

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 9, 2020

VIA Teleconference - Microsoft TEAMS to listen in, to provide verbal comments or to ask questions, email merrillinfo@ci.anchorage.ak.us your name, phone number, and requested agenda item(s) no later than 09:00am the day of the meeting . The subject line should read "MAAAC Phone Testimony."

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jamie Patterson-Simes, Chair
Dr. Sharon Chamard, Vice Chair
David Knutson

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Terry Cartee
Chet Harris

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Ralph Gibbs, MRI Airport Manager
Alex Jumao-as, MRI Asst. Airport Manager
BreAnn Kim, MRI Service Administrator
Amy Garcia, MRI Finance Manager
Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary (343-6309)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Jamie Patterson-Simes called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jamie asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of the May 7, 2020.

4. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT- No Report

5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Noise

The majority of the noise complaints are coming from helicopters. Ralph responses diplomatically to each incident. He contacts the tower and they check the radar. For each incident, the pilots have been exactly at the correct altitude and authorized for flight.

Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviation (VPD)/Incursions

There were no VPD's reported. Although one occurred this morning but has not been reported as of yet. Ralph has drafted a template for writing the responses for the VPD's to the FAA.

MRI AIP Projects Overview

Alex reported changing out the regular taxiway Charlie lights to LED's and the upgrade on the signage is in full swing and should be finished in late August. The bid for the Merrill Field access road should be put out for bid next week. Construction for the road is anticipated to begin in the 2021 construction season. Alex is working with the FAA on the airport five-year plan and the budgeting of the projects. Ralph asked Alex to explain how the Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), put forth by the Anchorage Assembly, will impact the road access project. Alex explained the CWA, a five-member team put together by the mayor, will ensure that whoever wins the bid will incorporate an apprenticeship training program. This program is for projects that are more than 2.5 million, it is the first time MRI has had to utilize CWA in their projects.

Jamie wanted to go on record for opposing the decrease width on TWY Mike on RNY 16. She expressed concern over the safety of decreasing it by 30 percent. Previously, there was barely enough room for two aircrafts now with the decrease it will only be wide enough for 1 ½ aircrafts. Alex explained the reason behind the decrease. It was the FAA headquarters, from Washington DC, decision to decrease the taxiway. Their decision was based on three points from the Runway Incursion Mitigation program (RIM). It identifies the airport locations which are conducive to runway incursions by pilots and aircraft and also vehicles. The three points the committee looked at were the geometry configuration of the airport, previous VPD's and the width of Mike at TWY Charlie. The issue with TWY Mike is the number of reported pilot deviations at this point. The FAA mandated the width of TWY Charlie and all the way to RNY 7-25 be uniform. The width should be the same all the way from North to South or South to North. Jamie was disappointed from a safety stand point on the change.

Jamie inquired about a VPD that she had taken video of a truck crossing the runway 16-34, twice. Where there any sanctions regarding the crossing?

Ralph stated he was a contract employee hired by the leaseholder. He has been instructed to meet with the airport manager. The manager has no real recourse. He educates and reinforces safety measures that we all need to take to keep everyone safe. And to enforce taking the drivers training instruction and test. Alex added that there have not been any repeat offenders. Public education for driving on the field is an ongoing process.

Ralph is changing the city metric to evaluate the airport. They have been using VPD's as the metric to determine whether we are doing what we are supposed to do. It will be replaced with airport operation figures.

Jamie said that the leaseholder that let the individual on the field should have some sort of repercussion. Ralph agreed with her statement.

The drivers training instruction and test have been redesigned. It is available on the MRI website but the test has to be sent to the managers office or to the individual leaseholder (an answer key can be sent to the leaseholder) to check the answers. It is open book and everyone should pass it with 100%. The instruction booklet and test have been reviewed by the FAA, their revisions were incorporated into the new documents. Jamie, asked if there was another way to take the test without having to leave work and come to the managers office to take it? The test can be emailed out to an individual, but they will need to send the completed test to the office to be scored and recorded.

6. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- MRI ATCT – No report
- CAP –No report
- AOPA – No report

7. OLD BUSINESS

Cares Act Money

Ralph shared with the Commission that he just received permission to share the reduction in fees on Merrill Field from the chief of staff, OMB director and city manager. They have all authorized that there is going to be a reduction in fees in response to this emergency, the pandemic. The mechanics of that are yet to be determined but the dollar value of that reduction will be \$1,000,000 spread over five years. Ralph has put together a power point presentation that was, just an hour ago, authorized to send. He will send it out so that it can be reviewed. Thursday the subcommittee for airports and ports are meeting to see what we are proposing to do with the cares funding. Ralph believes there is nothing contentious in there because it's not going to drive up anyone's costs. **It will show how we picked and chose items from the master plan.**

There are some new items in there. Ralph was asked to make an application for the medallion simulators. The Civil Air Patrol got the lion's share of them but MRI received seven. One is a seaplane, two are helicopters and the others are single engine and multi engine trainers. There is money to build a SIM center. It will house the simulators and airport managers staff in the same building and have parking to support the building and Orca Street businesses.

There are some folks that are interested in leasing the city electric building. They have some high-tech companies and one of their companies builds an electric version of the Cessna push/pull Skymaster. The meeting is next Thursday, no details on time and place but as soon as I have it, I'll share it.

Jamie inquired where the Sims Center would be located and what will happen with the manager's office? Ralph said it will be located on Orca Street, the old City Electric equipment lot located across from ADS-B and the "old" manager's office will be put out for bid.

The airport has accepted all 18 million of The Cares Act money as operational funds, combining the AIP and cares projects, 8 million to be converted from operational to developmental funds. We are waiting on the Assembly to approve the funds before we can start to spend the money. So, as it stands now 8 million will be used for developmental and 10 million will be used for operational, 2 million of the operational is not earmarked.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- No new business to report

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

- Rob Swenson suggested using Cares dollars to fill in the cracks on the tarmac and all around the airport. The tarmac is becoming filled with plant life.

10.COMMISSION COMMENTS

- Sharon Chamard contacted the manager's office to report a camper van parked on the Orca street property owned by the airport. Ralph contacted Anchorage Police Department, the van was ticketed. The van is owned by a neighbor, he was parking it there to make the house look occupied.

11.OTHER

- Next Airport User Group Meeting October 7, 2020, 5:00PM, at the Airport Manager's office
- The next MAAAC meeting will be September 3, 2020 [VIA TEAMS]

12.ADJOURNMENT at 12:39 p.m.