

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 1, 2024
Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9
Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair
Keenan Zerkel, Vice-Chair (via TEAMS)
David Frazier
John Pratt
Dan Owen
Marty Edwards

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Kolby Hickel, MRI Acting Airport Manager
Amy Garcia, MRI Asst. Airport Manager
Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Commission Chair, Stormy Jarvis called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed revisions to January 4, 2024 minutes (mark exhibits as DRAFTS and/or PROPOSED), tabled to March 7, 2024 meeting.

3. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. CHAIR, Stormy Jarvis

1. The proposed “Fly Friendly” and Helicopter Operation policies need to be updated, vetted, and approved. Current policies remain in effect until changes are made and approved.
2. The Runway 7-25 working group rehabilitation meetings are still being held, one hour prior to the MAAAC meetings.

B. VICE CHAIR, Keenan Zerkel

(later in Commissioner comments due to technical difficulties)

C. AIRPORT MANAGER’S REPORT

Amy Garcia, Assistant Airport Manager-

1. The Iditarod Airforce will be utilizing Merrill Field for their loadouts for the 2024 Iditarod. They will be staging and flying out of Spernaks and Charlie Transient, weather permitting, February 16-18, 2024. The Iditarod Airforce has notified the surrounding neighborhood communities for these upcoming operations.

Kolby Hickel, Acting Airport Manager-

1. The completed ALP for Merrill Field should be updated by R & M in 45 days.
2. The rehabilitation for Runway 7-25 is at a semi-standstill, waiting on ALP update, but still working towards the milestones. The design work is at the 95% stage. The ALP needs to incorporate the full scope of this project before it can be submitted to the FAA for consideration and approval of the funding.
3. MRI is partnering with Parks and Recreation for the grooming of Runway 5-23, Whiskey ski strip. It has been delayed due to cold weather and is now scheduled for February 9th.
4. The New Instrument Approach Procedures are due for publication on March 24, 2024.
5. Please be cognizant of the snow loads on roofs and remove snow as needed.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI ATCT – Caleb Neville, Operations Supervisor Tower

1. Temporary Tower Manager Kristine Kubitz has replaced Tyler Barnett.

2. JBER airspace reconfiguration- the draft designs have been finalized and are being validated. Public comment meetings will be held later this year, with all changes being presented.

B. AOPA – Joe Darnell

1. AOPA will have presentations at The Great Alaskan Aviation Gathering in May at the Fairgrounds in Palmer.
2. April 20th AOPA will hold their Spring Alaska Aviation Safety Seminar at UAA.

C. Lake Hood – None

D. AACCA – None

E. Anchorage Community Councils- None

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott McEwen would like to work with the MRI community and Managers Office to have an Open House/BBQ this summer.

BreAnn Brandlen-The 100-year anniversary for Merrill Field is coming up in 2030, just 7 years away.

Peter Mamrol, Whiskey tie-down customer-thanked MRI MX team for their whiskey grooming.

Kolby Hickel - FAA will not fund the Compass Rose because it is in the RSA (Runway Safety Area). Merrill Field will fund the project out of their coffers. The ALP will need to be updated include the Orca Apron as tiedown spaces.

John Pratt- The 99's spokesperson, Kathy Trantum, said the 99's are willing to paint the Compass Rose.

Mike Spernak – Excellent snow removal this winter!

7. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Keenan –

1. Worked on a draft for the helicopter and fixed wing fly friendly protocols, not many changes, but would like to have the FAAS team review it before finalizing it. Will send it out via email.
2. Has the Whiskey strip been groomed this year? (Steve Kegler said it

has been groomed one time). There needs to be prioritization for purchasing equipment to pull the groomers before the CARES money expires at the end of April.

3. Rundown on the rehab 7-25 meetings - waiting for R & M to update the ALP with future development areas, and to coordinate information from HDL and Hughes that has already been completed. The Runway 7-25 working group this month is pushed back to get R & M to expedite publishing the ALP.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Airport User Group Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 12:00 PM
Airport Manager's Office and TEAMS
- Runway 7-25 Working Group Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024, 11 AM
AFD Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Room 9
- MAAAC Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 12 PM
Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C,
Room 9

9. ADJOURNMENT at 12:33 p.m.