

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 4, 2024
Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. A, Rm 1 & 2
Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair (via TEAMS)

Keenan Zerkel, Vice-Chair

David Frazier

John Pratt

Dan Owen

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Marty Edwards (excused)

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 12:07 PM.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Unanimous approval for the revised minutes for the August 3, 2023, September 7, 2023, October 5, 2023, and November 2, 2023 and December 7, 2023 meetings.

3. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. CHAIR, Stormy Jarvis

1. Stormy turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Keenan Zerkel to conduct today's meeting.

2. The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) as it pertains to the Master Plan (MP) will need to be reviewed. Request R & M to give an update on the ALP at the February meeting.
3. A future agenda topic to be presented- the reconfiguration of the JBER airspace.
4. The Merrill Field website needs to be updated, a link to make a report on a noise complaint should be added and after review and approval post the “Fly Friendly Policy and Operational Procedures”.

B. VICE CHAIR, Keenan Zerkel

1. Moved to accept revised agenda, seconded by John Pratt, unanimous approval.
2. There is an internal working group (the panel members are from the FAA and the Airforce) for the JBER airspace reconfiguration, it meets monthly. Caleb Newville is the management representative for Merrill Tower, MAAAC requested that going forward he give a briefing at the monthly MAAAC meeting. Rob Stephenson shared that a group could request someone from the Airspace Reconfiguration Panel, give a presentation of all aspects.

C. AIRPORT MANAGER’S REPORT

Amy Garcia- the Iditarod Airforce will be utilizing Merrill Field for supply loadouts for the 2024 Iditarod. They will be staging and flying out, weather permitting, February 16-18, 2024. The Iditarod Airforce has notified the surrounding neighborhood communities for these upcoming operations.

Kolby Hickel, Acting Airport Manager-reported the Instrument Approach Procedures have been sent to the FAA and should be published February 22nd-24th, not foreseeing any problems.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI ATCT – Caleb Newville, Operations Supervisor Tower

1. The JBER Airspace Reconfiguration panel consists of members from the FAA and the Airforce. It is an internal working group. After the environmental review is completed, the meetings will be open to the public. The design should be completed by March 2027.
2. Instrument Approaches- MRI has mitigated all field obstacles for the existing instrument approach, the NOTAM has been

cancelled and the circling approach procedure can be used again at MRI at night.

- A. **CAP** – None
- B. **AOPA** – None
- C. **Lake Hood** – None
- D. **AACA** – None
- E. **Anchorage Community Councils** - None

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Review Airport Heights/MRL agreement: “Merrill Field Helicopter Operations Protocol”

Keenan- Is the MRI Helicopter Protocol penned by Paul Bowers an actual protocol (Exhibit 1)?

There is a “Fly Friendly” Policy and Operational Practices from August 2023 (Exhibit 2) updated by Rich Sewell outlining changes on the Bryant airfield, is this document approved protocol?

Keenan- will review both documents and present the findings at the next meeting and get it signed off by Mayor Bronson.

Touch down helicopter autos are not permitted at Bryant Airfield.

Rob Stephenson-suggested running it by one of the flight standards people to make sure that it's compliant with all the requirements under all their rules so you don't put a pilot in a potential situation by agreeing to something in here that is against FAR. It would not be regulatory so complaints would come to this council or the mayor's office.

B. GPS-A N/A at night rescinded

The GPS Alpha NOTAM has been rescinded and that happened by both removing obstacles and lighting obstacles. A big thank you to Steve Kegler for getting that accomplished.

C. USA made groomer, tracks, etc.

Steve Kegler- only option right now is to use the dozer with triple wide tracks to pull groomer behind, it will be tested out on a surface before using it on the runway.

Amy Garcia- working on setting a protocol with the volunteers for Whiskey grooming.

Keenan-made an inquiry to Snocat, on behalf of the Municipality of Anchorage, for Made in America snow equipment. They have a federal GSA stock number, he asked for a price quote, they are approximately \$85,000.

Keenan- another option is to buy another set of tracks and tractor. It needs to be done as soon as possible as CARES money is expiring soon. A

purchase order will need to be ready by the next meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Keenan – Fairview Community Council meeting on the IFP’s was well attended. They were briefed on the safety the new IFP’s will provide for pilots. Assemblyman Chris Constant withdrew his object to the IFP’s.

Keenan- asked if the open maintenance position has been filled and if it hasn’t, why not? Maybe it should be reclassified into a full-time position?
 Amy – there has been one interview, the applicant turned down the job offer because there is no insurance offered with the position, it is classified as “seasonal”. Reclassifying the position can take up to six months to complete.

Dan – Thanked MRI maintenance for the excellent work on snow removal on the field.

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, February 1, 2024,
 11 AM AFD Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Room 9
- ➔ MAAAC Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 12 PM
 Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C,
 Room 9

9. ADJOURNMENT at 12:55 p.m.