

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2009
Anchorage Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dick Armstrong
Rick Davis
Tony Follett
Allen Kemplen
Erin Marston
Jim Powell

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Don DeVoe*

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

UAA Aviation Technology Division, Hugh Youngers
Lake Hood Seaplane Base, Andy Hutzel

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Alex Jumao-as, Assistant Airport Manager
Darlene Sivyer, Commission Secretary (343-6303)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Tony Follett, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.; introductions were made.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Airport Manager, Dave Lundeby, was not available for this meeting. Alex Jumao-as, Assistant Manager, provided the Manager's Report.

Alex noted there were two Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations (VPDs) during April. On April 8, a pedestrian on a bicycle entered the movement area at Taxiway Golf and proceeded across Runway 7-25 to 5th Avenue. On April 16, an intoxicated pedestrian entered the movement area at the same location and crossed Runway 7-25; his destination was 5th Avenue. Anchorage police officers responded to both incidents.

Five noise complaints were received during the past two months. Three complaints targeted touch-and-go operations on Runway 7/25, one complainant reported a pilot performing touch-and-goes at 1:20 a.m., and one commented on a pilot making an early crosswind turn when departing Runway 25. Dave counseled those pilots he

* excused absence

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

could contact. Alex also mentioned the airport distributed a "fly friendly" letter in March to Merrill Field users, several pilot groups, and the surrounding Community Councils. Airport management is also working with Sharon Chamard, Fairview Community Council President, on aircraft noise issues.

Airport management has recently received two reports of fuel being stolen from two aircraft. We also received a report of a flap indicator gauge being vandalized.

Alex gave an update on airport projects. Last month, we received two Federal grants amounting to more than \$4M. One of the grants is funded by the Federal recovery/stimulus package. Funds from this grant will be used to rehabilitate the Charlie South tiedown apron and for the Block 5, Phase 5 project which includes the continuation of dynamic compaction to improve drainage between Merrill Field Drive and Taxiway Quebec, south of Aero-Metric, Evergreen and Jayhawk Air. An FAA AIP grant will be used to replace the taxiway barrier gates at Taxiways Golf and Quebec from the problematic scissor type to a more reliable cantilever style. The construction contract for these projects has been awarded to Roger Hickel Contracting, and work should begin the first week of June and be completed by the end of September.

Members of the Alaska Chapter of the Ninety Nines have volunteered to repaint the compass rose on June 20.

Following his report, Alex responded to several questions. Dick Armstrong asked Alex if he knew who was awarded the contract for the sewer line replacement project at ACE hangars. Alex responded that this is an Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) project and that he believes Roger Hickel Contracting was awarded the contract. Carl Siebe inquired about the certification of the compass rose. Alex replied that the compass rose was recertified last year. Jim Powell asked for details about the aircraft fuel theft. Alex stated that he did not have the details with him, but that he would share the information with Jim after the meeting. Andy Hutzler asked if the noise complaints were submitted by the same person and if the airport's response was acceptable to the complainants. Alex noted that at times the same caller submits several complaints and that overall the follow-up from the Airport Manager is acceptable. Erin inquired if touch-and-goes are permissible on the gravel/ski runway. Alex explained that touch-and-goes are supposed to be done on the paved runways only.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

None.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Hugh Youngers reported that last month 130 training flights were logged, which is double the number recorded in January and February. Jim suggested that perhaps a classroom would be available for the July commission meeting since the University is less busy during the summer months.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

None.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

Andy Hutzel provided a copy of the latest map of the Lake Hood float slips and business locations. He explained the blue line represents the designated route for pedestrian traffic. To keep pedestrian and vehicles on the designated routes, more signage and some jersey barriers will be erected this summer. The media will also be educated about these routes. Two gates are slated to be installed at roadway and taxiway intersections next summer. Andy also noted a three-screen simulator, supplied by the Medallion Foundation, is located at the Lake Hood Manager's Office. Pilots can use the equipment free of charge; however, the sessions need to be scheduled.

Linda Bustamante, TSAIA Communications Director, provided the latest maps of the North and South terminals at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. She noted that the maps are also available online. Reconstruction of the B Concourse is on schedule and should be completed this fall. A pedestrian connector between the north and south terminals will be completed in July. The airport shuttle between the terminals will remain in service, but passengers will have the option to walk between the buildings. Linda encouraged travelers to visit the Alaska Native Art exhibits on the upper level of the C concourse and to see the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame on level 0.

A full-scale disaster exercise will be conducted on June 6. The training exercise will involve a simulated aircraft crash on or near airport property. Volunteers are needed to play victims at this full day event. Leaflets with information on how to volunteer were passed out.

