

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 4, 2021

**VIA Teleconference - Microsoft TEAMS** to listen in, to provide verbal comments or to ask questions, email [merrillinfo@ci.anchorage.ak.us](mailto: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

Dr. Sharon Chamard, Chair

David Knutson

Terry Cartee

Chet Harris

Stormy Jarvis

Jamie Klaes

Jamie Patterson-Simes

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Ralph Gibbs, MRI Airport Manager

Amy Garcia, MRI Finance

BreAnn Brandlen, MRI Service Administrator

Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Dr. Sharon Chamard called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

**2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS**

Sharon asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Unanimous approval of the September 2, 2021, minutes.

**4. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT-** Sharon reported that Eugene Haberman passed away a few weeks ago.

**5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT**

- **Noise Complaints**

Noise complaints seemed to have been reduced due to the addition in the Supplement. Mike Schoder reports not everyone is reading the new additions and will continue to educate pilots.

- **Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations or Incursions**

There were two VPD's this quarter. One recently, a transient (appeared to be mental ill) on foot crossing runway 16-34.

Ralph has asked to have the VPD report removed from the budget report, as we have no control over these types of VPD's.

- **CARES Budget**

MRI is still working on acquiring City Electric with CARES dollars. The property adjacent to the runway will be put out to bid. There will not be a new SIMS building built on the empty lot of City Electric, but a parking lot is planned for all businesses on Orca to use.

The instrument approach system has been approved by FAA and should be up and running by next summer.

The SIMS center has made \$6115.00 year to date. It is anticipated that as soon as it is fully staffed marketing can start it will become self-supporting. There is a software scheduling program available.

Ralph gave an update on some of the SIMS; the G1000 is finished and the jet and Pilatus will be available soon.

Ralph reported that the Mayor has inquired about having runway 7-25 extended so that jets can land at Merrill Field and he would like to see an FBO concession built at MRI.

Jamie Patterson-Simes asked where the FBO's would be located? Ralph said the city would like to do a land swap with the car dealership on 5<sup>th</sup>. Another possible site is over by Alpha Transient. This is all preliminary, it would have to be reviewed and approved by FAA. The city would own and operate it.

Mike Schoder shared that with past administrations interested in building an FBO there was great push back from the restaurant cabarets having a government funded restaurant.

The Fairview community reached out to build a memorial at MRI Memory Circle honoring those that built the ALCAN Highway. It would have to be approved by the Mayor.

Sharon asked to have the Fairview Community Council (FCC) involved in the pre-lim of the beautification project on Orca street. The FCC might have more dollars to put into some projects. Ralph was not sure of the legality with mixing FAA dollars and community dollars. The first items to be fixed will be code violations such as electrical box mounts and electrical repairs on MRI owned properties. Ralph said he is aware that the FCC would like to have the parking lot eyesore cleaned up. There is not a cost associated with this project yet, still deciding on what jobs to put out for bid, waiting on the environmental study results.

Amy Garcia elaborated on this project. The list is for MRI owned properties and fixing the infrastructure first. The facelift for Orca has not been discussed yet; this

will come after we know how much money is left. We are still cutting the tasks for this and maybe in a month it could go out to bid to the contractors.

Sharon was concerned about the 7-25 runway extension would take out a major park in Fairview.

- **MRI Project Overview-MRI Road Construction**

Erik Jordt, HDL Consultant for MRI gave an update on the road project. It is 90% completed. The stripping and landscaping will finish up in spring 2022, the road will not need to be closed to finish the work. There were dollars left in the budget, so Erik is working with FAA and the manager's office on additional projects to enhance the airport.

Another project is the runway incursion study by R&M Consultants. They are looking at 3 locations, two at TWY Kilo and one at RNY 25. They will also investigate run up areas, at Taxiway Charlie to mitigate problems created by the narrowing.

Ralph explained that there will be no more narrowing at TWY Charlie, it will not be reversed but will be looking for new run up cutouts.

Erik reported that another project on the books is the rehabilitation of Runway 7 - 25. We are looking into the preliminary design and it might have some reconfigurations of taxiway Mike and Charlie. Ralph assured the body that all will be involved in the rehabilitation.

Heather MacAlpine and Erica Berry (ACDBE program) would like to be kept in the loop for the FBO. Erica will reach out to R & M for the runway incursion study.

## **5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

- MRI ATCT – None
- CAP –None
- AOPA – None
- Lake Hood- None
- AACAJane Dale was thankful for the updates on the availability of the SIMS and will pass along her knowledge of what is available to other certified carriers. AACAJane has been working with the FAA on the Safety Initiative, the report is finalized. The FAA will develop a Tiger Team and it will decide what part of the recommendations will be implemented. AACAJane supports infrastructure to help aviation safety, particularly for weather.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

Election of officers moved to January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Pending new appointments to the board. Unanimously approved by all commission members.

The Sunset Report that was accepted on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was discussed. The previous administration was not up to date on appointing commission members many members on the MAAAC board had expired and not been renewed. The new administration has proposed 4 new members for all vacant and expired seats except for one, they will be voted on at the next assembly meeting November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chet did re-apply for his position with the previous administration.

The airport managers office has done their due diligence to try to get those filled.

Terrance Shanigan is the new head of boards and commissions.

Sharon encouraged all members to reach out to the assembly members to talk about their applications.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed 2022 MRI Operating and Capital Budget**

Stormy Jarvis was concerned they did not have enough time to review the budget and would like to have a special meeting with Merrill Field. Sharon planned a special meeting for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm VIA TEAMS. Ralph asked members to read thru the budget and send questions, via email, to the office ahead of the November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Merrill Field will give proper notice of the meeting. And send out invites.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION**

- Terry Cartee let the body know that the Airforce Safety commission was meeting soon to discuss the Anchorage air space and they should be told about the talks about lengthening of the runway at MRI.

## **10.COMMISSION COMMENTS**

- Jamie Klaes applied to the commission one year ago and just got appointed in June.
- David Knutson thanked all the commission members and said it was nice working with them on the MAAAC board.
- Jamie Patterson-Simes said she has been involved with the MAAAC board since 2009.
- Stormy Jarvis stated a lot of historical knowledge is going to be lost with the new appointments.
- Sharon Chamard thank all the members and enjoyed working with them all. She urged commission members to email assembly members about their applications.
- Chet Harris did re-apply and went thru the process. He enjoyed working with all and thanked Sharon for her job as the chair.
- Ralph thanked all the MAAAC members and enjoyed working with them all.

## **11.OTHER**

- Next Airport User Group Meeting January 5, 2022, 5:00PM, at the Airport

Manager's office

- The next MAAAC meeting will be January 6, 2022, 12PM, TBA

**12.ADJOURNMENT at 1:25 p.m.**