

MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JULY 21, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ian Morcott, Martin Pike, Paul Hibbard, Tom Hoegg, Rob Karren

MEMBERS ABSENT: AJ Lewis, Justin Page

REPRESENTATIVES: Mayor Rich Sykes; Councilman McCain; Rich Urquidi – Public Works Director; Ted Thompson – Airport Manager

GUESTS:

TRANSCRIBER: Amy Pearson

MINUTES:

Tom Hoegg made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2020 meeting. Rob Karren seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

RECOGNIZE PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE:

OLD BUSINESS

Instrument Approach Procedure Changes

Have a date set for the end of December/beginning of January. Item closed.

Replacement of Terminal Building

The plan for now is to keep the current terminal building and make the minor repairs necessary in the interim as there is no plan to replace the terminal building in the next fiscal year. Item closed.

Airport Drainage

The issue is between the hangars and the runway and on the south side of the hangar taxiway. Rich will ask John Matthews to shoot a topographical survey and send the information to Toby at JUB. City crews can build a drainage pond if it is needed. Ted will mark a map exactly where the drainage issues are and get the pictures of the standing water to Rich. Ian agreed to take on the project. Carry forward.

ADA Improvements

Projects will continue to be completed annually as needed to fulfill ADA requirements. Item closed.

FAA Funding and Projects

After fire season the reflective paint will be put down on the runways and taxiways which will finish this project. Carry forward.

Above Ground Fuel Storage

Ted said that the tank is operational, and the first flowage fees were paid this month. Item closed.

Aircraft Maintenance Apprenticeship Program

Ted said that this program is currently on hold. Ted is able to preserve the grant he received for one more year until he figures out who they can get to teach the program. Item closed.

Discussion/Decision on Proposed Jet Fuel Flowage Fees

The City Attorney has reviewed the matter and said that we can charge flowage fees. Rich will contact the City Attorney to send his legal opinion and will email it out to the committee. Ian asked for a market analysis for what other airports are charging for flowage fees. Paul said he would take on this project. Between now and the next meeting he will reach out to all the competing airports and report his findings back to the committee. Members also requested that the discussion be on all fuel, not just jet fuel. Item amended for August's agenda. Carry forward.

Weed Control

A city employee just sprayed portions of the airport and Mountain View always sprays preemergent in the fall. These items are on Rich's calendar and are automatically taken care of each year. Ted asked to be sure that the taxiway signs and markings are also clear. Rich will be sure that is on Mountain View's list to do. The city purchased an attachment for the skid steer to grind all the tumbleweeds up each year versus having to hire a company to take care of it. Item closed.

Proposed Ordinance Change

Ted would like an overall review of the Airport ordinances completed. Tom will head up this project. Item amended to Ordinance Review. Carry forward.

Short Term Airport Licenses

Ted said that this was an issue that came up in November with a BLM contracted agricultural operator that had to do a one-day license, but the ordinance states they must come before the committee, have it approved by the council and pay a \$400 fee. It is hard to comply with the ordinance for a short term license like that. Ted said this would also apply to SEAT training and certifications. Paul and Tom both said they would review this topic during the Ordinance Review project in the item listed above. Item closed.

Reassessment of Overnight Parking and Tie Down Fees

Rich thinks we should have some sort of tie down fee for long term parking to prevent people from storing their planes long term on the apron. Tom said that is why you should have an ordinance that prevents that. If you have an ordinance and follow it, you won't have that problem. Tom said that we should do away with overnight parking and tie down fees completely. Ian agreed. Since we don't currently have an ordinance preventing this it would need to be addressed in the Ordinance Review project in the item above. Ian feels that if someone is there for more than two weeks then they would need to pay for the month. Rob asked what the city's liability is with long term parking.

