

.MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Anchorage Fire Training Center

1150 Airport Heights Road, Building "B" Room 7

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Powell, Chair

Jamie Patterson-Simes

Greg Pearce

Chet Harris

Terry Pena

Corey Hester

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

*Sharon Chamard, Vice Chair

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Paul Bowers A.A.E., Airport Manager

Linda Luebke, Commission Secretary (343-6309)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Jim Powell called the meeting to order at 12:01PM.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jim asked all attendees to introduce themselves and tell of their association with Merrill Field.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the March 2, 2017, April 5, 2017 and May 4th meetings were unanimously approved.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Airport Manager Paul Bowers provided a report on the following topics.

A. Noise

Paul noted that noise complaints are down and any we get are primarily due to rotorcraft operations. We continue to educate the helicopter schools and pilots of our standard protocol to use RWY 16-34 only when RWY 7-25 and Bryant Army Airfield are not suitable. Even though proper protocol is being followed, Rogers Park residents are concerned pilots are not following proper protocol, as variable winds at MRI are different than those at Rogers Park.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD)

* excused absence

Paul reported there have been eight VPD's this year to date; with the latest occurring July 12 ~5:15PM, with the individual apparently going under the Holiday Station gate, walking south across the Compass Rose; Paul responded but was not able to locate the offender. Airport Maintenance reduced the gap beneath the Holiday gate in response to this latest incursion.

C. User Group Meeting

The July 12 quarterly User Group meeting at the Airport Manager's Office included a review of the multiple airfield projects underway. The next quarterly scheduled User Group Meeting, normally held the first Wednesday of each calendar quarter, 3:00 – 5:00PM at the Airport Manager's Office, will be held on Wednesday, October 4th.

D. Ongoing Bird Control

MRI Maintenance staff has been directed to focus on taking Ravens and Sea Gulls when possible where hazing doesn't work. Maintenance sprayed for grasshoppers has helped tremendously in bird control.

E. Leasing Update

- **Chaz Aero's** new aircraft painting facility at 5th Avenue and Ardaiz Circle, opened for business May 8, 2017.
- **Jay Hawk's** 60' x 60' hangar is nearing completion. They are currently working on the interior. The building is expected to be substantially complete by end of September.
- **Aero Twin's hangar** 70' X 90' (6300 sf) hangar is nearing completion; they are working on the interior and should be complete by the end of August.
- **Aero Tech Airpark** The plans for the Aero Tech Airpark Hangar development is being held up by Line of Sight (LOS) issues from FAA. Paul went on to explain the LOS issue of this proposed Aero Tech hangar that is proposed to sit back 140' from TWY Charlie at a 22' height AGL and not penetrate Part 77 airspace. This hangar would sit directly south of the existing Executive Hangar building, a substantially larger 26' height AGL two story building that sits back 66' from TWY Charlie and its LOS shadow completely blocks LOS of both TWY Charlie AND the TWY Quebec intersection. The Executive hangar facility has been there since 2004 without it ever being a reported problem. The LOS issue has put a hold on the development, the developer stated it has spent upwards of \$500,000 to try to rectify the issue with FAA in order to build the hangars. Paul stated that an alternative would be CCTV but FAA is not responsive to that solution. Discussion continued amongst all present at the meeting including FAA personnel. Discussions are continuing.

H. Project Updates

The **Taxiway Q Dynamic Compaction Phase 5 Project** area that included compaction of the landfill underlayment of portions of TWY Q and Golf apron is complete. **Phase 6** of this compaction project is awaiting a \$7.5 million FAA grant. This phase will start east of Phase 5 and continue to near the east end of Taxiway Quebec.

Runway 5/23 Lighting Project (RWY lights and lighted windsock) will start in August. Swanson General was awarded this \$484,399 dollar project. Because this gravel runway is a snow covered Ski Strip in winter and snow depths are unknown, the runway light will be 30" total height at 20' out from the shoulder: dimensions which are higher and wider than typical to accommodate this. This project is anticipated to take approximately 6 weeks to finish. Notice to customers will be sent out as soon as the schedule is received from the contractor.

Phase 4 Security Improvements will add fiber optic cable to the west side of the airport, inside the fence that runs along Orca Street, to support data transfer for security cameras and gate systems. Alcan Electric was awarded the project; a NTP has been issued for the \$3.5M project and it is expected to start this month.

