

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 9, 2009
Anchorage Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Allen Kemplen*

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

MRI Air Traffic Control Tower, Scotty Auton
UAA Aviation Technology Division, Rocky Capozzi
Elmendorf Airfield Operations, Kevin Cramer

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

David A. Lundeby, Airport Manager
Patrick McCormick, Finance 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.; self introductions were made.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

David Lundeby noted there was one Vehicle Pedestrian Deviations (VPD) in June. The individual was apprehended after he walked across the approach end of Runway 25 from north to south. He walked onto the UAA ramp and climbed into an aircraft. APD responded and removed the individual from the airport. There have been a total of three (3) VPDs year to date; all were caused by pedestrians crossing Runway 7-25.

* excused absence

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Nine noise complaints were received during the past two months. Most complainants reported aircraft making an early crosswind turn when departing Runway 25. A late night touch-and-go was reported, and a resident was concerned about helicopter operations. Dave explained that the helicopter operation involved the fire response helicopter that was responding to a local fire. Dave also noted that he has been working with the control tower regarding the early crosswind turns; the situation has improved significantly. Letters and diagrams were sent to tiedown customers parking in the Whiskey Apron to remind them of the Runway 04-22 arrival and departure procedures. Emphasis was placed on following the pattern for Runway 16 when using the Chester Creek departure from Runway 22.

Airport Maintenance is performing pavement crack sealing on Runway 7-25. The north/south runway will be used when RWY 7-25 is closed for this activity.

Two more incidents of stolen fuel have been reported, bringing the number of reported incidents to four (4) since April. The general location of the incidents is in the Golf apron near Merrill Field Drive. A notice has been sent out to airport users to be aware of this disturbing problem.

Construction activity at the Fire Department Training facility is in full swing. The building foundations are in, and there is a lot of activity at this area east of the airport.

The airport lighting system (runways, taxiways, and beacon) was disabled for approximately three days due to two large power surges. Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) discovered a fault in the underground power cable which is located on Merrill Field north of Taxiway Alpha. Since that fault was repaired, another trouble spot was detected. ML&P is aware of the problems associated with the age of the power connector and is working on a resolution.

Dave gave an update on airport projects. The dynamic compaction segment of the Block 5 Apron Rehabilitation project will conclude this week. After the equipment is removed, the contractor will begin filling the compacted area. The Charlie South apron is also being reconstructed under this project. The area near Merrill Field Drive that was disturbed by the Taxiway Golf gate replacement project the AWWU sanitary sewer project is ready to be paved. The contractor will begin working on replacement of the Taxiway Quebec gate by the end of July.

Due to our receipt of additional economic recovery (stimulus) grant funds, another project is being advertised for bid. The bid opening is scheduled for July 23, and we hope to have a contractor in place by the end of August. Work on this Taxiway Quebec rehabilitation project should begin next spring.

The Ninety Nines had planned to repaint the Compass Rose on June 20; however, rain prohibited this activity. The painting project date has been moved to August. The UAA project to renovate the former ERA building has begun. The contractor should start demolishing the north portion of the building and the original hangar this week.

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Ground has been broken for the third Chugach Hangars building. The new structure will be the same as the existing two buildings; they hope to have the structure enclosed before winter.

Erin asked Dave for details regarding the stolen fuel. Dave commented that the fuel was siphoned from aircraft. Dick Armstrong also noted the ACE Hangars pilot lounge was vandalized. Dick provided details of this incident and added that the cameras captured the violators as they entered and exited the building. Dave responded that the video of the camera images has been made available to APD.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Scotty Auton reported that there is a new employee working in the Control Tower, and he welcomed visitors to tour the facility. Scotty also referred to the recent emergency landing of a Cessna 177RG. The incident ended safely and it was a good learning opportunity for the controllers. Dave added that it was also a good airport learning experience for the Fire Department, and he commented that the NTSB and FAA FSDO personnel were very helpful before and after the incident.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Rocky Capozzi noted that demolition of the ERA hangar has begun, and a new roof is being installed on the UAA Aviation Facility. The number of training flights is down when compared to the same period last year.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

Kevin Cramer reported that a Red Flag exercise will run from July 20 through August 8. It's been a quiet summer on the Airfield due to the runway reconstruction project.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

None.

5. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Merrill Field Pioneers' Picnic

Jim Powell reported that the Merrill Field Pioneers' Picnic will be held on Wednesday, August 19 at 12:00 noon. The event will be held at the UAA Aviation Technology Center. The new Mayor will be invited to attend, and well over 100 people are expected for lunch. Erin added that he has talked to all the honorees or their families except for the Reeve family. The committee is planning a nice affair. Picnic notices will be sent to Merrill Field tenants and the aviation community.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2010 – 2011 Merrill Field Airport Operating and Capital Budgets

Dave noted that the budget presentation this year will be a little different than what has been done in the past. A draft of the two-year budget is still being developed as the budget assumptions have not yet been issued from the new Administration. Typically the budget is submitted to the Administration in September, then it is presented to the Municipal Assembly. Dave plans to have a draft budget prepared by the middle of August and will ask the Commission to take action at the September meeting.

Dave provided a handout of the Comparative Statements of Revenues and Expenses for 2006 through May 2009. Dave offered an explanation of many of the line items on the document. Pat McCormick provided information on the Municipal Enterprise Service Assessment (MESA) and depreciation methods.

Tony asked Dave if he expected any significant changes in the proposed budget. Dave noted that he expects budget items will remain consistent. Jim noted that it would be interesting to analyze the tax benefit that Merrill Field businesses bring to general government. Dave noted that new hangars add considerably to the tax base.

Dave concluded by informing the Commissioners he will provide a draft budget in August; it will be sent by e-mail. If the Commission is unable to act on the budget in September, a special meeting could be set if necessary.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

None.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Tony mentioned that he and Dave met with Larry Baker of the Mayor's transition team. Mr. Baker's task was to meet with Municipal boards and commissions, and to provide a report to Mayor Sullivan. They discussed future challenges, the need for a new master plan, educating the aviation community, the Airport's MESA expense, and the importance of informing business leaders of the positive economic effects that Merrill Field offers. Overall the meeting was very favorable.

Tony noted that some Commission terms will expire this fall, and he asked about the procedures for requesting reappointment. Dave will provide this information to the members whose terms expire in October.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.