

PRESENT: Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Dayle Harris, Bill Vetch, John Benton, Port Commissioner-member Fred Duckwall, FBOs Scott Gifford and Johnny Young and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke. Guests: former FBO Denny Kindig and airport neighbor Bud Pepitone.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jeremy Young called the meeting to order at 2:30 a.m.

INTRODUCE NEW FIXED BASE OPERATOR

Scott Gifford, owner of Classic Wings Aero Services Inc., was introduced as the new fixed base operator. Also introduced was Johnny Young, who will manage the daily FBO operation. Gifford reviewed the Port's request for proposals FBO selection process, explaining how his company won the FBO agreement. It was noted that the Port Commission has authorized building-use rules for the airport's public Administration Building. Scott also explained that he plans to replace the old mobile home adjacent to the Administration Building with a new mobile home, which will become a residence for FBO management. He is completing final permits and hopes to have the new home on site soon. Johnny Young noted that the change would allow better airport security and services around the clock.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Mike Doke shared a concern from county planning staff regarding emergency vehicle response times and how they might change if vacation of Orchard Road east of the airport is achieved. This road vacation is a major goal of the airport master plan, currently being reviewed for possible adoption by the county.

John Benton had concerns with the county's feedback on this study, and wondered if the information was shared with county staff too early. He said he would contact West Side Fire Department Chief Jim Trammell to express his concerns. Doke indicated Port staff would discuss this with Trammell, too. Doke encouraged all Airport Advisory Committee members to prepare written, fact-based information focusing on current airport and airport approach safety issues and how vacating a segment of Orchard Road could enhance safety. There was also discussion about contacting Hood River County School District Transportation to see if it has any concerns about school buses passing close to an active runway.

Doke added much work has been completed on the master plan since the initial October county planning commission review. This includes updating the master plan to remove instrument approach language, updating the plan's Airport Layout Plan, a traffic study, and writing of new code and ordinances.

County planning will consider these new and updated documents at its March 25 work session. That meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the county's Dean Building, located at Sixth and State streets.

GRASS RUNWAY UPDATE

Doke noted the Port is seeking material from the contractor completing the Windmaster sewer project for the grass runway. If materials cannot be secured, the Port will explore buying it.

NORTH TIEDOWN EXPANSION PROJECT

Doke reported the committee's top capital improvement project for 2009 – renovating and expanding the northern tiedown apron – is on track. Century West Engineering is currently designing it and grant funds have been secured through Federal Aviation Administration. Young emphasized work should not be scheduled during the annual September Fly-In.

THROUGH-THE-FENCE AGREEMENTS

Young asked about the status of through-the-fence agreements. Doke reported the Port's attorney is reviewing a draft agreement.

SPRING MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Members reported debris on the northern tiedown apron, adding consistent sweeping is required. Members noted the sinkhole near the segmented circle had returned. Doke said he would inform maintenance. Young inquired about the mowing schedule. A mowing plan was worked out with Benton in 2008, and Benton said he could continue following that plan this year. Other items requiring maintenance attention include: T-hangar lights, adding illumination to a light pole on the northern tiedown apron, lighting the maintenance hangar, removing dirt piles along the taxiway, uprighting a leaning runway sign, fill potholes on holdlines, and possibly adding fencing along Orchard Road east of the runway. Doke said he would discuss these items with the Port maintenance department.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be set following the March 25 Hood River County Planning Commission work session.