

MINUTES
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Fire Station 6, EMS Division, 2742 25th Street SE
6:00 PM

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Tim Hay	Major Mark Ulvin	Ron Sterba
James Nafziger	Mark Renaud	John Holliday
Mary Ann Lebold	Jim Harr	Ron Peters
Kindra Jordan		Paul Becker
	Staff Present	Jim Wall
	Alan Alexander	
	Kathy Sime	
	Air Traffic Control Staff	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Hay called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Tim Hay – Here
 Mark Renaud – Absent
 Major Mark Ulvin - Absent
 Kindra Jordan - Here
 Mary Ann Lebold - Here
 Jim Harr – Absent
 James Nafziger – Here

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Nafziger made a Motion to approve the December 18, 2009 Minutes. Kindra Jordan seconded the Motion and the Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

4. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Ron Sterba thanked airport management for adjusting the parking lot lights in a “down” position.

Paul Becker inquired about the proposed Rules that were discussed December 2008 and he had questions and concerns. Alan reported that Chapter 9 affects only McNary Field. Some of Mr. Becker’s concerns were in reference to the recent publicity

regarding the Independence Airport. Mr. Becker also inquired about an item that was recently before Council regarding the airport. Alan stated that the issue dealt with a non-standard lease that needed Council approval.

Tim asked about the status of the proposed changes made to Chapter 9. Alan stated that he received the first draft back from Legal and the City's legal advisor needed some clarification. Alan stated that the changes will be "tracked" and the AAC will be able to see the changes proposed by the legal department.

5. REPORTS

a. Tower Chief Report

Cindy Ford was unable to attend the meeting. Alan Alexander gave the following report: Traffic count for December 2009 was 2328, an increase of 58 operations over December 2008. Total 12 running month total through December 2009 was 51,137. The busy day was 194 operations. Alan stated that the weather and the economy were the reasons for low operations. Alan stated that once the National Guard returns, the operations should increase. Alan stated that the National Guard aircraft should return by March, 2010.

Alan reported that the company currently working the air traffic control tower, Serco, was the successful bidder and will continue serving the airport for an additional five years until the contract goes to bid again.

James Nafziger asked about the number of operations and how it affects the funding for the tower. Alan stated that the operations don't have a direct impact of the federal funding. Alan stated that the cost benefit ratio for the tower is around 50,000 operations and we have been over that figure for the past several years. Alan stated that operations should increase this year with the return of the National Guard.

b. Airport Noise Work Group

Alan reported that the Airport Noise Work Group met. There continues to be good representation by both operators and neighborhood representatives. There were no complaints for the month of December. Alan stated that the total operations were low and the helicopter company was harvesting Christmas trees and was not training as much as they usually do. Alan stated that the operators share information with the representatives to take back to the Neighborhood Associations. The National Guard provides training schedules ahead of time so that information is disseminated to the Airport Noise Work Group as well as the Neighborhood Associations.

c. Airport Terminal Expansion

Alan reported that the design documents have been completed and the construction documents should be completed by the beginning of February. The project will then go

to bid. Alan stated that the bidding should be very competitive and once the bid is awarded, construction will begin.

d. Master Plan Update

Alan stated that Phase I of the Master Plan update is somewhat technical and deals with the capacity of the runway system at the airport as well as our existing and projected need. Mead & Hunt is responsible for collecting and analyzing the data. The data will be presented in three parts; the first part has already completed and approved by the FAA. The second part has been completed. Alan has reviewed the information and it has been sent to the FAA for their consideration. Based upon the FAA feedback, the third and final phase will include the methodology in determining what the needs are, what the runway lengths are and the number of aircraft that are using Salem Airport that require additional runway and if there is enough justification. That methodology still has to be accepted by the FAA even though it was spelled out in the first part that has already been approved. The second part reduces some technical information about how many aircraft use the airport and how much runway is needed to accommodate those aircraft.

Alan stated that it is all part of the process and Alan is pleased with the progress made to date. Alan stated that the FAA was quite prompt with the first portion and hopes to have information back soon. The second portion has a lot of technical information

Alan stated that completion of Phase I would allow the airport to proceed with the project for the runway extension. Alan stated that the airport has obligated itself to complete the master plan update, but it was requested to do Phase I first so the runway extension could proceed. The complete Master Plan Update will take approximately 18 months. Assuming that the funding becomes available, the next phase of the Airport Master Plan Update will begin. Phase II will include more civic and airport involvement.

e. Other Reports

Alan stated that some of the ramp lights are out and will be replaced within the next few weeks.

Alan stated that the construction projects for the summer have been completed.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Kindra Jordan inquired whether SkyWest will return to Salem. Alan stated that as part of the Connect Oregon III grant, if awarded, SkyWest would return service to Salem but they would not operate under Delta as they did previously. Alan stated that the Connect Oregon III grant was submitted in November and those grants are being reviewed. If the grant process is successful airline service could return by November, 2010.

Ron Peters asked if it looks positive for the return of service. Alan stated that the airlines sees Salem as a viable market and has already committed to serving Salem. Service would consist of 30 passenger turbo prop planes with four trips daily. Tim stated that the grant supports three airports which makes the grant request stronger. Jim Wall asked who provides the funds for the Connect Oregon III grant. Tim stated that the grant is funded by Oregon Lottery.

7. CHAIRS REPORT

Tim stated that the March meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010 and he would like to move that meeting to March 10, 2010. The AAC will contact airport staff of any conflicts.

Tim mentioned that Kindra's term expired in December and she will serve until a replacement is made.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tim Hay **adjourned the meeting** at 6:34 pm

Date Approved: _____

Tim Hay, Chair
Airport Advisory Commission

Transcribed by Kathy Sime / Audio Recorded
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