

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 12, 2012
Anchorage Fire Training Center
1150 Airport Heights Road, Room 4B
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dick Armstrong
Don DeVoe
Tony Follett
Kimball Forrest, Chair
Jim Powell

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Cieplak*
Greg Pearce*

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

MRI Air Traffic Control Tower, Brian Ochs,
UAA Aviation Technology Division, Rocky Capozzi
Bryant Army Airfield, James Noe

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kimball Forrest, 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 May 3, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

David Lundeby reported that there were six noise complaints since the last meeting. Most of the complaints were generated from departures off Runway 25. Dave has worked with the tower to provide early crosswind departures for the T-6 operations. Two complaints referenced late night touch-and-goes. Dave explained that it is difficult for student pilots to accumulate the required night-time flight time in the summer, so they tend to fly in the very early morning hours during the summer months.

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Dave reported that one runway incursion recently occurred when two juveniles on bicycles rode eastbound on Runway 07/25. The youths pitched their bicycles over the fence near 5th Avenue and were not apprehended. An Anchorage Police officer was dispatched to assist, but the juveniles could not be located. This is the 2nd runway Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation (VPD) in 2012. Brian Ochs, Air Traffic Manager, also noted that the controllers attempted to stop the bicyclists by using the public address system. The controllers could see that the boys heard the message to stop but chose to ignore the warning.

Dave referred to a lead monitoring report compiled from samples from the Sate Environmental Health Lab. The graph shows that the three-month average of lead particulates is below the national ambient air quality standard; however, monitoring will probably continue for one year. The lead monitoring equipment is located near the approach end of Runway 25.

Follow-up Land Use Compliance inspections we conducted on the lease lots. The inspections were well received, and many leaseholders took advantage of our offer to dispose of refuse from their lot during Spring Clean-Up Week. Each leaseholder received reference material on fuel storage, handling and dispensing on the airport. Dave noted that overall the lots look good, but each leaseholder was advised that they are responsible to be in compliance with their lease requirements.

Dave began his information about the Merrill Field Master Plan update by introducing Carl Siebe, HDR. Carl noted that two Master Plan presentations have been made to each of the five Community Councils surrounding Merrill Field. A Noise Study Workshop was also held and noise collection data has been retrieved. A technical memorandum with these findings has been produced and is currently under internal review. The Geographic Information System (GIS) update is underway; aerial photography has been taken and field survey work has begun. HDR should be ready to deliver the first three Master Plan chapters soon.

Dave provided details about the Security Improvement Projects, Phase I and Phase II. The components of Phase I, installation of pilot controlled lighting and LED overhead light fixtures on the north side of the field, have been completed. Phase II involves camera upgrades from wireless to fiber optic. The fiber optic service will run along Merrill Field Drive from Airport Heights to 15th Avenue and will serve ten cameras. Dick Armstrong added that a GCI representative visited him today about accessing the fiber optic service. Dave explained the bidding process and the planned cooperative effort with GCI/Alaska Communications. This project is out to bid now and should begin this fall.

The Taxiway Quebec Rehabilitation, Phase III project involves dynamic compaction at the intersection of Taxiways Quebec and Golf. The project is slated to be completed by the end of September.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Brian Ochs reported that he has been at Merrill Field for three months now. He referred to his Merrill Field Bulletin article and reiterated that the goal is to increase professionalism and provide improved service.

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower (continued)

Brian also commented on the recent VPD and noted that the PA system has been effective at times, but vigilance by everyone on the airport will help.

The Airport BBQ sponsored by the ATCT was a success, and Brian was pleased to report that the event was well attended. He noted again that the controllers' goal is to provide good service to Merrill Field.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Rock Capozzi reported that the Aviation Technology Center parking lot should be paved by the next Commission meeting. Students will return for classes at the end of August. There have only been low-level operations this summer.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

None.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

None.

E. Bryant Army Airfield

Jim Noe noted that the publication for public comment regarding the proposed Bryant Army Airfield (BAAF) Class D airspace has not yet been published; however, he offered an explanation of the proposed Class D airspace. He provided historical information about BAAF and noted that the goal is to be in compliance with the United Facilities Criteria (UFC). Jim also reported that Bryant control tower now has three controllers. An invitation was extended to visit the facility.

Eric Johnson added that the tower is open for advisories on frequency 125.0. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Discussion ensued about aircraft utilized by the Alaska National Guard.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

A. Election of Officers

Kimball announced that he will be relinquishing his position as Commission Chair and opened the floor for Commission Chair and Vice Chair nominations. Dick Armstrong nominated Jim Powell for Chair and Don DeVoe for Vice Chair. Hearing no additional nominations, the nominations were closed and Kimball called for a vote. By unanimous vote, Jim was elected Chair and Don was elected Vice Chair. Jim will begin presiding over meetings in September.

B. Representative for the Master Plan Airport Advisory Group

Dave explained that the Master Plan has established an Airport Advisory Group (AAG) whose members contribute to the Master Plan Update process. During the May 3 meeting, the Commission was asked to provide a representative to the AAG. At that meeting Jim Cieplak noted that he is representing the Alaska Airmen's Association on the AAG and volunteered to also represent the Commission. The Commission chose to postpone the decision until the July 7 meeting. The Commission members held a brief discussion about their representation on the AAG and unanimously voted to elect Jim Cieplak as the Commission representative on the Master Plan Airport Advisory Group.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2013 Merrill Field Airport Operating & Capital Budget

Dave noted that each Commissioner has received the draft Proposed 2013 Operating and Capital Budgets. He also announced the budget process schedule: submit to the Administration in September; Assembly worksession and public hearings are scheduled in October; the Assembly should adopt the budget in November. Dave began his presentation by reviewing the draft Statement of Revenues and Expenses and stated that the budget proposal does not include any rate increases. Staffing of nine full-time, regular employees will not change. Dave also gave a brief overview of the proposed capital budget.

Dick noted the projected decline in transient parking fee revenue for 2013, and Dave replied that many of the projections are based on current trends. Discussion ensued on several line items, and Dave offered detailed explanations to the Commissioner's questions. Dick made a motion that the Airport Advisory Commission support the Merrill Field Airport Proposed 2013 Operating and Capital Budgets and pass the Resolution recommending the Assembly approve the Merrill Field Airport Budget. Tony Follett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

Terry Cartee commented that he thinks a right-hand traffic pattern should be permanent. Brian Ochs, Tower Manager, replied that he does not know the history of Merrill Field traffic patterns. Dave also responded that this type of change should be addressed in the Master Plan. Brian added that he will take Terry's suggestion under consideration. A brief discussion ensued about working helicopter traffic into the pattern.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.