

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 9, 2015
Anchorage Fire Training Center
1150 Airport Heights Road, Building "C" Room 8
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Powell, Chair
Sharon Chamard, Vice Chair
Dick Armstrong
Don DeVoe
Terry Pena

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Cieplak *
Greg Pearce *

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Mark Brys, Interim ATCT Manager

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Jim Powell called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jim asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the May 7, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Noise

Assistant Airport Manager Alex Jumao-as reported that overall the aircraft noise complaints are continuing to decrease notwithstanding several Rogers Park residents' dissatisfaction with rotorcraft overflight.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD)

The number of vehicle and pedestrian deviations year to date is one less than this same time last year.

C. Leasing Update

- Chuck Miller, Lot 7C Leaseholder, has acquired footing permits for construction of a paint facility east of the control tower. Ground-breaking activity will begin this week, and interior work on the facility is planned for this winter.
- Lot paving for the nine, 2000 sf. stacked configuration hangars on the Janssen Hangars LLC lot west of TWY 16/34 is completed, and the hangars are ready for sale.

- Current lessee Mark Renner, Kontor Development, has acquired a new lease for the lot that contains four Quonset hut buildings. The huts are slated to be demolished later this summer and replaced with new hangars. The project is in the permitting phase.
- JayHawk Air owner Tim Karlovich has presented plans to build a hangar at 1842 Merrill Field Drive. The hangar construction project is in the permitting phase.
- Airframes Alaska has acquired the Reeve Airmotive lease. Plans to expand the existing hangar in 2016 are underway.

D. Project Updates

Alcan Electrical and Engineering is the successful bidder for the **Security & Lighting Upgrade Phase 3 Project**; a notice-to-proceed will be issued when federal AIP grant funds are received. The project will include installation of a MRI-parochial fiber optic cable; modifying the existing vertical stake fencing along 5th Avenue and adding 3-stranded barbed wire atop the chain link fencing; installation of security cameras on the air traffic control tower; reducing the size of Taxiway Kilo on the north side of Runway 7-25 and installation of new gate operators and ingress/egress procedures on all MRI vehicle gates.

The dynamic compaction phase of the **Taxiway Quebec Phase 4 Project** is finished and surface paving will be completed soon.

The **Merrill Field Airport Master Plan Phase 2 Project** is progressing. HDR is currently evaluating the alternatives for subsequent refinement to a preferred plan for future development. An Airport Advisory Group will be convening soon to review the preferred alternatives.

The **Orca Street Buildings Re-Roofing Project** provides 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. While working on the 1025 Orca Street building, it was discovered that the overhead electrical power line was not in code compliance and was moved underground. This unanticipated electrical work is now completed and caused about a six-week extension of the overall project completion date.

The **City Electric Property Acquisition Project** is in progress. The property appraisal and review appraisal have been received, and FAA grant funds are expected by mid-August.

Future projects include continuation of dynamic compaction to reclaim former landfill areas, reconstruction of Merrill Field Drive and RWY 5/23 lighting. A Request for Proposal is being prepared for Architectural/Engineering & Construction Management Services for Merrill Field Airport Capital Improvement Projects; the current HDL consulting engineer contract expires next year.

E. User Group Meeting

The next quarterly MRI user/ Airport Manager meeting is planned for Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 3:00PM – 5:00PM in the Airport Manager's Office conference room, 800 Merrill Field Drive.

F. Ongoing Bird Control

To curb the number of seagulls on Merrill Field, areas of the field were sprayed with an insecticide to eliminate the grasshopper hatch—a natural gull attractant. The process appears to be successful as very few seagulls have been present on the airport this summer.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Interim ATCT Manager Mark Brys reported that the annual Merrill Field barbecue was well attending and went very well. He also noted that the FAA is taking steps to get rid of the starlings that have taken up residence under the tower cab.

There are no new trainees in the tower until October 15; although, two controllers will be leaving in September. The new Air Traffic Manager arrives on October 1.

Mark asked pilots who want to taxi their aircraft during an Alert 3 (crash) event, to monitor the ground frequency and to contact ground before moving as there is no aircraft movement after an Alert 3 is declared until the airport reopens, typically portions at a time until the event is cleared. This is a safety precaution as pilots will not know where emergency response vehicles will be coming from during an emergency. Discussion ensued regarding the broadcast of Alert 3 notices.

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

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Jim Powell announced there are two Commission positions that are subject to election, chair and vice chair. He also stated that he would be willing to continue as the commission chair should the group so choose. Dick Armstrong made a motion to nominate Jim for the position of chair; Terry Pena seconded the motion. No other nominations were made and the Commission unanimously voted in favor of Jim continuing as chair.

Likewise, Vice Chair Sharon Chamard indicated she would be willing to serve another term as vice chair. Terry Pena made a motion to nominate Sharon for vice chair; Dick Armstrong seconded the motion. No other nominations were made and the Commission unanimously voted in favor of Sharon continuing as vice chair.

B. Preliminary 2016 Merrill Field Airport Operating & Capital Budget

Alex explained that he will provide a general overview of the proposed 2016 Budget documents and noted that a draft resolution can be addressed during the next meeting on September 3.

He stated that in keeping with earlier declarations, lease rates would increase or decrease based on CPI data. To reflect the minimal change in the CPI data, there is no proposed lease rate increase for 2016, and tiedown rates will also remain the same. MRI will continue the practice of transferring Intragovernmental Charges (IGCs) to grant funded projects as apropos.

Dick Armstrong questioned the proposed operating expense increase of approximately \$300K. Finance Officer Pat McCormick explained that a portion of the increase will cover the cost of filling the vacant service administrator position in recognition of "on-the-horizon" anticipated retirements of 24-year MRI veteran Darlene Sivyer and 22-year veteran Linda Luebke. It is also proposed to create a "Capital Improvement Sponsor's Share Reserve" in 2016 to set aside MRI's airport sponsor share of the anticipated grant match requirement for capital developments. The Commissioners were directed to page 6 of the document for additional information.

No action was taken on the proposed budget at this meeting. The topic will be continued at the meeting on September 3.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

Steve Strait, State of Alaska (SOA) Aviation Advisory Board, reported that in light of the recent SOA budget shortfall, the Aviation Advisory Board is discussing revenue generation plans for state-owned, rural airports. The proposed models may include any or all of these options: increased fuel tax, aircraft tax, landing fees and a passenger facility charge. The Department of Transportation will decide the best options, but before any regulation is passed there will be a 30-day comment period. Steve will keep the Airport Commission informed on this subject.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

