

PRESENT: Committee members Ed Drew, Dick Clarke, Dayle Harris, Bill Veatch, Jeremy Young, Gennaro Avolio, John Benton, Port Commissioner Fred Duckwall, Port Commissioner Hoby Streich, FBOs Anne Yannotti and Denny Kindig, Port Executive Director Michael McElwee and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Port Executive Director Michael McElwee noted that substantial changes to the airport have occurred since the adoption of the updated Airport Master Plan. Many of these changes are happening as a result of the opening of the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum on private property directly north of the airfield. At the previous Airport Advisory Committee meeting held in March, the committee recommended that the Port take the Airport Master Plan through the county adoption process. As a result of that request, the Port met with county planning staff and the planner/engineer who developed the updated Airport Master Plan. Because of the substantial changes, Port staff suggested a meeting with Federal Aviation Administration officials in Seattle to discuss how the Master Plan's assumptions may be outdated and to determine if a new update is warranted. By consensus, the committee agreed with this approach.

The issues to discuss with FAA staff include a grass landing strip, museum development, an emerging emphasis on antique planes, through-the-fence agreements, residential uses that may include airparks and relocation of the Fixed-Base Operator (FBO) building. Reviewing a project from the existing Master Plan update – vacation of Orchard Road east of Runway 25 – would also be discussed.

With the committee's support, Port staff plans on discussing the FAA meeting with the Port Commission at its first meeting in June.

John Benton noted that he's spoken with several airport neighbors who live along Orchard Road, and none had expressed concerns with vacating the road. Jeremy Young has also discussed possible vacation with airport neighbors and reported he did not encounter any resistance to the idea. Jeremy has prepared a letter and signature sheet and indicated his desire to seek signatures of support from all addresses on Orchard Road. Port staff will discuss the idea of initiating street vacation with the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Ed Drew added that extra airplane traffic what will be generated by the new museum creates a safety concern that warrants moving the FBO building to the north side of the runway. This would reduce the number of people or vehicles that would cross the runway area that is between the FBO building and the museum.

AIRPORT FENCING PROJECT

A \$150,500 fencing project has been discussed for later in 2007. The committee felt work on this project should wait until the FAA meeting. It was suggested that this project could be broken into two phases with high priority gate areas being accomplished first with the second phase dependent on the street vacation issue.

AIRPORT SECURITY

Committee members stressed the importance of new “No Trespassing” signs, and said signage could be as strong of a deterrent as new fencing.

FLOATPLANE DOCK

Jeremy Young said the Port’s floatplane dock should see substantial use by pilots visiting the new museum. He encouraged the Port to keep the dock available.

2007 FLY-IN

Jeremy Young reported that all local hotels are already booked because of interest in the museum’s early-September grand opening that will coincide with the annual Fly-In. He added the only concern is providing enough port-a-potties, and asked anyone with suggestions to contact him.

AIRPORT IRRIGATION

John Benton asked about the status of the airport irrigation project, strongly suggesting improvements sought by the irrigation district are not necessary. Port staff said they would get an update from the maintenance staff regarding the project’s status. Benton agreed to attend a meeting with Farmers Irrigation and Port staff to discuss the matter and seek resolution.

AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mike Doke asked for nominations for committee chair, a position that will help develop meeting agendas and run the meeting. Dayle Harris nominated Jeremy Young, who won unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will occur after the Port has met with FAA.