

SUMMARY
AIRPORT NOISE WORK GROUP
Wednesday, January 28, 2009
3030 25TH Street SE., Salem, OR
5:30 PM

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kenneth Hetsel	Pamela Schmedling	Jared Jones
Cindy Ford	Major Mark Ulvin	
Rob Gould		
Mary Ann Lebold		
Jim Graham	Staff Present	
Patrick Hall	Alan Alexander	
	Kathy Sime	

1. INTRODUCTION OF WORK GROUP MEMBERS

Alan explained the purpose of the work group.

Introduction of the following attendees

- Alan Alexander – Airport Administrator
- Jim Graham – Graham Aviation Services
- Kenneth Hetsel – SCAN
- Patrick Hall / Jared Jones – Leading Edge Aviation
- Cindy Ford – Air Traffic Control Tower Manager
- Rob Gould – SESNA
- Mary Ann Lebold - SEMCA

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Alan explained that the work group is compiled of representatives of the airport as well as representatives from Neighborhood Associations. Alan stated that the group will discuss real issues on the airport at the meetings and try to come up with workable solutions for both businesses and neighborhoods. Alan stated that this is a noise work group and would like to keep the focus on noise. Alan stated that the representatives from the neighborhoods will disseminate information to the neighborhoods and will bring issues back from the neighborhood associations. Alan explained that noise complaint statistics will be provided on a monthly basis as well as the air traffic operations report.

Jim asked if there will be an official chair. Alan stated that it is a work group and therefore there will not be a formal chair. Airport staff will serve as a facilitator. Alan offered airport tours to the representatives from the neighborhood associations.

Alan stated that several of the complaints are with regard the National Guard's evening/night training and stated that their unit will be deployed for Iraq on January 31, 2009.

Alan stated that he feels that the noise issues have declined over the past year. Alan stated that Tom Franklin, the Airport Operations Manager deals with the noise issues at the airport. The complaints are monitored and recorded monthly. These reports are shared with City Council. Alan stated that the majority of the complaints used to be helicopter activity and now it is about even with fixed wing. The major users of the airport are in attendance at the meeting.

Patrick Hall stated that he monitors noise complaints at Leading Edge. He stated that all complaints have validity and that is how they treat them at Leading Edge. Patrick would like good realistic feedback from the neighborhoods. Patrick said some issues are easily fixed, if they can pinpoint the problem. Patrick stated that he works with the tower constantly.

Rob Gould stated since Silver State left and Leading Edge took over that many of the noise issues have gone away. Rob stated that he lived through the Silver State days and finds the training at Leading Edge to be completely different. Rob stated that Silver State flew the same pattern constantly. Patrick stated that they average about one hour per evening of night flying. Patrick stated that at their busiest time, it would top out at 10 hours per week, but on average 5 hours per week for night flying. Patrick pointed out that other helicopters use Salem airport as well. Rob stated that he noticed that many helicopters come in from the Northwest. Patrick stated that there is a Northwest approach and that is why they come in from that direction.

Rob Gould stated that the repetitive patterns can be bothersome. Rob stated that Delta was no problem and there are a couple of corporate jets that can be loud. Cindy Ford stated that the weather and the clouds play a factor in noise. The clouds keep the noise "down" near the surface, but once the weather clears, the jets noise is not so noticeable.

Alan stated that the group should be able to talk openly and candidly and they need to focus on the direction of the group. Rob Gould stated that some of the neighborhoods felt powerless to the Airport and the work group can provide useful information.

Cindy stated that she thought the meeting dates should be near the first of the month since the data is compiled at the end of the month.

Patrick stated that he thought the group should meet monthly so that issues can be taken care of right away.

3. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Wednesdays seem to be best for everyone. Cindy suggested the first Wednesday of the month.

Alan stated that if the neighborhood representative needs information the airport staff will gather that information before the next meeting.

Kenneth Hetsel would like to see the time of day and the type of complaints that are received. He inquired about the type of scheduled flights at Salem Airport. Alan stated that the airport no longer has commercial air service and no longer runs gambling flights due to the loss of TSA. Kenneth asked about the amount of aircraft based at Salem Airport. Alan stated that the airport has over 200 based aircraft.

Cindy stated that most of the local operators are aware of neighbors and try to “fly friendly”, but she said that she cannot speak for the transients or after hour operators.

Jim offered his company, Graham Aviation and Leading Edge to do a presentation on approaches, etc at next month’s meeting to give everyone an understanding on how fixed wing and rotor wing enter and exit the airport and why.

Kenneth asked about the Salem traffic count summary. Cindy explained how the tower counts air traffic and what all the columns on the spreadsheet mean.

AC – air carriers
AT – Air taxiway – fed ex
GA – General Aviation
MI – Military

Rob asked what an “op” was. Cindy stated that it was either a takeoff or landing. An overflight is an operation that does not take off or land, but crosses through our air space such as life flight and does not count on the spreadsheet as an operation but is accounted for in the Air Traffic Control records.

Rob asked about a high flying helicopter that often flies in the area. Cindy confirmed that it is probably a law enforcement helicopter.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

4. OTHER

No other business was discussed.