

MINUTES
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Fire Station 6, EMS Division, 2742 25th Street SE
6:00 PM

DRAFT

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Dennis Thompson	Mark Renaud	See attached list
Kindra Jordan	Jim Harr	
Mary Ann Lebold	James Nafziger	
LTC Todd Farmer		
	Staff Present	
	Alan Alexander	
	Kathy Sime	
	Vickie Hardin Woods	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

2. Roll Call

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Todd Farmer **made a Motion** to approve the February 20, 2008 Minutes **Kindra Jordan seconded the Motion and the Motion** passed with a unanimous vote.

4. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Ron Peters with Salem Aviation Fueling provided the AAC with a list of services that their business provides. The list is attached to the Minutes. Ron stated that their service also disseminates information to pilots and they are there to help make McNary Field a success.

Ron Harding appeared and stated that he trained with Silver State and he is supportive of Leading Edge. He stated that he would like the community to give Leading Edge a chance and prove that they can be good neighbors.

Stuart Charleston appeared as a neighbor. He stated that Salem's livability is at risk with the increased air traffic. He does not like helicopter noise. He does not feel that the training should take precedence over a peaceful environment. He states that he is not opposed to general air traffic, but does not like the constant of the helicopter noise.

Wayne Moreland appeared as an airport tenant. Wayne stated that the FAA recognizes mechanics involved in the airport community. On Tuesday, March 25, 2008 Mr. Gilbert Purdy will receive the Wright Brothers Master award. There have only been two master pilot awards in Salem.

Dalia Wilcox appeared as a former Silver State pilot. She received her first license just before Silver State closed but was unable to complete her training. She stated that Leading Edge is willing to work with the community.

Ron Sterba appeared as a pilot and stated that he recognized the importance of helicopters. They provide many services from spotting fires to transporting patients to and from hospitals. Ron stated that he feels the tower will work with Leading Edge.

Glenn Olson appeared as director of Heritage School in Salem. The school is located in the Fairview Training Center. He would like to see the Silver State pilots succeed, but he is concerned about the flight pattern that goes over his building and playground. He stated that the flyovers were numerous and there was concern about safety with student pilots flying overhead.

Counselor Tesler appeared on behalf of Ward 2. She represents neighborhoods that surround the airport. She stated that she is in a position of representing students who have not completed their training, as well as others around the airport who do not like the noise. She stated that training begins at 5:00 am until 11:00 pm and the community near the airport is entitled to a quality of life. She reviewed the proposal by Leading Edge. She stated that she hopes the Silver State students understand her position and the impact it has on the surrounding neighborhoods of the airport.

Susan Graves appeared as a neighbor. She does not feel Salem is the right place for Leading Edge. She inquired about Lease space. She understood there was a waiting list for lease space and didn't feel it would be right to lease to Leading Edge if there are

others waiting for space. She echoed the complaint about the noise and her concern about the fumes from the helicopters and what it can do to children and neighbors.

Valerie Brown appeared as a neighbor. She stated that she lives near South Salem High School and the planes and helicopters are annoying to her. She echoes her concerns about the Silver State students. She is concerned about Heritage School and the dangers for the students of the school due to the noise. She would like to see something worked out to accommodate everyone.

Melanie Zermer appeared as a member of SESNA. She stated that the neighborhood association had some concerns. She wanted to know what authority the AAC and City Council had with respect to making decisions. She wanted to know how neighbors could be involved. She stated that she would like to have a continued dialogue with Leading Edge.

Tim Hay, the past chair of the AAC stated that Silver State left a “bad taste” in many mouths. He stated that the airport is a public use airport and the City of Salem has no authority to ban certain types of operations as long as the operation operates within the limits of the FAA. He stated that a noise contour study was done recently and McNary Field is within the limits. Tim pointed out that if Leading Edge were to base their operation from another facility in the area, the pilots would probably train at Salem Airport since it is a towered facility. If Leading Edge were to locate in Salem, the Tower and airport administration could work with them as tenants and neighbors to accommodate noise issues.

Alicia Bromley appeared as a neighbor. She stated that she lives north of the airport and her neighborhood gets a lot of air traffic. She stated that the air traffic is not bothersome and she doesn't feel that the people who are not bothered by the noise are fairly represented. She stated that she polled her neighborhood and found that no one has a problem with the noise and further stated that it has never been a problem.

Bob Butcher appeared as a neighbor. He stated that his neighborhood has a lot of air traffic and pointed out that there are many needs that need to be met. He smiles when he hears the helicopter go overhead because that is the sound of freedom, rescue training, etc. He supports helicopters and is happy they are here. He feels everyone needs to work together for a workable solution.

5. REPORTS

a. Tower Chief Report

Tower chief Cindy Ford gave the following report: Traffic count for February 2008 was 4728 a decrease of 1791 operations over February 2007. Total 12 month total through February 2008 was 99,386. The busy day was 320 operations. Cindy stated that the month of March is slow due to weather.

b. **Airline Update**

Alan Alexander gave the following report: The total number of passenger departures for the month of February 2008 was 1166. The total number of passenger arrivals for the month of February 2008 was 1164 for a total passenger count of 2330.

c. **Task Force Updates**

Chapter 9 Task Force – Tim Hay stated that last month Chapter 9 and the Rules/Regulations were presented to the AAC for their review and consideration. Tim stated that there was a public comment session. The proposed final version was given to the AAC last month.

