

PRESENT: Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Dayle Harris, Richard Clarke, John Benton, Port Commissioner Fred Duckwall, Port Executive Director Michael McElwee, FBOs Anne Yannotti and Denny Kindig, and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke. Guests: Scott Gifford, Nostalgaire; Gary Boggs and Shari Quary, Northwest Sky Sports.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jeremy Young called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

An update regarding the sinkhole near Runway 25 noted that excavation work was occurring the same morning but no source had been determine. If excavation didn't find the source, the Port planned to use an optical scope in underground pipes to determine if a leak is occurring.

The Port is contacting a local property owner before cutting down trees on the airport's north side that may be affecting the accuracy of the AWOS anemometer. Young suggested the Port use ribbons to identify which trees would be cut.

There was brief discussion about the grass runway, runway lights, tiedowns and signage. Regarding signage, John Benton noted "Authorized Personnel Only" would be more effective than "No Trespassing." Dayle Harris suggested that "Low Flying Aircraft" signs be placed on Orchard Road near the runway.

All maintenance projects are moving forward.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

A schedule regarding the county's review of the Airport Master Plan is expected anytime, and when dates are set Port staff will notify committee members.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Hood River County sheriff's election, and committee members felt it was appropriate to contact the two candidates to discuss the airport and its role in search and rescue operations and other community-safety issues.

NOSTALGAIRE UPDATE

Scott Gifford continues to be interested in moving permanently to Hood River, and was in town the past week to complete annual airplane inspections/maintenance. He mentioned he completed five annuals in just over a week, working long hours to meet the demand. He plans to return for more annuals in May. Gifford noted he has worked well with FBOs Anne Yannotti and Denny Kindig. Yannotti stated it is difficult to find the right aviation mechanic for an airport, and Gifford comes well qualified.

NORTHWEST SKY SPORTS CONCESSION AGREEMENT

Port staff requested that the committee discuss a proposed concession agreement for Northwest Sky Sports, although the final decision rests with the Port's executive director.

In the past, Northwest Sky Sports operated its glider rides, scenic flights and instruction from Hangar 1, now under lease by Insitu. To operate a commercial activity

on Port property, a business must have a concession agreement with the Port. Since there are no other concession agreements at Ken Jernstedt Airfield, Port staff felt it was appropriate to consult with the Airport Advisory Committee.

Safety was the primary concern. Michael McElwee noted the Port had received some complains regarding pilot Gary Boggs, especially during the September 2007 Fly-In. Young noted he has access to video documenting low flyovers that were beneath the Federal Aviation Administration's regulations. Yannotti expressed concern about possible repeated safety issues regarding Boggs and objected to the concession permit. Harris noted that he has witnessed the glider approaching the airport that were flying too fast and too steep, noting it was some of the most dangerous flying he had ever seen.

Boggs countered that he was not flying at low altitudes and felt he was flying safely.

All sides of the issue were allowed to offer input, which McElwee will assess as he considers a concession agreement for Northwest Sky Sports. McElwee plans to make a decision prior to Blossom Festival Weekend (April 19-20), when Boggs has some scenic flights scheduled.

NEXT MEETING

No meeting date was set, but likely will be once the county's Airport Master Plan review schedule is announced.