and also big on following rules.

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower (continued)

Tony noted there was previous concern over downgrading the tower level and asked Gordon if he had any information on the possibility of this happening. Gordon replied that FAA is not in the process of downgrading now; however, a traffic audit may be conducted in the 2010 – 2012 timeframe.

Rocky asked Gordon if he would share information about his career with FAA. Gordon noted that after being a controller at Merrill Field, he worked at Anchorage International ATCT and later at Anchorage Center. Most recently he was also an Operations Manager at Anchorage International Airport and TRACON.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Rocky Capozzi noted no public events are planned when the hangar refurbishment is complete; work continues on the building. Dave asked if the building is usable. Rocky replied that it is being partially used and offered to host a Commission meeting at the facility when it is completed.

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. The Blue Angels will be practicing in the afternoon on July 29. A exclusive show is scheduled on Friday, July 30 for special needs individuals.

A Red Flag exercise is planned for mid-April through May 1. K.C. also noted that the north-south runway, 16-34, will be closed beginning April 19 for the remainder of the summer.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

None.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elimination of Stipend and Meeting Options

Tony noted there are two items to discuss: the day and time of meetings and funding for a meal or snack. Dave explained that in February the Municipal Assembly approved an ordinance to eliminate compensation for members of municipal boards and commissions; the provisions of the ordinance became effective immediately upon passage. Historically, the Commissioners have waived the receipt of their stipends so the funds could be used to purchase a light lunch at the mid-day meetings. Since there are no more stipends, there are no funds for the purchase of lunch at the Commission meetings.

A. Elimination of Stipend and Meeting Options (continued)

Rocky Cappozi commented that a room at the UAA facility might be available if the meeting time was changed to early morning. Dave responded that the original intent of scheduling the meetings at noon was not to interrupt the attendees' work day. Dick Armstrong asked if the Commissioners could pay for lunch, and Tony also asked if there are any complications if the Airport accepts donated funds for lunch. Following additional discussion, Dave noted that if noon is still a good time to meet, he will attempt to reserve a room at the Fire Training Center when the construction at that site is complete later this year. Dave also suggested the Commission could draft a resolution requesting the Airport continue providing lunch at the mid-day meetings.

Rick Davis made a motion that the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission encourage Merrill Field Airport to provide a light lunch or snack at the mid-day meetings which are scheduled six times each year. This expenditure would allow for Commissioners to continue meeting at noon and to attend without disrupting their normal work-day schedule. Dick Armstrong seconded the motion. Tony Follett commented that the request seems reasonable and called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

Carl Siebe announced that the Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation will be sponsoring the annual Seaplane and Spring Safety Seminar on April 17. The seminar will be held at Lake Hood.

Jane Dale noted that last year, the Alaska Airports Association was formed and she currently holds the office of the Association President. This Airport Association is designed to bring together airport professionals and individuals to promote the operation and management of airports within the State of Alaska. More information about this organization can be found online at [www.AKAirports.org](http://www.AKAirports.org)

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Tony Follett gave a recap of the presentation made in December by Kim Halverson, Wyndham Publications. Tony explained that he relayed to Kim the Commissioner's comments that it would be up to Wyndham Publications to pursue this airport memorial project and that there are reservations due to the limited number of potential subscribers on Merrill Field.

Tony also mentioned that at the end of March a workshop is being held at Anchorage International Airport regarding FAA obstruction surveys. It will be an interesting seminar to attend; contact Tony for additional details.

Lastly, Tony noted that the annual Commission elections will be held in May. He also reminded the Commissioners that if they have not already done so to review the Municipal ethics policy and asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the policy.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.