

**PRESENT:** Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Ed Drew, Dick Clarke, Bill Veatch, Dayle Harris, John Benton, Port Commissioners Hoby Streich and Fred Duckwall, FBO Anne Yannotti and Denny Kindig, Port Executive Director Michael McElwee and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke. Guest: Scott Gifford, Nostalgaire Maintenance and Restoration.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Jeremy Young called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He introduced Scott Gifford of Prescott, Arizona-based Nostalgaire. Mr. Gifford is exploring opportunities to relocate his business at or adjacent to Ken Jernstedt Airfield.

## **AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Young asked Mike Doke to provide an update on Hood River County's review of the Airport Master Plan. Doke reported that the county commission had directed its planning department to initiate a review of the master plan for a potential comprehensive plan amendment. The Port is working with County Planning Director Michael Benedict to obtain a grant to offset costs of hiring a planning consultant for this review. That grant would come from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. County planning is waiting for the outcome of the grant before commencing the review.

Michael McElwee said that if there is too much of a delay, work may be able to begin before the grant is received to keep the project moving forward.

Young noted he has spoken with Benedict and Sheriff Joe Wampler, who have acknowledged the benefits of this review. He added that West Side Fire Department Chief Jim Trammel has stated his support for the project, too.

## **AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

A list of capital improvement projects identified in the Airport Master Plan was distributed; it also included three items – removing an Orchard Road power pole, developing a grass runway and raising the AWOS anemometer – not listed in the master plan. Doke explained the airport must obligate \$23,000 in FAA Airport Improvement Program funds by the end of September or lose the funding. There is currently \$323,000 in these AIP funds available for the airport; \$150,000 is available each year but must be used within three years of its allocation. Doke noted the Oregon Department of Aviation plans to complete \$85,000 in asphalt improvements later this year and suggested \$23,000 in AIP funds can be used to augment that project with additional asphalt work and runway/taxiway striping.

McElwee asked the committee to consider longer-range projects on the CIP list. Beginning Oct. 1, the airport will be eligible for an additional \$150,000 in AIP funds, for a \$450,000 total. The outcome of the county's master plan review may lead to a change of capital improvement priorities, the committee agreed.

Young suggested the committee form a sub-committee to review these projects plus maintenance projects. The committee agreed. However, the Port was encouraged to fix an

inoperable gate on the airport's north end, and also the gate that controls access to the "C" T-hangars.

McElwee asked for comments on runway lights. Anne Yannotti said that four of these lights did not operate. Port maintenance has reported an ongoing problem with the lighting system.

### **MAINTENANCE**

A variety of maintenance issues were discussed, including renovating the northern tiedown area, asphalt work and adding taxiway signs. Maintenance will be discussed in detail at the upcoming subcommittee meeting, which will be held in February. Capital improvement projects including a grass runway, security and fencing will be reviewed at that meeting as well.

### **OFF-AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT**

Young reported that there would be new hangars constructed on Terry Brandt's property north of the airport. This will increase activity in the area, and may heighten the need to move FBO operations to the airport's north side. Young suggested that the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) and the Port could work together to accomplish this project.

### **WAAAM FLY-IN**

Young said the annual Fly-In would be hosted by the museum Sept. 5-7. Events and other activities are scheduled on weekends throughout the summer. He noted that WAAAM would host the annual Bite of the Gorge event in April.

Benton suggested a mutual risk assessment should be completed to resolve any liability concerns.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

There was a discussion about Insitu moving into the yellow hangar. The Port Commission will review and potentially approve a lease at its Jan. 22 meeting. There was lots of discussion about businesses being located at the airport that fit the Airport Development zone, but don't necessarily require runway access. Overall, the committee recognized that Insitu's presence at the airport would add a new economic dimension to the site while adding jobs.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Young asked the committee if it could meet more than quarterly to help move forward airport projects. The committee agreed, and another meeting will be scheduled in February, after the subcommittee has had the opportunity to review capital improvement and maintenance projects.

Young adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.