

MINUTES
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Fire Station 6, EMS Division, 2742 25th Street SE
6:00 PM

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
James Nafziger		Guy Culbertson
Lt Col Todd Farmer		Gwen Graham
Dennis Thompson		Tim Hay
Jim Harr		Brent DeHart
Kindra Jordan	Staff Present	Richard Montgomery
Mary Ann Lebold	Alan Alexander	Jim Wall (SEMCA Liaison)
Mark Renaud	Kathy Sime	Ron Sterba
		SEE ATTACHED SHEET

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Dennis Thompson – Here
 Mark Renaud - Here
 LTC Todd Farmer – Here
 Kindra Jordan - Here
 Mary Ann Lebold - Here
 Jim Harr – Here
 James Nafziger – Here

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Harr stated there was a misquote in the minutes. In the portion of the meeting dealing with Fuel Tanks, Mr. DeHart’s statement should have reflected his opposition regarding the policy surrounding the installation of fuel tanks. The sentence should have read ...”Mr. DeHart stated many reasons why he opposes the proposed installation of fuel tanks”.

Jim Harr **made a Motion** to approve the January 16, 2008 with the noted change. Mark Renaud **seconded the Motion** and the **Motion passed with a unanimous vote**.

4. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Patrick Hall introduced himself. He was there on behalf of Leading Edge. Mr. Hall was an instructor at Silver State prior to Silver State's bankruptcy and eventual closing of the flight school. Mr. Hall went through the entire course at Silver State and completed all the training necessary to become a flight instructor for Silver State. Patrick stated that there were a lot of students that were affected by the closing of Silver State. Patrick stated that he was approached by Mr. Olson of Leading Edge to continue with the training for helicopter pilots.

Patrick stated that Leading Edge has a good reputation and is a local company with its main office in Bend, Oregon. Patrick stated that Leading Edge's goal is to bring a viable training school to Salem. Leading Edge would like to locate here so students can complete their training.

Patrick stated reasons why Salem is a good training environment and why Leading Edge would like to continue training students in Salem.

Leading Edge is a "pay as you go" school with financial aid available. Leading Edge is willing to work with the tower and within the noise mitigation policies.

William Olson, the lead pilot for Leading Edge introduced himself and asked the Commission members if they had questions.

Dennis Thompson asked what the ideal number of student would be. Mr. Olson stated that they see 30 students as being ideal. Mr. Olson stated that they would operate in peak hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm) with minimal training during the evening hours.

Mark Renaud asked how many helicopters he commits for training. Mr. Olson stated that they were looking for hangar location with ramp access and stated that he would commit 3 helicopters for training purposes.

James Nafziger asked about noise abatement issues and what they were willing to do. Mr. Olson stated that because of the way they run the training, they plan to operate during the peak hours. Mr. Olson stated that they only had 3 complaints in Bend and they addressed those issues immediately. James asked if they had other operations other than Bend. He stated that they base in Bend and have operations in Redmond and Madras. They have been in the helicopter training business for 2 years.

James asked how many students achieve their goal with his training school. He stated that since it was a "pay as you go", there is no reason each student should not be able to set a reasonable goal and reach it.

Cindy Ford stated that most of the complaints are from neighbors outside the pattern. Mr. Olson stated that he would work with the tower entering and exiting the pattern to accommodate the neighbors.

Dennis Thompson asked if they were far enough along to ask for an Operating Permit to establish a school. Mr. Olson stated that he wanted to see if it would be a possibility before they did more planning.

Mr. Olson stated that he had 5 flight instructors and he would be interested in employing local ex Silver State instructors to rotate them with the Bend instructors.

Dennis Thompson stated that it would be necessary to work closely with the Airport Administrator and tower personnel about flight patterns and altitudes.

Alan Alexander stated that coming before the Airport Advisory Commission is necessary in order to ask the Commission for approval of an operating license. He stated that it would be necessary for Leading Edge to submit a formal written proposal to include financial information, insurance requirements, operation hours, proposed location, etc. Alan stated that this is a sensitive issue and he would recommend that the information be shared with Neighborhood Associations and City leadership as necessary. The proposal would also need to meet all FAA criteria.

Mark Renaud asked if the proposal had to go to City Council. Mr. Alexander stated that, upon AAC recommendation, an operating certificate could be authorized. Mr. Alexander stated that under Chapter 9 it has not been necessary to appear before City Council but stated that because of the sensitivity of the type of operation, he would share this information with Council.

Dennis Thompson stated that Mr. Olson should work with Mr. Alexander and provide the required information.

Mark Renaud asked Mr. Olson if time was of the essence. Mr. Olson stated that as far as Leading Edge is concerned it is not, but it is to the students.

James Nafziger asked how quickly Leading Edge could gather the necessary information. Mr. Olson stated he would be able to comply soon. He further stated that they are still looking for available space at the airport.

Tim Hay asked if a special meeting could be called. Alan stated that it would take time to disseminate the information through the neighborhood associations and to share the information with City Council and City officials.

Mark Renaud asked if they could approve the operating license based on the submission of the required information.

The AAC agreed to wait for all necessary information to be received and reviewed and could handle the matter in a special meeting. Mr. Olson stated that he would try to get the information within a week.

