

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 10, 2014
Anchorage Fire Training Center
1150 Airport Heights Road, Building "C" Room 4A
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Dick Armstrong
Jim Powell, Chair
Don DeVoe, Vice Chair
Jim Cieplak
Greg Pearce
Terry Pena

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Sharon Chamard *

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

MRI ATCT – Brian Ochs, Manager
Lake Hood Seaplane Base – Tim Coons, Manager

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Paul Bowers, Airport Manager
Patrick McCormick, Merrill Field Finance Manager
Darlene Sivyer, Commission Secretary (343-6303)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jim Powell, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jim asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Noise

Paul Bowers reported that with the help of the ATCT, significant progress has been made toward reducing the number of helicopter related noise complaints. Paul noted we continue to work with flight schools on late-night operations as flight students pursue requisite nighttime proficiency training.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations

Paul noted that on July 4 an airport user reported to the tower that he saw an individual walking from the north to south side of the field. The individual crossed TWY Alpha and walked toward UAA. Paul stated he was on site and intercepted the pedestrian; however, APD did not issue a citation because ATCT personnel did not witness the trespass incident and the initial caller declined to come across field to make a positive ID. Another VPD occurred when two individuals were observed walking from south to north, across the compass rose and exiting MRI at the Holiday fuel station gate, and a VPD occurred when a passenger waiting for a flight was observed rollerblading onto TWY November.

* excused absence

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C. Leasing Update

Chuck Miller, Leaseholder Lot 7C, continues to work on the design aspect of the proposed aircraft painting facility. He plans to break ground this year.

D & D Airpark, new leaseholder for the former AeroTech Flight School lot, plans to build commercial hangar units at this location. Design concepts are under consideration and construction is anticipated for spring/summer 2015.

Construction of two hangar facilities (one with 4 units and one with 5 units) on the Janssen Hangars LLC lot on Orca Street has begun. The foundations have been poured and the units should be erected coincident with the first snowfall.

D. Project Updates

The security camera project is near completion. The next Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funded project is likely to be geared toward security improvements which will likely postpone dynamic compaction being performed along TWY Quebec this year. Addressing security fencing along 5th Avenue will be problematic and is being worked.

The Airport Master Plan Phase I is nearing completion; Phase II will be starting soon, depending on the availability of AIP funding.

The planned acquisition of the City Electric property, on Orca Street, will be accomplished with AIP grant funding. It is anticipated that application for these funds will be made in 2015.

E. User Group Meeting

The Airport Manager/Airport User meetings held the first Wednesday of every quarter at the Airport Manager's Office appear to be working well for airport users re communication with airport management. The next meeting is planned for October 1, 3:00PM – 5:00PM.

F. Airport-wide Picnic Held June 19

Paul complimented ATCT Manager Brian Ochs and the controllers for the great job they did hosting the annual MRI picnic. The weather cooperated, and an estimated 230+ attendees participated. Vendors who donated food and equipment for the event were acknowledged: Odom Corporation, Subway, Frito Lay, Mr. Prime Beef and Carr's Safeway.

G. Bird Control

Two bird strikes have been reported so far this year. The dry months of April and May contributed to an aggressive grasshopper hatch, a natural attractant for seagulls. Airport personnel have been aggressively hazing and taking birds this summer.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

ATCT Manager Brian Ochs, noted there are changes to separation standards for converging runways, which will greatly impact operations at Merrill Field, and he provided examples of how the new standards will affect operations. There are national protocols for opposite direction operations, and the local safety council has implemented new best practices. Pilots should expect more single runway operations.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

No report.

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C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

No report.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

Tim Coons introduced Cheryl McDowell, Lake Hood Airport Leasing Specialist. Tim reported that there is no planned construction projects on Lake Hood this year, but plans are being made for future rehabilitation of the A and B aprons.

DOWL has been awarded the contract for the Lake Hood Master Plan. Tim explained that although Lake Hood falls under the umbrella of Anchorage International Airport, this will be a stand-alone Master Plan for Lake Hood.

