

Port of Hood River Airport Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Ken Jernstedt Airfield

Attendees: Committee members Hoby Streich, Fred Duckwall, Anne Yannotti, Greg Sandercock, Ed Drew and John Benton. Guests: Denny Kindig, Terry Brandt and Jeremy Young. Port Staff: Executive Director Michael McElwee and Marketing Manager Mike Doke.

The meeting started at 10 a.m.

Welcome

Executive Director Michael McElwee was introduced to the Airport Advisory Committee. McElwee said he wanted to become more familiar with the committee's role and airport issues. He mentioned the airport has tremendous potential.

Recent Airport Projects

Past airport capital improvement projects were discussed. The Port has acquired a 10-acre parcel east of the airport, exhausting its FAA grant funds, which have begun accumulating at \$150,000 annually each October.

Future Airport Projects

Future projects include an updated runway lighting system. Greg Sandercock stressed the need for perimeter fencing. He and Anne Yannotti noted the need for better signage. Mike Doke said he would contact FAA regarding signage. There was also discussion about moving the FBO building to the airport's north side. Doke said he would contact the airport's engineer, Century West, to discuss this project. Yannotti noted the need for new hangars outweighs the need for a new FBO building.

Terry Brandt said there is too much residential development surrounding the airport. He encouraged through-the-fence agreements so that pilots can live adjacent to the airport and access the runway. Benton said hangar/condos would be a good idea.

Brandt reported on his Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum, which he plans to open in August 2007. The museum is a non-profit venture and should be a major attraction. It will house restored airplanes and automobiles that date back to before World War II. Because of this attraction, the airport should experience an increase in aviation traffic, especially on the weekend, Brandt said. The Port needs to improve its tie-downs to prepare for this use, he added. The museum's grand opening will occur during the September 7-9 Fly-In.

Other

Committee members said the wind gauge on the Automated Weather Observation System is too short. Doke said he would have the AWOS technician provide an opinion. Brandt said there is a need for a recognized grass runway. Doke said he would explore this with FAA. There was general discussion regarding shifting the runway to the east. John Benton said that would require abandoning Orchard Road as a through-route. Traffic is too fast on that road, he added.

Sandercock said the floatplane dock at the Port's marina has a reputation for unfriendliness. Doke mentioned there is no transient dock for floatplanes. Jeremy Young said Brandt's museum would generate more demand for floatplane space.

Doke asked how often the Airport Advisory Committee should meet. The group agreed to meet quarterly. Since current Airport Advisory Committee terms have expired, Doke said they'd be advertised and committee members would be selected prior to the next committee meeting, tentatively slated in February. Those Airport Advisory Committee members present indicated they'd be interested in continuing to serve on the committee. Ed Drew asked what the committee's role was. McElwee replied that the advisory group makes recommendations for Port staff and the Port Commission.

McElwee summarized the meeting by noting projects Port staff would explore. These include reviewing the capital improvement plan, reviewing maintenance items, exploring the feasibility of moving the FBO building, exploring the feasibility of adding more hangars, evaluating the Airport Development Zone, reviewing off-airport ingress and reviewing the Airport Master Plan. These areas will be discussed at the first Airport Advisory Committee meeting of 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.