

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 3, 2009
Anchorage Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Davis

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

MRI Air Traffic Control Tower, Scott Auton
UAA Aviation Technology Division, Hugh Youngers

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

David A. Lundeby, Airport Manager
Linda Luebke, Acting 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 September 3, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

David Lundeby noted there have been no Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation (VPD) since July. There have been a total of four (4) VPDs year to date; all were caused by pedestrians crossing Runway 7-25. There were four in 2008, six in 2007, six in 2006 and five in 2005.

Three noise complaints were received during the past three months. All were early morning flights: two were early departures off runway 25 and one was touch-and-go operations off Runway 25 all before the tower was open.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

We have had numerous vandalism incidents this month. On November 22, five businesses were broken into including the Airport Manager's Office which incurred approximately three to five thousand dollars in damage. The thief seemed to be most interested in loose change that was left in drawers. Due to the vigilance of an airport business employee, the police were able to apprehend the airport bandit. We are encouraging everyone to be watchful and report any suspicious activity to APD. We have not had any more reports of fuel being stolen.

We have received several reports of ravens on the airport. We have again contracted with USDA to control the problem. However, we all need to do our part to discourage raven activity such as keeping the dumpster lids closed.

The Municipal Assembly has schedule additional public hearings on the budget; the next meeting is December 8, 2009 in the Assembly Chambers at the Loussac Public Library.

Dave gave an update on airport projects. Chugach Hangars has almost completed their third hangar. The building will add an additional 9 units to the association. Stoddard's new facility is almost complete. The new facility will give them additional retail space and a large hangar. The UAA project to renovate the former ERA building is nearing completion. The demolition and site work is done, and they are now adding an addition on the west side of the building. The work is scheduled for completion at the end of December. Construction activity at the Fire Department Training Facility is in full swing. They will be working on the structure through the winter.

The 5th Avenue/Glenn Highway Expansion (Alaska DOT project) is basically complete. The remainder of the project consists of paperwork formalities. Now that the airport replat is complete, we will be entering into new leases with the 5th Avenue leaseholders and finalizing the land exchange agreement between the State of Alaska and the Municipality. Currently there is congressional action in the process for this task.

Dave reported on new airport improvement projects. Rehabilitation of Runway 16/34 is scheduled for the summer of 2010. This project consists of removal and replacement of existing pavement, additional fill to repair frost heaves, replacement of existing PLASI, upgrades to the runway and threshold lighting, taxiway interlinks, drainage improvements and new pavement markings. The Taxiway Quebec Rehabilitation Project includes adjacent portions of Block 5 and the Quebec Apron. The work for this project is comprised of demolition, dynamic compaction of soils and landfill waste, and reconstruction of Quebec Taxiway and aprons. This project will start in the spring of 2010; the construction contract has been awarded to Granite Construction.

We also need to replace three pieces of snow removal equipment: two loaders (a 1995 and a 1997 model) and a 1998 sweeper/vac truck that is utilized for removal of sand from airport surfaces resulting from the winter sanding operations. Our snow removal requirements are very demanding on the loaders, due to the quantity of snow received and the volume of snow removed from the runways and aprons.

Dave recognized newly appointed commission member, Kimball Forrest, and two re-appointed members, Tony Follet and Dick Armstrong. He thanked them for their time and interest in Merrill Field Airport.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Scotty Auton reported that traffic has been down. The tower has time for tours if anybody wants to come and visit. Tony asked if the tower is going to be down graded. Scotty replied that he is not sure; they are currently at a level 7. Tony said the Commission would like to comment on the issue if it is decided that the level be lowered.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Hugh Youngers commented the ERA building project has had many delays but is expected to be complete by the end of December. The number of UAA flights has been down but most have been impacted by the weather. Tony asked if Commission meeting space will soon be available at the Aviation Technology Center, Hugh was unsure, someone should call the main office.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

None.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

None.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. H2H, Highway to Highway Project

Jim Childers from SOA/DOT gave a power point presentation. The purpose of the Highway-to-Highway (H2H) project is to improve mobility and access for people and goods using the arterial connection between the Seward and Glenn highways. These improvements are necessary for reducing congestion and improving travel efficiency, creating better neighborhoods connections, reducing crashes, and enhancing multimodal connections.

The environmental review process takes about four years. It began in spring of 2008, and the environmental review document is scheduled for completion in 2012. The process includes many opportunities for public input. If an alternative is selected that requires design and construction, then construction would be anticipated to start no sooner than 2013.

Alternatives are different options that could meet the project's purpose and need. Included in the full range of Corridor Alternatives are two options that could impact Merrill Field, the Orca and 15th Avenue alternatives. The project

A. H2H, Highway to Highway Project (continued)

team is now screening the full range of alternatives and in early 2010 (February-March), three reasonable alternatives will be selected. The final decision on routes (alternatives) will be made in the Record of Decision (ROD), which is anticipated in 2012.

Tony asked Jim to come to the January commission meeting to give an update. For more information about this community project, contact Jim Childers, Project Manager or Julianne Hanson, Public Involvement Lead at 865-2202 or email: contact@highway2highway.com. You can also go to the H2H website at www.highway2highway.com or call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303, for Commission meeting information. A copy of the Commission's comments on the Purpose and Need for the H2H Project is attached.

B. Memorializing Merrill Field – Kim Halverson, Wyndham Publications

Kim Halverson, gave a presentation of the "North to the Future", Volume III, publication and asked if the airport would like to participate in Volume IV. He suggested we could memorialize Merrill Field Airport in the new publication. The book will feature individualize profiles of top cities and organizations in Alaska. To view this publication, please call the Airport Manager's office at 343-6303.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

Mr. Halverson made several comments on the H2H project and asked what kind of progress has been made on the Knik Bridge crossing.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Erin made comments about the TSA recently talking about "through the fence" operations. The theory that "through the fence" operations are a security risk. There was some talk that the campground in Fairbanks airport may be a problem because it is "unsecured". Erin has been reading on AvWeb that a "through the fence" organization was just created to address the issue because there are numerous communities around the country that have taxiways that connect to publicly funded airports. It would not be too much fun to buy a house in an airpark and then have the government close down access to the runways. Erin asked Dave if the Merrill Field campground would be affected. Dave responded that our campground is an uncontrolled transient area and he has not heard if we would be affected.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.