E. Bryant Army Airfield

No report.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arctic Thunder Open House & TFRs – Maj. Adam Shicks, USAF

Maj. Shicks informed the Commission on the Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) that have been developed to accommodate Arctic Thunder, the JBER Air Show and Open House, July 24 – 27. He also noted the proposed TFR had not yet received final approval. Maj. Shicks explained that depending on the type of aircraft being flown there are 2.5 mile and 5 mile TFRs; the 5 mile TFR will close MRI air space.

Proposed TFR schedule:

Thursday, July 24. TFR will be in effect for approximately one hour during the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds estimated arrival at 1:00PM.

Friday, July 25 - Special Needs Day. TFR will be implemented at 11:00AM for the practice show.

Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27. TFR will be in effect twice each day during the air shows.

When approved, final TFR information will be provided to MRI ATCT and Airport Management for distribution to airport operators and pilots. MRI committed to posting TFR information on its web page. Carl Siebe asked about emergency operations protocol during the TFR. Maj. Shicks responded that emergency operations will override the TFR.

B. Election of Officers

Jim Powell announced there are two Commission positions that are subject to election, chair and vice chair. He also stated that he would be willing to continue as the commission chair should the group so choose. Dick Armstrong made a motion to nominate Jim for the position of chair; Don DeVoe seconded the motion. No other nominations were made and the Commission unanimously voted in favor of Jim continuing as chair.

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B. Election of Officers (continued)

Don DeVoe stated that he would like to relinquish his position of vice chair and added that he had previously spoken to Sharon Chamard about her willingness to fill this seat.

Sharon acknowledged that she would be willing to serve as vice chair. Don made a motion to nominate Sharon for the position of vice chair; Dick seconded the motion. The commission unanimously voted in favor of Sharon Chamard as vice chair.

C. Proposed 2015 Merrill Field Airport Operating & Capital Budget

Paul acknowledged the short notice given to the Commission to review the proposed 2015 Budget, and noted that the draft resolution included the budget packet can be addressed during the next meeting on September 4.

He provided a thumbnail sketch of the budget details and stated that in concert with earlier declarations, lease rates would increase or decrease based on CPI data. To reflect this, the rate is proposed to increase by 0.9% in 2015. Tiedown rates will remain the same. MRI will continue the practice of transferring Intragovernmental Charges (IGCs) to grant funded projects as apropos.

No action was taken on the proposed budget at this meeting. The topic will be continued at the meeting on September 4.

9. MERRILL FIELD BUSINESS SHOWCASE

SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training – Jamie Patterson-Simes

Jamie Patterson-Simes enthusiastically described her new flight training business, SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training. Her 1800 sq. ft. facility at 1570 E. 12th Avenue, west of RWY 16/34, has classrooms and hangar space with three adjacent tiedowns. Jamie briefly described her background which includes being a Master Flight Instructor and a recently earned MBA degree from UAA. The company employs three flight instructors and operates a Cessna 150 and a leased Cessna 172. SkyTrek is in the process of applying to become a Cessna Pilot Center, (only second one in Alaska, with the other in Fairbanks). This significant designation will allow SkyTrek students access to the Cessna Flight Training System and a multitude of online resources.

Jamie graciously expressed her appreciation for all the help and support from the aviation community, assistance from the airport and patience from the controllers. Jamie plans to host a grand opening soon and invited folks to visit her website, www.skytrekalaska.com.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

None.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Greg Pearce asked about the status of the new runway snow blower. Paul reported the new Oshkosh snow blower arrived on July 1. Disposition of the old snow blower will not be decided until the end of the next snow season, which will ensure winter snow removal will not be compromised should there be a malfunction during the new equipment break-in period.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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MEETING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Terry Pen	MRF	351-7451
Dick Armstrong	ACE	229-0331
Patrick A McLoughlin	MRI	343-6307
Jim Powell	Comm Member	229-1013
Jamie Patterson-Simes	SkyTrek Alaska	274-4359
Greg Pearce	Comm Member	230-8100
Don DeVoe	Comm Member	229-3132
ROB Swenson	PAA	441-2654
Carl Siebe	HDR	644-2163
Brian Oatis	MRI AFCT	271-2698
Tim Coons	DDT+PF	266-2410
Cheryl McDowell	DDT+PF	266-2416
Jim Cieglik	Airmen's	360-5544
GREG STODDARD	UAMA	786-7231