Linda also reported that they are expecting a good summer passenger-wise at the International Airport; however, the number of cargo flights remains less than last year.

5. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Development of UAA Aviation Technology Facility – Howard Morse

Howard Morse provided a brief history of the former ERA facility located on Lots 4 & 5 of Block 4, Merrill Field Airport. A portion of the facility was built in the 1960s; however, archive photos show the oldest hangar was built in 1958 and 1959. This section of the facility has some structural issues and is at the end of its useful life; it is slated to be demolished this summer. The newer hangar located nearest the roadway is sound and will not be torn down. The University plans to add a small amount of additional space to this hangar. Howard indicated the plan is very straight-forward and the drawing phase is 95% complete. The goal is to have the contract for this project advertised for bid this June.

A. Development of UAA Aviation Technology Facility – Howard Morse (continued)

Tony asked if the project includes a gas mitigation plan and if he had an anticipated construction completion date. Howard responded that a gas mitigation system will be installed and that he estimates the project could be completed by the end of September.

B. Street Name Honoree Celebration

Tony read a portion of the November, 2008 meeting minutes that referenced naming of the new access roads created by the Glenn Highway project. He recalled at that time there was discussion about formally acknowledging those honored with the new street names. Tony suggested that a committee be formed to work on this celebration and recommended that it be combined with the annual Merrill Field picnic. Linda Bustamante noted that National Aviation Day is August 19, and offered that this might be an appropriate date for a celebration of this type.

Tony asked Jim Powell if he would chair the celebration committee; Jim graciously accepted the assignment. Erin volunteered to be on the committee. Suggestions were made that a certificate, plaque, or replica street sign be presented to the honorees. Andy Hutzel commented that Lake Hood could be included in the Aviation Day celebration. Alex suggested that perhaps the Mayor could issue a proclamation and added that Dave be tasked with inviting the Mayor to this celebration. Alex also recommended that a biography of each honoree be compiled to illustrate their contributions to Merrill Field and general aviation. Erin stated that they will evaluate the date and inclusion of Lake Hood.

Dick Armstrong made a motion that the Airport Advisory Commission sponsor a Merrill Field picnic celebration to acknowledge the street name honorees and that Jim Powell chair the celebration committee. Allen Kemplen seconded the motion. Discussion was held on a venue for the event. Ideas included the airport maintenance building and Hugh Youngers offered the UAA hangar. When called for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Election of Officers

Tony relayed that he reviewed the Municipal Code regarding Boards and Commissions officers and found no language referring to the number of terms an officer can hold a position. He also researched historical information about the Airport Commission and found that several times in the past a new chair was elected each year; however in the more recent past, officers have held positions for more than one term.

The floor was opened for nominations. Erin nominated Tony Follett for chair and Rick Davis for vice chair. Jim Powell moved that the nominations be closed. By unanimous vote, Tony was elected chair and Rick vice chair; each will serve a second term in their respective positions.

D. Other: Meeting Location

Jim asked what options are available for a different meeting location, and specifically asked that the July meeting location be moved closer to Merrill Field. Hugh Youngers announced there will be classrooms available at the UAA Aviation Technology Center in July and offered assistance in securing a location at the Center for the remainder of the year. Darlene Sivyer will research meeting venue options.

Other: General Aviation User Fees

Jim brought to the commissioners' attention a recent Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) article describing an implication in President Obama's budget summary to replace some aviation taxes with direct user fees. Jim explained the negative impact user fees would have to general aviation and asked how the Commission could work with the Municipal Assembly to relay this important message to Senator Begich. The fees are slated to begin in 2011.

Andy Hutzel noted the Governor's Aviation Advisory Board meets every two months and Tom George, AOPA representative, is on the Advisory Board. He added that similar groups are working on the same "user fee" issue. The Aviation Advisory Board meetings are open to the public.

Tony suggested he and Jim meet with Dave when he returns, to discuss the best approach the Commission should take on this important aviation issue.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

None

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Allen Kemplen advised the Commission that a recent update of the Statewide Aviation System Plan provides an economic impact assessment of aviation on the State. He encouraged the members to view the website, www.alaskaasp.com for more information.

Allen also noted that Fairview community citizens are increasingly concerned about the safety aspect when pilots crosscut through the neighborhood. This has been a topic of discussion among the residents, and they are developing a systematic effort to bring attention to this issue. Citizens are recording dates and times of these events and using cameras with telephoto lenses to capture aircraft numbers. They plan to send letters to the offending pilots to let them know of the residents' concerns. Allen indicated that Dave is aware of this program and citizens' concerns about their safety and the decline of their property values.

Tony stated that Dave sent an email message to Merrill Field leaseholders and business owners encouraging them to become active in their respective Community Councils, Fairview and Airport Heights.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.