

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Road, Building "A" Room 2  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jamie Patterson-Simes, Chair  
Sharon Chamard  
Chet Harris  
Corey Hester  
Terry Cartee  
David Knutson

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Paul Bowers, MRI Airport Manager  
Alex Jumao-as, Assistant Airport Manager  
Amy Garcia, MRI Finance Manager  
Linda Luebke, Commission Secretary (343-6309)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Jamie Patterson-Simes called the meeting to order at 12:00PM.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jamie asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Jamie presented the newest MAAAC commission member David Knuntson to the commission. David was appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Assembly August 28, 2018 by AM 532-2018. David introduced himself he is filling the FAA-licensed general aviation pilot position on the commission. David is a graduate in arctic engineering and economics, he works for the Olgoonik Corporation. His hobbies are skiing, aviation and general outdoor activities.

5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

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

A. Noise

We have had no known noise complaints. We are using noise cannon's to control the migratory birds on the airport to reduce in flight bird strikes. Using the cannon has reduced using an actual shot gun and has freed up our maintenance personnel for other duties.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviation/Incursions

We have had a total of 5 vehicle/pedestrian deviations so far this year. The last occurred on September 4<sup>th</sup>. MRI ATCT broadcasted on the airport's speaker system that 3 pedestrians were walking on TWY November westbound onto TWY

Charlie without authorization. They were pushing an aircraft from Spernaks Airways to Pratt Aviation for maintenance. They were reminded of the requirement to receive authorization from the tower before such an activity.

C. MRI 2018 Project Overview

**Phase 7 Dynamic Compaction TWY Quebec** – Is ongoing. This project is located south of TWY Quebec. This project also includes the dynamic compaction of Twy Golf (south of TWY Quebec). This is the largest area in one year to be compacted, it is 65% complete and is scheduled to be completed next year.

**Phase 5 Security Improvements [RIMP Project]**- Project is still under design, planned construction is 2019.

**1535 Orca House Demolition** will be delayed until 2019 due to lack of FAA grant funds and MRI budget constraints for matching funds.

D. Postponed Projects

In addition to the aforementioned projects being postponed due to lack of funding we are still pursuing funding for the Reconstruction of Merrill Field Drive. The lack of funding for projects brought up the introduction of the two resolutions in section 8 of the agenda that will be discussed.

E. User Group Meeting

A reminder the first-Wednesday-of-each-calendar-quarter is scheduled for User Group Meetings. The next scheduled meeting October 3, 2018, 3-5PM at the Airport Manager's Office.

6. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. ATCT – Caleb noted that the tower manager Clarissa Conley will be leaving not sure who is going to be taking her place. He noted they are planning the emergency response drill that is required twice a year. There will be simulated accidents and will have after action review with AFD/APD/MS/ATCT. There was an aircraft incident last week on departure where the aircraft went to the side and sheared off some gear.

B. Municipal OEO Director-Heather MacAlpine explained she had just returned from training and discussed DBE goals for Merrill Field which has been set at 6.4% the methodology is posted on the muni website at [http://www.muni.org/Departments/equal\\_opportunity/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/equal_opportunity/Pages/default.aspx). She is pleased to see improvements in DBE response after they had two meetings to get DBE information out to the public. OEO's objective is to ensure employees and people in general that do business with the muni are treated fairly, and ensure that minority, disadvantage, women owned and small business have equal opportunity. And since Merrill Field receives federal funds to ensure there is no discrimination in these federally assisted projects. There are only two department within the muni that receive federal monies that is transit and Merrill Field.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Sharon said Municipal code requires all reasonable accommodations to conduct MAAAC meeting business and that includes phone in if necessary. More research is needed, discussion was tabled until next meeting.

8 NEW BUSINESS

- Paul introduced two draft resolutions (A & B below) for the MAAAC to consider that if approved by the commission and adopted by the city would help the airport continue to accept FAA grant funds for projects without borrowing for the sponsor share. Both resolutions are asking the Municipality of Anchorage to share the Sponsor burden of FAA grant matching funds. Merrill Field is the only airport in the State of Alaska that does not have any financial support from the city who is actually the sponsor or the State of Alaska. Paul went on to explain that between IGC's and MESA the city takes approx. 45% of MRI's 1.8 million budget, it has gone up dramatically the last two years due to SAP. There was much discussion amongst the commission members, they did not realize the city did not share in any costs and the large amount the city takes from out budget along with the personal property and aircraft taxes they receive from the tenants on the airport. After the discussion Sharon moved to approve both resolutions which were passed unanimously.

- A. RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANCHORAGE, ALASKA RECOMMENDING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PROVIDE THE MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT REQUISITE SPONSOR SHARE MATCH OF FEDERAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
- B. RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, RECOMMENDING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE SPLIT WITH MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT ALL MUNICIPAL TAXES IMPOSED ON PRIVATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ON THE MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT TO ENABLE MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT TO CONTINUE SAFE AIRPORT OPERATIONS

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

- East Ridge resident Angie Fraker asked about the cannon's being used for bird control. She said they are loud and noisy. Angie said some persons dogs will not go outside. She has called the police 6 times and noticed it on next door app. She asked if there is there any way to do something different like what has done in the past. Paul explained the cannon discharge is random from 7am-9pm, previously we used maintenance personnel manpower to drive around shooting the shot gun with crackers which are louder. Additionally we contracted with USDA costing between 14 & 18 thousand per year, which we can no longer afford. This is so much more cost effective and it releases MRI manpower for other duties. The cannon with stop toward the end of October. We did notify APD and AFD of our use of the cannon. Angie said 15 people have

called APD. Chet suggested we need to do a better job of notifying the public, Facebook & community meetings might help.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

- The commission gave Paul an overwhelming thank you for his time as airport manager as his last day is September 7, 2018. They appreciated his vast airport and FAA knowledge and applauded all the improvements he has accomplished on the airport. Jamie explained to all how Paul personally was very instrumental in helping her start her business and has been there for encouragement since.

11. OTHER

- Paul introduced our new finance manager Amy Garcia. She has only been with us a short time from Colorado but has jumped in with both feet as the city and MRI struggles with the new software program SAP to manage MRI finances.

13. ADJOURNMENT at 1:13 p.m.