

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, July 6, 2023  
Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9  
Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Philip Logan  
Michael Williams

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 12:04 PM.  
Quorum 5 of 7 members present.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Unanimous approval of the revised June 1, 2023, minutes.

**3. INFORMATIONAL REPORT-**

**A. CHAIR**

Stormy reminded the body the duties of a MAAAC member.

1. Advise and make recommendations to the administration and assembly on all matters pertaining to the annual operating budget for municipal airports; and

2. Advise and make recommendations to the administration and assembly on all matters pertaining to operations of municipal airports, including rules, regulations and administrative guidelines in force at municipal airports.

## **B. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT**

The airport manager, Rich Sewell gave an update on several bullet points:

1. A Guardian Security (contract with MRI for field security inspections) car and driver, committed a VPD on RNY 16/34, it was a near miss with an aircraft. It was caught on video by ATC. Rich stated Guardian is no longer allowed in the movement area on Merrill Field, if violated it will result in a \$1000.00 fine. Guardian has also been instructed to educate their drivers on airport movements.

The Manager's office is tasked to investigate each VPD and report the findings and actions taken, to the FAA for each violation.

2. The Users Group meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup> had seven attendees. There was a wide range of topics discussed among the group.
3. Gate Replacement – Rich met with FAA airports division, they discussed the need for total replacement for all the gates on the field. Airports Division has agreed MRI can program this into their AIP program, for the first step of design. Rich will put together a map of VPD entry points that have been committed on the field.
4. Volunteer Core-Rich received approval from City Hall to create a volunteer core at MRI, particularly for the Whiskey Strip grooming.
5. 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force Memorial – There is an agreement with The JBBER Sergeants Association to maintain the memorial, it includes basic maintenance. MRI is looking for an electrical solution to keep the flags lit at night.
6. Neighborhood Complaints – Most of the complaints are coming from the 5/23 strip. Rich is working on getting the Fly Friendly policy out and educate the pilots. He is concerned if MRI does not police itself, the assembly might be forced to get involved.

Stormy stated that it is really difficult to get to 500 feet before turning south on 23, in her small aircraft.

Marty shared that sometimes when flying off 23, he is directed from the tower to “turn now”, putting him over homes. He suggested into maybe moving 23 further to the northeast.

There was a group discussion for the need to get the information out to fly friendly and educate any new tiedown holders, flight schools, renters and even all the new and old pilots. The Fly Friendly information could be given out from the manager’s office when setting up new customers, including it in the MRI bulletin, and asking the flight schools to add it to their education material.

Caleb Newville added the pilots flying at MRI seem to fly standard profiles and not “hot rod”. He added new planes are much quieter than older planes.

Marty asked if there is data collected for the noise complaints? He stated that the noise on MRI has been an ongoing topic but without data it will be hard to address this and come up with a solution. He suggested setting up a website to direct complaints to, allowing for data collection.

Caleb said the noise data collected at MRI is at least 10 years old and the noise problem is not unique to MRI.

Mike Schoder reminded the body that John Alsworth wrote a great how-to throttle back on takeoff to keep noise reduction down. He suggested re-distributing it. Stormy said it is on the MRI website.

[https://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill\\_field/Documents/Newsletters/MRI%20November%202018%20Newsletter.pdf](https://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill_field/Documents/Newsletters/MRI%20November%202018%20Newsletter.pdf)

7. New Instrument Flight Procedures – Rich reported the instrument flight procedures have been flight checked. He has HDL reviewing the problems on the ground expansion. They are also researching on whether to publish or make them specials.
8. Rehabilitation on 7/25 – Rich reported the rehabilitation of 7/25 will be a complete rehab based on the geo tech reports that were done, the underlayment has deteriorated to far to do just a mill and pave. The complete design should be ready by the end of 2023 and job bids could be advertised in the spring 2024 with construction to be done the summer of 2025.

#### **4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

- A. MRI ATCT** – Caleb shared the tower BBQ is slated to be on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

There is no timeline update on the sewer line project that is being done on the FAA lease lot.

Caleb will keep the body updated on the A11 Airspace Analysis & Re-design (AA&R) at JBER. There will be a community engagement webpage developed to keep everyone updated. The ACMAC (Alaska Civil/Military Aviation council) will have the next update at their meeting in November 2023.

**B. CAP** – None

**C. AOPA** – None

**D. Lake Hood** – Keenan Zerkel gave an update on Lake Hood construction; they are closing 80 spaces at Charlie parking this summer. The project will eventually add more spaces when completed in 2025.

**E. AACCA** - None.

**F. Anchorage Community Councils** -None

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

None

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Schoder requests that the management at Merrill Field, keep their users in the loop for the rehabilitation project of 7-25. He wants to make sure that the project information on the rehab is distributed in a timely manner.

Rich and HDL will set a work session with users on the field to explain the project in detail.

**7. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

None

**8. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next Airport User Group Meeting October 4, 2023, 5:00PM, at the Airport Manager’s office

The next MAAAC meeting will be Thursday (First Thursday of the month) August 3, 2023 (Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9)

**9. ADJOURNMENT** at 1:01 p.m.