

SUMMARY
AIRPORT NOISE WORK GROUP
Wednesday, September 2, 2009
3030 25TH Street SE, Salem, OR
6:00 PM

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Stacey Cochran	Cindy Ford	None
Jim Graham	Steve Larsen	
Patrick Hall		
Major Mark Ulvin		
Mary Ann Lebold	Staff Present	
	Alan Alexander	

Alan Alexander, Airport Administrator, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He distributed copies of the airport operations report through the end of August. He believes the slight increase in operations may be indicative of an improvement in economic conditions. Mr. Alexander reviewed the Noise Complaint and Bird Strike Report for August and reported on progress on airport construction projects. A committee which will include one or two work group members, will begin work on an eighteen month project, primarily funded by the FAA, to update the Airport Master Plan.

Although the airport office has received several calls from local citizens expressing how much they enjoyed the helicopter rides offered at the State Fair, there has been an upturn in complaints about aircraft noise from the northeast and Keizer area directly in response to the helicopter rides.

Patrick Hall explained that State Fair officials approached Leading Edge Aviation, Inc. (LEA) about providing helicopter rides at the State Fair as part of the celebration of 150 years of Oregon statehood. The rides would be offered on a not-for-profit basis. A site was selected on the State Fair grounds that Mr. Hall deemed safe for the operation of two helicopters. A letter of agreement with the FAA was put in place. A route over industrial areas was established and the helicopters would operate at 1000' minimum. Over 1000 people have already taken rides. This has given LEA increased interaction with the community but without realizing a substantial profit. In response to the complaints, LEA has made adjustments to their route and does not operate after 6:00 PM. Mr. Hall hopes that

citizens understand that these rides are limited in scope and will be offered for only eleven days during the State Fair.

Alan Alexander was contacted by the Chair of a Neighborhood Association who said that he was notified of the helicopter rides only a week prior to the fair. Ms. Cochran pointed out that information about the helicopter rides had been published in a flyer that was distributed well in advance of the event.

Mr. Alexander received a question as to why the helicopter rides were not part of the State Fair's noise variance request. The city can only grant a noise variance for areas under the city's control. The airspace over Salem is not under the city's control.

Ms. Lebold asked how this could have been handled differently. Mr. Alexander responded that State Fair officials should have been encouraged to have more and earlier contact with the Neighborhood Associations.

Tom Franklin continues to work with the developer of the Fairview Training Center property to perfect aviation easements for the much of the property. Once these aviation easements are in place, airport administration hopes to begin work on aviation easements for the balance of the property which will complement the aviation easements already in place.

Two Erickson Air-Crane, Inc. helicopters were operating out of McNary Field recently to fight the Sweet Home Fire and there have been operations by transient helicopters presumably out of Ft. Lewis through the Salem airspace. Neither of these helicopter operations has resulted in noise complaints.

Major Ulvin reviewed the National Guard training schedules and activities for September and will make the October 2009 – September 2010 training schedule available. Jim Graham anticipates that Graham Aviation Services, LLC will be conducting about five hours of night training over the next two months. Patrick Hall commented that LEA will have only a minimum number of night flights during September and, as usual, only the departure and return portions of the flights will impact our community.

Ms. Lebold and Ms. Cochran have received no comments or concerns from the residents of the neighborhoods which they represent. A representative from the SESNA neighborhood to replace Mr. Gould has not yet been identified.

Patrick Hall asked whether management of Paradise Island and Lakeside Village give notice of the proximity of the airport to these manufactured home parks to people considering moving into the parks. Ms. Lebold will contact management of both parks to pose this question.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, 2009