1535 Orca Street Acquisition, an ~12,000sf lot with an early '50s house on it that abuts the Chester Creek greenbelt area, is being purchased on a 'Willing Seller-Willing Buyer' basis, which transaction was initiated by the 93y.o. seller. This property is in the approach zone of RWY 34 and is identified on the MRI Airport Layout Plan as approved for future acquisition. After acquisition, the structure will be scheduled for demolition upon receipt of a demolition grant from FAA. We anticipate the Purchase & Sale Agreement closing by late August 2017.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

ATCT tower manager Clarissa Conley explained they have a few people in training. Delbert Cox added the tower is open for tours but please call to schedule ahead of time at 271-3047. Delbert stated that they have a returning controller "Oscar" back from SC and they are losing two controllers in early 2018. Jamie Patterson-Simes expressed the communication with the tower is better and noted everyone seemed to really enjoy the MRI picnic held on June 27th.

B. Civil Air Patrol

Chet Harris stated he is now the Deputy Commander and wanted to share they just had a successful search and rescue effort, rescuing some hunters from Sheep Mountain.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

A. Taxiway Segregation Project

Paul, explained there were about 45 people who showed up at the April 5, 2017 Taxiway Segregation Project meeting. It was explained this proposed project is to better segregate the existing taxiways (effectively apron-edge taxi-lanes) from the apron edge and reduce Pedestrian-Vehicle-deviations. The proposed concept was to create an apron-edge ~10' wide vehicle lane, plus 4-5' wide elongated painted islands with taxiway lights on the taxiway side of the vehicle drive lane. The final plan is still to be determined; however, the likely scenario on Taxiway Alpha will be a drive lane/separation configuration with a driving-parallel-lane along Taxiway Alpha. Taxiway November will have a vehicle driving prohibition. In addition we are also working on better gate controls.

B. Late night Touch & Go Operations at MRI

Late night Touch & Go operations at MRI generates noise complaints.

FAR PART 61 § 61.57 b) Night takeoff and landing experience requires a PIC carrying passengers to have at least three takeoffs and three landings to a full stop during the period beginning 1 hour after sunset and ending 1 hour before sunrise within the preceding 90 days to maintain night operational currency.

However, Alaska exemptions allow a variance from this requirement, as defined in 61.110 Night flying exceptions:

(a) A 'PIC is not required to comply with the night flight training requirements of this subpart if the person receives flight training in and resides in the State of Alaska,' BUT such PIC who does not meet the night flight training requirements of this section is restricted with a night flying prohibited limitation, which prohibition can be readily removed by completing the requisite recurrent training in § 61.57 b) above. Because of this provision, there should be no urgency in conducting such training in April and May at MRI.

INTENT is to implement a MRI Quiet Hours and Night Operations protocol that takeoffs and landings be limited to one each, per aircraft, between the hours of 2200-0600 (local) and recommend use of ANC for late night Touch & Go ops.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Rate Adjustments and 2018 Proposed Budget** - Paul discussed the 2018 proposed lease rate adjustment is based on the Anchorage Consumer Price Index (ACPI). The proposed 2018 Budget – which will be a 'status quo' budget reflecting an ACPI rate adjustment to \$.208/sf/yr land lease rate (rate currently is \$.207/sf/yr for 2017, and was \$.208/sf/yr for both 2015 & 2014); there are no staffing number changes planned; MOA intragovernmental costs are still TBD; full draft 2018 Budget should be completed within next few weeks.

- **Aircraft Fueling Protocols**-The airport needs to address aircraft fueling protocols to address prop/rotor wash on other aircraft, particularly in proximity to Crowley Fuels on Taxiway November and the Whiskey Apron. Prop-wash and Rotor-wash is problematic for ALL aircraft, especially low-altitude overflight from arriving or departing rotor-craft in concert with fueling ops rotor-wash. Intent is to educate operators to be considerate, to minimize ground hovering, restrict rotorcraft fueling at gravel surface Whiskey area, and to restrict arrivals/ departures to taxiway corridors. Jamie says it is an ongoing problem as we continue to lose fueling station locations.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

- A Certificate of Appreciation was prepared for retired Commission Secretary Darlene Sivyer. The Certificate was read aloud and unanimously approved.
- **Election of Officer**- Jim stated this will be his last MAAAC meeting as Chair. He wanted to step down early in order to ease the transition for the new incoming Chair. The new Chair position will be effective with the September 7th meeting. After much discussion Jim nominated Jamie for Chair and Sharon Chamard to continue as Vice Chair the motions were seconded and the votes were unanimous.

10. OTHER

The next MAAAC meeting will be **Thursday, September 7, 2017**, at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1150 Airport Heights Road, Building "B" Room 7

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.