

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 7, 2017  
Anchorage Fire Training Center  
1150 Airport Heights Road, Building "C" Room 7  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Powell, Chair  
Jamie Patterson-Simes  
Sharon Chamard  
Chet Harris  
Terry Pena  
Corey Hester

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

\*Greg Pearce

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Paul Bowers A.A.E., Airport Manager  
Linda Luebke, Commission Secretary (343-6309)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Jamie asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting unanimously approved.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Airport Manager Paul Bowers provided a report on the following topics.

A. Noise

Paul noted most noise complaints are primarily due to rotorcraft operations. We will continue to educate the helicopter schools and pilots of our standard protocol to use RWY 16-34 only when RWY 7-25 and Bryant Army Airfield are not suitable. Even though proper protocol is being followed, Rogers Park residents are concerned pilots are not following proper protocol, as variable winds at MRI are different than those at Rogers Park.

B. Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPD)

Paul reported there have been eight VPD's this year to date.

C. User Group Meeting

A reminder of the first-Wednesday-of-each-calendar-quarter (October 4<sup>th</sup>) scheduled User Group Meeting 3:00 – 5:00PM at the Airport Manager's Office.

D. Ongoing Bird Control,

Maintenance sprayed insecticide this spring in the median areas for grasshoppers to help minimize birds on field, which was very effective.

E. Leasing Update

- **Chaz Aero's** new aircraft painting facility at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ardaiz Circle is complete and operational as of May 8, 2017. The owner has indicated that they are already booked up for the winter months, but have some painting slots available this summer.
- **Jay Hawk's** hangar is nearing completion. The building is expected to be substantially complete by end of September.
- **Aero Twin's hangar** 70' X 90' (6300 sf) hangar is nearing completion; they are working on the interior and should be complete by month end.
- **Aero Tech Airpark** The plans for the Aero Tech Airpark Hangar development is being held up by Line of Sight (LOS) issues from FAA. Paul went on to explain the LOS issue of this proposed Aero Tech hangar that is proposed to sit back 140' from TWY Charlie at a 22' height AGL and not penetrate Part 77 airspace. This hangar would sit directly south of the existing Executive Hangar building, a substantially larger 26' height AGL two story building that sits back 66' from TWY Charlie and its LOS shadow completely blocks LOS of both TWY Charlie AND the TWY Quebec intersection. The Executive hangar facility has been there since 2004 without it ever being a reported problem. The LOS issue has put a hold on the development, which the developer stated it has spent upwards of \$500,000 to try to rectify the issue with FAA in order to build the hangars. Discussion continued amongst all present at the meeting including FAA personnel. FAA's current ruling is viewed as arbitrary and capricious as FAA has rejected CCTV (which option was specifically listed as allowable if needed in its 2004 non-objection documentation pertaining to NLA and Executive Hangars when there were no objections to the LOS for those hangars). No resolution is in sight at this point.
- **Alaska Aircraft Innovation's** business at 819 Orca (former city Electric) has folded and the lease is being assigned to ADS-B Technologies. The latter firm specializes in Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast technology related software and hardware applications.

## H. Project Updates

The **Taxiway Q Dynamic Compaction Phase 5 Project** area that included compaction of the landfill underlayment of portions of TWY Q and Golf apron is complete. MRI received \$7.5 million FAA grant for **Phase 6** of this compaction project, which phase will start on the east end of Phase 5 and continue to near the east end of Taxiway Quebec.

**Runway 5/23 Lighting Project** (RWY lights and lighted windsock) construction project is underway. Because this gravel runway is a snow covered Ski Strip in winter and snow depths are unknown, the runway lights will be 30" total height at 20' out from the shoulder, dimensions which are higher and wider than typical to accommodate this. This project includes painted numerals 23 and 5 and new RWY Threshold markers on the asphalt pad areas on each end, REILS (Runway End Identifier Lights), as well as a lighted windsock at the east end of the Whiskey apron.

**Phase 4 Security Improvements**, a \$3.5M project AIP funded project to add fiber optic cable to the west side of the airport (inside the fence that runs along Orca Street, to support data transfer for security cameras and gate systems) and security fencing improvements. This project was awarded to Alcan Electric and is well underway.

**1535 Orca Street Acquisition**, ~1535 Orca Street, a residential property in the approach zone of RWY 34 and identified on the MRI Airport Layout Plan as approved for future acquisition, was recently purchased from a 93y.o. seller Sandoval on a 'Willing Seller-Willing Buyer' basis. The structure will be scheduled for demolition upon receipt of a demolition grant from FAA, hopefully in the spring of 2018.

Paul explained this acquisition has nothing to do with the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Snow Dump or the Sitka Recreational area. The Master Plan now identifies those areas as potential revenue generating properties and that designation satisfies FAA that we now have a plan from a revenue diversion standpoint. Paul further explained that plan would not vacate the Sitka Recreational area but would only move it south in the event the snow dump areas become leased revenue producing leaseholds. Sharon asked what security we are providing to the vacant building until it is demolished. Paul explained our maintenance personnel will do drive-by reviews, and we expect that the neighbors will let us know if there are any problems that need addressed.

## 5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

### A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

ATCT supervisor Delbert Cox explained they have twelve people now working in the tower with one to retire in March, several are in training. Delbert stated he plans on transferring to Denver CO Center in approximately two years.

B. Civil Air Patrol

Chet Harris stated the CAP has put their aircraft in the hangar, due to the coming winter and the National Guard is using their outside ramp area.

C. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

Tim relayed it has been a good summer construction season as they completed Lakeshore TXY and will start construction on Victor TXY next summer.

D. Bryant Army Airfield

Andy McWhorter gave a brief update on the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement system (STARS - an ATC automation system currently being transitioned for the FAA and military that is intended to replace nationwide by 2020 the existent aging hardware and software Automated Radar Terminal System).

E. Alaska Airmen's Association

Corey related there is going to a CFI, Hunter, Guide Safety Seminar September 19th at the Airmen's Headquarters.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

A. Taxiway Segregation Project

Paul, explained this proposed project to better segregate the existing taxiways (effectively apron-edge taxi-lanes) from the apron edge and reduce Pedestrian-Vehicle-deviations was to create an apron-edge ~10' wide vehicle lane, plus 4-5' wide elongated painted islands with taxiway lights on the taxiway side of the vehicle drive lane. The final plan is still to be determined; however, the likely scenario on Taxiway Alpha will be a drive lane/separation configuration with a driving-parallel-lane along Taxiway Alpha. Taxiway November will have a vehicle driving prohibition.

B. Late night Touch & Go Operations at MRI

Paul explained how late night touch & go operations at Merrill generates on going noise complaints. Our intent is to implement a MRI Quiet Hours and Night Operations protocol that takeoffs and landings be limited to one each, per aircraft, between the hours of 2200-0600 (local) and recommend use of ANC for late night Touch & Go ops. This will require publishing the quiet hour rule in the Alaska Supplement, which is yet to be done.

C. Proposed Anchorage consumer Price Index (ACPI) based 2018 rate adjustment

D. Preliminary 2018 Merrill Field Airport Operating & Capital Budget

- The proposed 2018 Budget was given to each Commissioner by email and at the meeting. Paul, discussed a summary of the budget and noted there are significant interdepartmental government charges (IGCs) that have increased, we are currently discussing how to deal with the increased charges. It was also noted that we are evaluating the need for a new reve-

nue management software program for electronic billing, as our current program is from the mid-80s and is no longer supported. We also have a new budget item for security. Since the slashed tire incident we have contracted with Guardian Security for night time patrols.

- There will be no rate adjustments this year other than a slight land lease rate adjustment which is based on the Anchorage Consumer Price Index (ACPI) rate adjustment to \$.208/sf/yr land lease rate (rate currently is \$.207/sf/yr for 2017, and was \$.208/sf/yr for both 2015 & 2014);

#### E. Aircraft Fueling Protocols

Airport fueling protocols need to be addressed due to complaints of prop/rotor wash on other aircraft, particularly in proximity to Crowley Fuels on Taxiway November and the Whiskey Apron. Prop-wash and Rotor-wash is problematic for ALL aircraft, especially low-altitude overflight from arriving or departing rotorcraft in concert with fueling ops rotor-wash. Intent is to educate operators to be considerate, to minimize ground hovering, restrict rotorcraft fueling at gravel surface Whiskey area, and to restrict arrivals/ departures to taxiway corridors. Jamie says it is an ongoing problem as we continue to lose fueling station locations. There was discussion about have the helicopters go down taxiways and not over hangars.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

Two additional MRI Leasehold Sites will be advertised.

\*The first potential lease site will be a portion of UAA's lease lot just east of Alaska Aircraft engines. This site will be for commercial development only and is large enough for a small business hangar. The lease-lot size is ~100' E-W, 315' N-S.

\*The second site will be for what is commonly known as our Golf West tiedown apron, west of and abutting Golf Taxiway, east of the Quantum Spatial leasehold. This site will be for either commercial or non-commercial development. Our standard evaluation protocol criteria will include:

- Only aviation purpose use of the leasehold site.
- Business Development Benefit to MRI and Business Economic Development Potential. The degree to which the redevelopment may potentially stimulate other desirable economic development and/or development activity (catalytic effect).
- If Non-Commercial proposal, number of proposed hangars and/or covered A/C parking spaces.
- Airport Master Plan Compatibility. The compatibility of redevelopment with land use and development plans as described by MOA/MRI goals and/or the Airport Master Plan.
- Overall Development of new Construction.
- Permanent employment opportunities.
- Bonus Bid – One time monetary amount, w/ scalable points to be awarded.

### 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

- Terry Cartee discussed RWY 5/23 winter operations and stated that Iditarod Trail groomers have a trailer groomer that would be beneficial to our MRI maintenance

personnel; he will provide details to Paul. Terry also stated that in the Supplement you have to look in four places to find all MRI information and it needs to be consolidated to one area.

- Mr. Kisser commented that there is not a sign on TXY Charlie when going west from TXY Quebec, it would be helpful if we could get that corrected. Paul committed to do so.

#### 9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

- It was noted that this will be Jim Powell's last meeting as a Commissioner. The "Member at Large" commission seat will become available October 14, 2017. Candidates can apply through the Municipal Mayor's website <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Boards/Pages/default.aspx>.
- Long term Commissioner Jim Powell was recognized by the Municipal Airport Aviation Advisory Commission with a resolution read by Commission Chair Jamie Simes-Patterson and MRI Manager Paul Bowers presented Jim with a Proclamation from Mayor Berkowitz.

#### 10. OTHER

Paul noted that MRI "International" Airport is being audited for ADA and FAA Civil Rights Compliance by FAA September 12 & 14.

Paul also noted that the flag pole at the Airport Manager's office is now lighted, as earlier promised.

The next MAAAC meeting will be **Thursday, November 2, 2017**, at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Road, Building "A" Room 1

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.