LTC Farmer **made a motion** to submit the proposed Chapter 9 to City Council. Mary Ann Lebold **seconded the Motion**. There was discussion. The **Motion passed with a unanimous vote**.

LTC Farmer **made a motion** to submit the proposed Rules and Regulations to City Council. Mary Ann Lebold **seconded the Motion**. The **Motion passed with a unanimous vote**.

Dennis Thompson stated that the movie *One Six Right* would be shown on April 6, 2008 at 3:00 at Northern Lights Theatre. Dennis encouraged all to attend.

Dennis Thompson stated that Friends of the Airport Task Force would meet this next month to pick up trash.

d. **Leading Edge Presentation**

Travis Warthen appeared on behalf of Leading Edge. Leading Edge submitted a proposal to Salem Airport. Mr. Warthen stated that Leading Edge Flight School has worked well with in the Bend area and they work with the community in Bend to do the best they can to alleviate all concerns. He stated that safety is their first concern. Travis stated that their business plan is much different than Silver State and the proposal that was provided was very in depth.

Alan Alexander stated anyone who wants to operate on the airport must submit a proposal in writing. The application process can be expected to include financial information, credit information and FAA activities. Mr. Alexander stated he went through the proposal and was impressed with the diversity of the corporation. The company holds a 135 certificate and as well as a 137 certificate. They are certified as a 141 school. Alan stated that the Airport looks to see if the applicant can meet lease standards, if they operate safety and if there would be increase cost to the airport. He checks to see if they are in conformity with the master plan and makes certain that there are no misrepresentations in the proposal. He reviews the history of the company to check for any violations they may have, their financial status as well as their reputation

in the community, FAA and governing organizations. Alan stated that the process is very detailed but necessary. Mr. Alexander reviewed the proposal and all information is in order, but the company has not yet identified a location. Alan still needs to check the status with the FAA, receive the financial statement and have it evaluated by City Finance.

Dennis Thompson stated that when Silver State began, a number of complaints were received. Silver State, Airport Staff and the Air Traffic Control Tower worked through the complaints and new patterns were made and the number of complaints decreased substantially.

Dennis stated that when dealing with noise, it is not fair to single out noise associated with helicopters. Dennis stated that noise from lawn mowers, etc is louder than most helicopters and pointed out that people don't write letters to the editors regarding lawn mowers, diesel trucks, etc. Dennis stated that the airport is a "public use airport" and City of Salem cannot single out a business based on the fact that they produce noise. He further stated that if restrictions are made on days of use, hours of operations, etc, those restrictions need to be made on all business of like class on the airport. Dennis is in favor of the school being at McNary Field with limited restrictions dealing with flight patterns. Dennis stated that the AAC could make a recommendation to City Council and City Council will make the final determination.

Alan stated that all information would go to City Council and he would like to share the information with neighborhood associations. He encouraged Leading Edge to meet with the neighborhood associations.

Alan Alexander stated that action taken by the AAC normally stands on its own, but issues dealing with fares, rates, etc, do go through City Council and due to the sensitivity of this issue, this matter will go before City Council as well.

Brad Fraley of Leading Edge stated that they worked with the community of Bend. He stated that they have fewer flights and they do some of their work at rural airports in the area. Mr. Fraley stated that the patterns are normally begun about 8:00 am. He stated that when they have had complaints, they have been able to make adjustments.

Mr. Alexander stated that he spoke with the Bend Airport and they reported that that Leading Edge is a good tenant and easy to work with.

LTC Farmer commented that he endorsed Leading Edge. Todd stated that there are differences between noise and sound and each person's threshold is different. Todd stated that it is up to the AAC to see if they meet all the requirements, etc. Todd recommended that the AAC move forward with the matter.

Dennis Thompson addressed the issue of hangar space. Dennis stated that the waiting list is for those interested in available lots to build hangars. Leading Edge needs meeting space and hangar space to house aircraft.

Mary Ann Lebold **made a Motion** that the AAC recommend to the airport administrator that the Leading Edge application to do business be approved pending the airport administrator's receipt of the required financial information, review of safety issues, adequate facilities secured and assurance that Leading Edge will interface with the Neighborhood Associations. Kindra Jordan **seconded the Motion**. The **Motion passed with a unanimous vote**.

LTC Farmer stated that he would like to partner with Leading Edge in their outreach program.

e. Underground Fuel Tanks

Alan Alexander reported that the matter dealing with Fuel Tanks was now at the Council level. City Council will be establishing a task force on fueling operations on the field, location of tanks, training requirement and environmental concerns.

f. Other Reports

Alan Alexander stated Xtra Airways contacted him. The company specializes in charter flights to Wendover, Nevada. There will be a May 1 departure and a June 16 departure.

Alan also reported that the Washington State football team contacted him regarding a charter flight into Salem on the weekend WSU plays OSU.

Alan Alexander stated that the noise complaints went up after Silver State left. There were 24 noise complaints with 12 of those complaints from the same household. Most of the complaints dealt with the Army National Guard.

Alan reported that the Fire Station was not available for next month's meeting time. He suggested that we either move the meeting to another date or hold the meeting in the holding room in the terminal. It was decided to use the Airport Terminal for next month's meeting and keep the date the same.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION

None

7. CHAIRS REPORT

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis Thompson **adjourned the meeting** 8:10 P.M.

Date Approved: _____

Dennis Thompson, Chair
Airport Advisory Commission

Transcribed by Kathy Sime / Audio Recorded