



McMinnville Airport Commission Meeting Minutes

McMinnville Airport,
Civic Hall
Tuesday, September 2, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Jody Christensen. Commissioners present were, Jody Christensen, Doug Hurl, John Lautenbach, Andy Benedict and Bob Peacock others present were Mike Bisset, Rich Spofford (City of McMinnville) and Graham Goad (Airport Manager)

2. Jody Christensen introduced Bob Peacock as the new commissioner, Bob spoke of his qualifications having served in the Air Force and working for the Port of Portland.

3. The minutes from July 1 2014 meeting were reviewed by the commissioners, and were approved by motion and vote (with all commissioners voting in favor with no corrections).

4. OEDD Business Development Officer Introduction.

Jody introduced Mitchell Gee from the Oregon Economic Development Department. Mitchell spoke briefly about activity at airports around the state, he spoke of the great asset that he felt the airport at McMinnville was. With Hillsboro getting busier and Aurora airport not having any more room to grow McMinnville has a great potential for growth at the airport. Mitchell fielded questions from commissioners about grants and funding available for utilities and infrastructure. Jody thanked Mitchell Gee for his time.

5. MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 11 UPDATE

Mike Bisset said he had received no comments or proposed changes to the code from any party and therefore asked the commission to vote on recommending the city council re-adopt Chapter 11 of the municipal code as written. Doug Hurl made a motion to recommend the city council re-adopt Chapter 11 as written, Bob Peacock seconded the motion, all commissioners voted in favor.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Graham Goad gave his Airport Manager's report, and spoke of the possibility that the airport could apply to host an AOPA regional fly-in.

Rich Spofford said the City was receiving over \$800,000 in ConnectOregon grant money, this would be used to match the Federal grant money that will be received for the main runway rehab project. The consultant expects to start on the environmental and pre-design work soon. Mike Bisset commended Rich for his work on the grant process and mentioned that Rich had attended many meetings and made numerous presentations in support of the grant application.

Mike Bisset said he had asked Century West Engineering for a proposal for a "Fly Friendly" program for the airport. Mike said Century West proposed a program with a price of \$45,000; Mike indicated that this price was at least twice what he was expecting and that he had asked them for a cost on a smaller program.

7. Items from Commissioners

Commissioners Doug Hurl, Bob Peacock and Andy Benedict made comments regarding McMinnville airport noise issues and their experiences with other airports noise issues and programs. Jody Christensen asked for public comments.

8. Public Comments

Robert Maurice, an airport user, offered to help put a program together using local resources.

Alan Zanuzoski said he would be disappointed if the City spent any money on such a program and suggested the staff contact the AOPA and FAA to get help putting together a program. Alan mentioned his conversations with resident Paul Gross after the last meeting.

Jody Christensen mentioned that the "Fly Friendly" program was still in the investigation phase.

Alan noted that he did not feel that City staff were accountable, and that they would do whatever they wanted regardless of the ideas he presented.

Mike explained to Alan that the Commission makes a recommendation to the City Council and City Budget Committee regarding the Airport Fund budget, and that the Commission has not been involved in reviewing / approving every expenditure contained in the budget. Staff is responsible for implementing the budget as adopted, and noted that there is a line item in the budget for professional services that can be used to help with the development of the fly friendly program.

Donna Cunningham asked how the process to develop the "Fly Friendly" program would work. Mike answered her questions explaining that it would include meetings with residents, airport users and the Commission. Donna said one of her main concerns was the heavy helicopter training during the day and at night.

Carole Benedict noted that City staff members were not pilots, and that they would hire a consultant to do the work. She noted that we should have pilots involved in the process.

Andy indicated that there might be fewer problems if pilots would just vary their patterns and altitudes.

Cheryl Rey a resident from south of the airport voice her concerns and mentioned her conversation with Alan Zanuzoski and felt some of the helicopters were behaving better but the large (Sikorsky S61) helicopter from Chehalem was still very annoying. She also asked if the aircraft could change their approach to the airport every 2 or 3 passes. She asked what happens when someone complains, and Graham noted we try to work with pilots to address concerns.

Commissioner John Lautenbach asked if we could develop the "Fly Friendly" program on our own without using a consultant.

Jody Christensen asked if it was a simple thing to do.

Bob Peacock expressed his thoughts on the program and thought that it would be possible to do at the local level and mentioned some of the parts of the Hillsboro airports program.

Jody Christensen said we should be thoughtful about this program development and it should be more than a map.

Andy Benedict brought up the subject of the CTAF frequency at the airport and asked if it could be changed as it was the same as Corvallis and was the cause of some confusion to pilots using both airports. Andy handed out a paper on the subject of changing CTAF frequencies. John Lautenback and Bob Peacock thought this was a good idea.

Doug Hurl noted that he is in support of the efforts of the City staff, and he is in support of moving ahead with the development of the fly friendly program.

Alan Zanuzoski spoke again and apologized if his presentations were abrasive to some but that is just the way he is; he also added that pilots know how to do it regarding the fly friendly program.