

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 3, 2007
Anchorage Fire Department Training Center
1140 Airport Heights
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Davis
Tony Follett
Allen Kemplen
Erin Marston
Paul Palinski

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Dick Armstrong *
Jason Evans

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

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

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Darlene Sivyer, Commission Secretary (343-6303)
Linda Luebke, Leasing Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Marston, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Jim Bridwell took the opportunity to introduce Ron Preston who will be taking over as the Flight Program Manager at UAA. Jim explained that he is leaving this position and will be piloting in the private sector. Craig Hinkley was introduced as the new Flight Safety Officer at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the March 1, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Erin also mentioned that David Lundeby, Airport Manager, is out of town and Alex Ju-mao-as, Assistant Manger, had a schedule conflict with this meeting time. Therefore, Darlene Sivyer will read the Manager's report.

Airport management reports that no aircraft noise complaints were received during the past two months. Likewise, no Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPDs) have occurred this year to date. The last trespass incident was recorded in October, 2006.

* excused absence

3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Seasonal tasks are underway. Spring clean-up on the Airport has begun, and maintenance personnel have been busy picking up trash. The crew is also focusing on preparing equipment for the busy summer months. Asphalt crack-sealing is scheduled to begin in June; two summer seasonal employees have been hired to assist with the additional work.

Ravens have been lingering in the area longer than normal this spring. Four incidents of aircraft damage have been reported from March to date. USDA Wildlife Services personnel are aggressively pursuing the remaining birds.

The Taxiway Golf north barrier gate is currently out of service. The gate is in the open position from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is NOTAM closed at night. The contractor is waiting for underground conduits to thaw so new wire can be pulled for the gate access control system. The work is expected to begin within the next few days.

Airport Management is busy administering several projects. Next week, the contractor will start working on Taxiway Bravo, located on west side of Runway 16/34. The project will add 300 feet of taxiway and an interlink to Runway 16/34; periodic closures of the runway are expected. The new taxiway will provide new space for aviation development along Orca Street.

Phase 1 of the Block 5 Rehabilitation project is scheduled to be complete by mid-June. Phase 2 of the project is in the bidding process with estimated construction start by mid-June. The dynamic compaction portion of the contract will be performed during the daytime (last year it was done at night). Phase 2 is estimated to be completed by late fall. Phase 3 is scheduled to be done next summer.

The Security Camera system is in a stable condition. Within the next couple of weeks, Leaseholders will be given passwords for access to the cameras at their locations. About 30 cameras are viewable at www.merrillwebcam.org.

No construction is planned for summer 2007 on the Glenn Highway Reconstruction project. The State of Alaska plans to have all right-of-way issues resolved this summer with construction planned for summer 2008.

Following the Manager's report, comments were made regarding 4-wheel drive vehicles driving off-road on the bluff area south of Merrill Field Drive. An inquiry was made as to the amount of damage done when a taxiway barrier gate closed prematurely as an aircraft began to taxi through the area. Darlene will advise Dave Lundebly of these concerns.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Jack Schommer reported that the traffic count is up which is encouraging. He added that a new supervisor is on board to assist with weekend coverage during the summer; a new supervisor is expected in September. New controllers are expected to join Merrill tower as two controllers are bidding for other FAA positions in the region.

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower (continued)

Jack thanked Jim Bridwell for his service to the airport and for being a great advocate for Merrill Field. Jack also welcomed Ron Preston.

Erin Marston asked if the increased traffic count would impact the possibility of the tower category being downgraded. Jack replied that the status of the tower is okay for now; however, the FAA may begin contract tower negotiations once again.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

Rocky Capozzi reported that he is hopeful the former ERA facility hangar located nearest Merrill Field Drive might be upgraded and ready for use by next winter.

Erin asked if the flight school plans to add diesel powered C172s to the training fleet. Rocky responded that there are no plans to make any changes to the fleet at this time.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

Kevin Cramer confirmed the arrival of C17s on June 11; a closure is expected that day from 10:00 to 12:30. The planned closure of Runway 16/34 from May 7 through May 28 is on schedule. Red Flag exercises will be held May 30 - June 15 and July 12 - July 27. A ceremony earmarking the arrival of F22 aircraft is planned for August 8.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

None.

5. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

None.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Allen Kemplen asked if information was available on the reauthorization of FAA trust funds for the airport capital and operating programs. Carl Siebe noted there will be a briefing on project funding during the Airports Conference which will be held at the UAA main campus in two weeks. Conference information will be sent to the Commissioners.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS (continued)

Allen commented that during departure pilots continue to cut the flight path short over the residential area, and he asked if the commission has addressed this issue in the past. Erin responded that this deviation has been discussed often. Jack Schommer responded that it is the controllers practice to educate pilots when deviations are noticed; the recommended route is brought to their attention. Allen added that this is the time of year when more noise is generated and this behavior is more noticeable. He asked for a better understanding of how the process works and for specific requirements. Jack noted that some departures are very specific while others are more general. Allen replied that he is interested in the departure which requires the pilot to turn over Medfra Street. Jack said that at times, pilots do not get out far enough when they begin their turn; he will issue a briefing item for the controllers to watch for these deviations and to always educate the pilots when possible. Erin also explained Part 93 altitude requirements.

Michelle LaRose explained that Dick Armstrong asked her to speak on his behalf about the ACE Hangars sewer back-up situation that occurred during the long stretch of freezing temperatures this spring. She explained that Alaska Sewer and Drain investigated the problem and it was discovered that a mismatch of lines at the public sewer service contributed to the sewer freeze and eventual back-up situation. She asked if there is any history with other airport tenants experiencing this condition and indicated that ACE Hangars would be requesting reimbursement from the Municipality for the costs incurred to keep the sewer line functional. Darlene responded that the situation should be presented to Dave and that he would respond to the leaseholder.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.