5. REPORTS

a. Tower Chief Report

Tower chief Cindy Ford gave the following report: Traffic count for January 2008 was 7120 an increase of 550 operations over January 2007. Total 12 month total through January 2008 was 101,177. The busy day was 423 operations. Cindy stated that the operation numbers will be much lower with Silver State gone.

b. Airline Update

Alan Alexander gave the following report. The total number of passenger departures for the month of January was 1,163. There were 1,166 passenger arrivals for a total passenger count of 2,329. Alan stated that January is generally slower. Alan stated that the Mayor would be meeting with officials in Atlanta seeking relief in fares. Alan stated that they airport office does periodic price comparisons and that information is shared with Delta and with City officials.

Jim Harr asked what the top market out of Salem is and Alan stated that Salt Lake City is the top destination followed by Denver, Chicago and Las Vegas.

Tim Hay asked if there was any update on non-stop flights to LA. Alan stated that the City authorized a proposal to bid for LAX service. Alan stated that if Salem is successful in attracting non-stop service to LA, the flights would begin in June, 2008.

James Nafziger asked how interested Delta is in keeping fares comparable. Alan stated that Delta has an interest in Salem and responds to our concerns when addressed. Alan stated that the cost of fuel is a major factor in fares. Alan pointed out that fuel prices have increased by 50%.

Ron Sterba asked if other airlines have shown an interest in starting service in Salem. Alan stated that no other service is scheduled.

c. Task Force Updates

Chapter 9 / Rules & Regulations.

Dennis sent all AAC members copies of the proposed changes for Chapter 9.

Tim Hay stated that this process was started 3 years ago to review Rules and Regulations and decided to focus on Chapter 9 as well. There was a public comment meeting and as a result of that meeting some additional changes were made. The proposal was sent to the City legal department and the FAA for review.

Tim went through the proposed changes to Chapter 9. The proposed Chapter 9 will be attached to the Minutes.

Jim Harr **made a Motion** to approve Chapter 9 “as is”. Mark Renaud **seconded the Motion**. Mary Ann stated that she thought the airport community should be allowed to comment before being sent to City Council. Dennis Thompson stated that public comment could be made at the City Council level rather than to hear more comment at the Airport Advisory Commission level. Jim Harr and Mark Renaud voted yes, the remainder of the AAC voted no. **The Motion did not pass.**

Mary Ann Lebold **made a Motion** to allow for public comment in writing or in person on proposed changes only at the next meeting. Kindra Jordan **seconded the Motion** and the **Motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

Tim Hay went through the proposed changes for the Rules & Regulations. The proposed Rules & Regulations will be attached to the Minutes.

James Nafziger suggested making some clarifications in wording only.

Kindra Jordan **made a Motion** to keep content of the Rules and Regulations the same but changes to the wording could be made. Mary Ann **seconded the Motion**. The **Motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

There will be an event held on March 2, 2008 at Northern Lights. One Six Right will be shown. The event will be free to the public.

Dennis stated that the task force dealing with the non-profit organization did not meet.

Dennis stated that the task force dealing with street pick up did not meet.

d. **Underground Storage Tanks**

Dennis Thompson stated that a considerable amount of time has been spent on the issue of Underground storage tanks. Dennis stated that the hangar plan was approved but the AAC did not realize it included an underground storage tank.

Mark Renaud stated that City Council should address the issue of both above ground tanks and below ground tanks and make a public policy with regard to fuel tanks on City owned property. Mark Renaud **made a Motion** to refer the matter to City Council for their review and recommendation. James Nafziger **seconded the Motion.**

Jim Harr stated that there is currently a policy in place.

Mary Ann Lebold asked for clarification. She understands that the Motion on the floor is to send the matter to City Council and let them decide. Jim's point is to make a decision at this level and Mary Ann agrees.

James Nafziger stated that he thought due to the level of the issue that perhaps City Council should review the matter and they could always refer it back to AAC.

Those in favor of the Motion were Mark Renaud, James Nafziger, LTC Todd Farmer and Dennis Thompson.

Those opposed to the Motion were Jim Harr, Kindra Jordan and Mary Ann Lebold. **The Motion passed.**

Jim Harr **made a Motion** for the recommendation of the AAC to approve fuel tanks as stated in 9.128. Kindra **seconded the Motion**.

Those in favor of the Motion were Mark Renaud, Mary Ann Lebold, Kindra Jordan and Jim Harr.

Those opposed to the Motion were Dennis Thompson, LTC Todd Farmer and James Nafziger. **The Motion passed.**

Dennis Thompson asked for a five minutes break.

Jim Harr **made a Motion** to approve the Sunwest hangar application. Kindra Jordan **seconded the Motion**. **The Motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

e. **Other Report**

Alan Alexander stated that he was incorporating a new program to inspect all hangars within the next three years. Each hangar owner will be notified soon. Alan stated that as hangars are sold, and assigned, inspections would still be done.

Alan stated that the Airport receives an average of 3 to 4 noise complaints a month. Alan did a presentation to City Council and after that, noise complaint increased. There were 24 complaints in January and ½ of those complaints came from the same household. The majority of the complaints were the result of the National Guard training. Alan has met with the National Guard and a letter explaining the future training will go out to neighborhood associations.

Alan Alexander stated that he attended the Department of Aviation board meeting where they were discussing the Connect Oregon II grants. Alan stated that the two projects submitted by the Salem Airport were ranked 3 and 4 for the State of Oregon for approval out of 21 projects. Alan pointed out that there are other boards that the issue goes through before becoming final. Alan stated that receiving a strong

recommendation from the Department of Aviation is a positive step and the final decision will be made in June.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION

None

7. CHAIRS REPORT

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis Thompson **adjourned the meeting 8:15 P.M.**

Date Approved: _____

Dennis Thompson, Chair
Airport Advisory Commission

Transcribed by Kathy Sime / Audio Recorded
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