ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT
Jamie Patterson-Simes, Chair
Sharon Chamard
Corey Hester

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT
Greg Pearce
*Terry Pena
Chet Harris

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT
Paul Bowers A.A.E., Airport Manager
Linda Luebke, Commission Secretary (343-6309)

1. CALL TO ORDER
Commission Chair Jamie Patterson-Simes called the meeting to order at 12:02PM.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS
Jamie asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
Approval of the September 7, 2017 minutes was postponed due to no quorum.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER’S REPORT
Airport Manager Paul Bowers provided a report on the following topics.

A. Noise
Paul noted most noise complaints have seasonally tapered off and most now received are primarily due to rotorcraft operations. We will 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.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD)
Paul reported there have been eight VPD’s this year to date. We have been trying to eliminate entry points with our current security project. (Ironically, a ninth occurred during the MAAAC meeting?)

* excused absence
C. User Group Meeting

A reminder of the first-Wednesday-of-each-calendar-quarter is scheduled for User Group Meetings. The next scheduled meeting January 10, 2018, 3-5PM at the Airport Manager’s Office will be postponed a week to January 10th.

D. Ongoing Bird Control,

The fall migration of waterfowl birds is over; winter hazing of ravens will continue.

E. Leasing Update

- **Chaz Aero**’s new aircraft painting facility at 5th Avenue and Ardaiz Circle is complete and operational. Paul gave a summary of the below ground venting system for paint fumes. Chaz Aero is the only DEC/EPA approved aircraft painting facility in the Northwest.

- **Jay Hawk**’s hangar is complete except the outer guardrail of the building.

- **Aero Twin’s hangar** 70’ X 90’ (6300 sf) hangar is complete. Their guardrail system outside the building to protect it from damage is typical of guardrail or wainscoting systems required on all new Merrill Field construction.

- **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, which the developer stated it has spent upwards of $500,000 to try to rectify the issue with FAA in order to build the hangars. Discussion continued amongst all present at the meeting including FAA personnel. FAA’s current ruling appears arbitrary and capricious as FAA has rejected CCTV (which option was specifically listed as allowable if needed in its 2004 non-objection documentation pertaining to NLA and Executive Hangars when there were no LOS objections). No resolution is in sight at this point. We have proposed an option to exchange property [swap] with D&D Air Park. Their proposed use would be a rotor-craft complex with a fueling operation.

- **Alaska Aircraft Innovation**’s business at 819 Orca (former city Electric) has folded and the lease has been assigned to ADS-B Technologies effective September 1, 2017. The latter firm specializes in Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast technology related software and hardware applications. ADS-B has already started substantial site renovation of the facilities.
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.

MRI received $7.5 million FAA grant for Taxiway Q Dynamic Compaction Phase 6, which phase started on the east end of Phase 5 and continues to near the east end of Taxiway Quebec. The project is nearing completion; however the eastern 400’ portion of this project will have a RAP surface that will be usable thru winter, to be paved in the spring. Paul noted the RAP was received from Granite construction that was removed from the Glenn Highway.

Runway 5/23 Lighting Project (RWY lights and lighted windsock) construction project is nearly complete, with MIRL runway lights 30” in height at 20’ out from the shoulder (higher and wider than typical to accommodate varying snow depths). This project includes painted numerals 23 and 5 and new RWY Threshold markers on the asphalt pad areas on each end, REILS (Runway End Identifier Lights), as well as a lighted windsock at the east end of the Whiskey apron.

Phase 4 Security Improvements, a $3.5M project AIP funded project to 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) and security fencing improvements. This project is nearing completion with only fencing with barbed wire and testing of installed equipment to complete.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

   ATCT supervisor Delbert Cox explained the tower is working with the airport to document new snow removal procedures that will be better coordinated with new phraseology. Delbert also stated drones are becoming a bigger issue and that new protocols are being developed.

B. Elmendorf Airfield

   Lt. Col. Josh Larson reminded everyone that the Fall 2017 Alaska Civil/Military Aviation Council (ACMAC) meeting will be next Tues., Nov 7 at 11:30 am at Anchorage Ted Stevens Airport.

C. Bryant Army Airfield

   Andy McWhorter relayed that the RNY has been repainted and a new procedure for actual civilian rotorcraft touch downs for incoming operations are being developed.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

A. Late night Touch & Go Operations at MRI
Paul explained how late night tough & go operations at Merrill generates on-going noise complaints. Our 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 (or elsewhere) for late night Touch & Go ops. This information has been submitted for publishing in the Alaska Supplement.

E. Aircraft Fueling Protocols

Airport fueling protocols need to be addressed due to complaints of 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 rotorcraft 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.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Two MRI Leasehold Sites will be advertised.

*The first lease site - for commercial development only - is a portion of UAA’s lease lot just east of Alaska Aircraft engines. This site is large enough for a small business hangar. The lease-lot size is ~100’ E-W, 315’ N-S.

*The second site - for commercial, non-commercial or any combination thereof development - is commonly known as our Golf West tiedown apron, west of and abutting Golf Taxiway, east of Quantum Spatial, north of TWY Quebec, south of MFD.

Standard RFP evaluation protocol criteria (details are on the MRI website) include:

- Only aviation purpose uses of the leasehold site.
- Business Development Benefit to MRI and Business Economic Development Potential. The degree to which the redevelopment may potentially stimulate other desirable economic development and/or development activity (catalytic effect).
- If a Non-Commercial proposal, number of proposed hangars and/or covered A/C parking spaces.
- Airport Master Plan Compatibility. The compatibility of redevelopment with land use and development plans as described by MOA/MRI goals and/or the Airport Master Plan.
- Overall Development of new Construction.
- Permanent employment opportunities.
- Bonus Bid – One time monetary amount, w/ scalable points to be awarded.
8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION
Attendee MOA OEO Director Heather MacAlpine explained the MOA’s new Language Assistance Plan to assist parties with limited English proficiency, noting the MOA has two providers available to assist with language interpretation and/or translation.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS
Jamie noted the “Member at Large” commission seat is vacant. Candidates can apply through the Municipal Mayor’s website http://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Boards/Pages/default.aspx.

10. OTHER
Paul explained the UAA mural project was organized by the Mayor’s Special Assistant George Martinez. Paul noted the Iraqi artist was to donate his time for exposure, MRI was to provide all materials including paint and lift (~$1,500 cost). Sharon asked if he was paid, as the artist was lamenting non-payment on social media. Paul stated the initial (and only) agreement was a non-paid volunteer.

Paul recognized Chair Jamie Patterson-Simes of SkyTrek Flight School as the new number one voted flight school in the nation for 2017 (which follows her recognition as one of the top ten flight schools nationally in 2016!). Paul shared a video of Jamie being presented her award at the AOPA banquet.

The body of the MAAAC voted to move the next MAAAC meeting to Thursday, January 11, 2018, due to regular date proximity with New Year holiday. The meeting will be at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Road, Building “A” Room 1 or 2.

11. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.