

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 6, 2023
Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 6
Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair
Marty Edwards
Keenan Zerkel
John Pratt
David Frazier

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Williams
Philip Logan

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Rich Sewell, Airport Manager
Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Commission Chair Stormy Jarvis called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.
Roll Call taken. Quorum 5 of 7 members present.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Unanimous approval of the January 5, 2023, February 2, 2023, and March 2, 2023, meeting minutes.

3. INFORMATIONAL REPORT-

A. CHAIR

Stormy would like the airport to start hosting an open house for the internal users and the community. AOPA has a great play book for setting up a successful open house. Keenan suggested sending out a questionnaire to MRI distribution list, to gauge interest in planning and hosting an open house for next year.

Caleb Newville reported the Tower is planning a BBQ to be held in late July, at Alpha transient. Al Merrill offered his lease lot as a site also.

Stormy mentioned that the MRI website needs to be updated. Rich responded the website is managed by the Muni IT department. He says MRI is working on an update with IT. Marty Edwards has some high schoolers that might be able to work on the update, if allowed.

Keenan suggested to have a link on the website to the meeting dates and a link to the cameras on field.

B. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

The quarterly Users Group meeting was attended by one-person last night at the Managers office.

The Muni Parks and Rec department came over and groomed the runway and Whiskey apron, per Rich's request. MRI also rented a CAT to break down the big hard snowdrifts.

Rich shared that any equipment, that is purchased with FAA grant money, has to meet the Buy American restrictions.

Parks and Rec will allow MRI to use their groomers as long they aren't using them.

Caleb estimated that fifty percent of the aircraft parked on Whiskey ramp fly in the winter. Approximately 2000 ski ops per month.

Rich is working on a volunteer program, for grooming, but it is a liability to the Muni, he will work with Risk Management to see if there could be insurance coverage on volunteers.

Rich stated there will be a snow plan in place by fall, for all aprons.

MRI purchased a diesel CAT, should have delivery by May.

Keenan suggested maybe purchasing a blade for the CAT, to groom the strip.

The grooming could be contracted out, but Merrill Field would be responsible for the cost.

Rich is working on getting a grant from the state for 10 million dollars to be used as match money for FAA - AIP grants in the future. He explained that in order to accept a grant from FAA, MRI needs to have the match money on hand. He is working with the legislators on this matter.

Stormy asked if match money for grants could come from fund raising? Rich said he thought it could, but it would still need to flow through MRI coffers.

Rich said there has been about one million dollars rejected by the FAA, for equipment that has already been purchased by MRI. It will not be reimbursed, and MRI will need to pay for it out of their budget. The FAA has approved approximately six to seven million dollars for use on the MRI building rehab project. It will be done all this summer. The CARES money projects all need to be finished by May 2024. An ask for an extension to spend the CARES dollars are in the works.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- A. MRI ATCT** – Caleb Newville stated the RSAT meeting will be held April 18, 2023, at UAA Aviation Auditorium at 5pm. Afterwards, the tower will host a question-and-answer session with controllers on how to operate in and out of MRI. Caleb will send a flyer to MRI office to disseminate to the users.
- B. CAP** – None
- C. AOPA** – None
- D. Lake Hood** – Lake Hood is expanding their parking. They will be their RSAT meeting on April 20, 2023. They have 88 people on the waitlist.
- E. AACA**
- F. Fairview Community Council** -Karen Gonne-Harrell from Fairview Community Council said their block party is scheduled for July 22nd. She shared that they are in favor to have Orca police substation be relocated to Gamble location. The community is concerned with the closing of Sullivan Arena on April 30th.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kurt Lawler (Whiskey tie down customer) spoke on the winter conditions on 5-23, for himself as well as many other Whiskey tie down customers. He first thanked Rich for the much needed grooming that was done last week on the runway.

However, he was disappointed with the dangerous and unsafe conditions of the runway and taxiway on Whiskey, that were left from the CAT work, previously and was left in that condition for over a week. There were large

balls of ice strewn about, large enough that could cause a prop strike. The rough runway was extremely hard on airframes and landing gear when utilizing straight skis, which is ninety percent of the users on Whiskey. It is Kurt's opinion that it is a liability for MOA, and it is time for the strip to be well maintained for the safety of all users. He is willing to help on future maintenance.

Vince Ferenczy, as a paying customer, would like to have Whiskey be a priority, and MRI have a solid plan of action for grooming and making it safer. He would not like to have the runway NOTAM closed, for long periods.

Keenan stated that for Merrill's snow removal and grooming, the first priority is to keep the commercial aircraft flying and recreational flyers are secondary.

Al Merrill would like to have an FBO at Merrill Field. He said Angel Aviation would like to have an FBO on their lease lot and is working toward that goal.

7. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Keenan would like to have one week a month set aside for night training at Merrill Field. Keenan said a plan would need to be put together then presented to the community. He suggested to have MRI and the communities work together to make this plan happen.

Keenan asked Rich about charging for the bus transfer situations on MRI. Rich is working on a charge for K2 aviation, they are flying into Alpha transient and unloading people to be loaded on to their tour buses.

Stormy suggested maybe having a landing fee based on aircraft weight.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Airport User Group Meeting July 5, 2023, 5:00PM, at the Airport Manager's office

The next MAAAC meeting will be Thursday (First Thursday of the month) May 4, 2023 (Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9)

9. ADJOURNMENT at 1:21 p.m.