Tom said that he had an analysis between several airports in the area printed if anyone wanted to review it. Basically, no airport of similar size between Oregon and Twin Falls has a tie down fee and they all have more airplanes than Mountain Home. Rich read the ordinance that stated that the tie down fees currently are \$100 per year for residents of Elmore County, \$150 per year fee assessed to non-residents, and tie down fees for transient aircraft are \$5 per day. Ted said that there is a monthly fee as well. Paul asked if we are trying to generate revenue for the city and if so, how because there are a lot of ways to do that or are we trying to generate traffic at the airport; what is the real purpose that we are trying to get at. Tom said that the more operations an airport has, with certain specifications, the more federal grant money they can get. There was a lengthy discussion amongst members regarding the direction/growth of the airport, overnight parking and the tie down fees.

Tom made a motion to eliminate all tie down fees. Paul interjected and said that before a motion was made the committee should consider what it does to the current contract of the Airport Manager that doesn't expire until the end of the year that is a part of their income and has already been negotiated. Paul does not think we can move forward on that because we are impacting the income of a contract employee. Also, there is no provision for long term parking that has already been sorted out. Before moving forward with a motion and vote, Paul would like to have these questions answered and do this right the first time.

He does not disagree that daily, monthly, annual tie down fees should remain or be eliminated, he would like to have a further discussion on how it impacts the various factors that have arisen and do it in a timely manner. Paul suggested that further information be gathered and discussed with the experts and then make an informed motion at the August meeting.

Ian said that it was his belief that this was just an advisory committee that just makes recommendations to City Council saying we think you should do this and that the execution of the recommendation such as the language, when it takes effect, and any other necessary decisions all happen at the city level. Paul did not feel comfortable simply making a recommendation that has several unanswered factors and then just handing it off to the council to figure out; he felt that was the committee's responsibility to have all those questions answered. Ian said that it is for the council and City Attorney to figure out how to accomplish the recommendation and when it will go into effect, if they so choose. Councilman McCain said that the attorney would look at it and if there is a contract that will be impacted then council likely wouldn't approve the change until that contract is up. Paul stressed that as a committee member he wouldn't want to give the mayor a decision from our committee that is not executable because the committee didn't do any of the research. Councilman McCain said that is certainly the committee's decision as well. Tom said that the committee is just advising the council and they are going to execute it or not at their leisure, but it is for them to process. Ian suggested adding whatever caveats the committee feels are necessary to the motion and that it may not take effect until January 1.

Paul asked Mayor Sykes if the motion was made this evening what would the next steps be. Mayor Sykes said that the recommendation goes to him. He would have Rich, Nina, Councilman McCain and himself contact the City Attorney to be sure that it could move forward onto the agenda. The attorney may say the city can't remove the tie down fees until the contract ends, but at least the process will be complete and ready to start with the new contract at the start of the calendar year. Rich did ask that if the committee makes a recommendation to the council, that someone be present at the meeting as a representative should council have additional questions. After a lengthy discussion Rich reminded the group that there was a motion on the table (from Tom to eliminate all tie down fees) and asked if there was a second. Rob seconded the motion. The vote is as follows:

Tom Hoegg:	Yay
Ian Morcott:	Yay
Martin Pike:	Yay
Paul Hibbard:	Nay
Rob Karren:	Yay

Motion carried. Item closed.

NEW BUSINESS

Elect 2020 Chairman

Postponed to the August meeting when all members are present. Carry forward.


GENERAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The committee used this time to openly discuss several topics regarding where we are as an airport, where our competitors are and how are we going to move forward to improve the airport as a whole for the customers that use it and future growth. The committee expressed a strong desire to hold work sessions so that they can openly discuss the myriad of topics that need addressed such as the ordinance review rather than having to discuss several topics in great detail once a month. Mayor Sykes and Rich both said that they believed the City Attorney said that they could hold work sessions as long as no decisions were made. They said that they would confirm that information and email the committee the attorney's opinion on the matter.

AGENDA SET FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the committee, Tom Hoegg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ian Morcott seconded the motion. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 P.M.


Chair

AGENDA ITEMS FOR AUGUST 18, 2020 MEETING

OLD BUSINESS

Airport Drainage
FAA Funding and Projects
Discussion/Decision on Proposed Fuel Flowage Fees
Ordinance Review
Elect 2020 Chairman

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning