

PRESENT: Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Dayle Harris, Richard Clarke, Gennaro Avolio, Bill Vetch, John Benton, FBOs Anne Yannotti and Denny Kindig, and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke. Guests: Eric Walker, Hood River County senior planner; Scott Keillor, Columbia Planning and Design, LLC; Stu Watson, Hood River County community outreach.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Mike Doke introduced Hood River County Senior Planner Eric Walker and Columbia Planning and Design Planning Consultant Scott Keillor, who will be involved with the airport master plan adoption at the county level. He also introduced Stu Watson, who prepares press releases for Hood River County. Walker and Keillor reviewed the August 21 pre-application meeting which included representatives from the Port, county and Farmers Irrigation District. Keillor emphasized that the master plan was focused on airport safety, longevity and facilities.

Walker added that the county would like to adopt any required zoning or other land-use items that would be generated by airport master plan adoption, stating it is best to include these goals in the comprehensive plan at the same time as master plan adoption. These objectives may include rezoning properties for airport development, and adopting a consistent height zone on properties near the airport.

Jeremy Young said public meetings should stress the importance of enhancing safety on and around the airfield. John Benton noted the importance to maintain the airport's vitality.

A date was set for the project's first public outreach session. It will be from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25.

TIEDOWN UPDATE

Doke reported that Port maintenance is installing new tiedowns at the northern tiedown area, with a goal of completing the project before the Sept. 5-7 Hood River Fly-In. Recent rains delayed the work.

GRASS RUNWAY UPDATE

Young and Doke will meet with an engineer immediately after the committee meeting to walk the grass landing strip site.

PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Doke reported that the Oregon Department of Aviation's Pavement Maintenance Program project at the airport began two months earlier than expected. Not all of the work was done when the crew was on-site in mid-August and workers will return in September or early November to finish the project. Anticipated slurry sealing will not occur, Doke reported.

SECURITY GATES UPDATE

Doke reported the gates have been repaired. There was an issue about the northern gate being propped open to allow pedestrians to access WAAAM. Doke said this practice should not occur since the gates are designed to fully close. Committee members asked for the same access code for both the northern and southern gates, recommending the Unicom code, 1228.

2008 HOOD RIVER FLY-IN

Young noted the Hood River Fly-In returns Sept. 5-7. Minor airport maintenance projects were reviewed. Young noted 208 aircraft had already been registered to participate in the event. There will be a Saturday pancake breakfast. Airplane rides, antique cars, food and a variety of other activities are planned, too.

OTHER ITEMS

Committee members expressed concern regarding the NW Skysports' commercial glider operation based at Ken Jernstedt Airfield. Concerns included NW Skysports' staff driving on the taxiways, launching gliders with a winch-towing system, unsafe flight patterns, driving on access ramps and staging gliders near Runway 25 around the clock. Doke said he'd discuss these issues with Executive Director Michael McElwee.

There was also a brief discussion about Twin Peaks restaurant. The owner has expressed a desire to retire the business and sell the building, which is located west of Runway 7. Committee members felt the Port should explore acquisition of this site.

Anne Yannotti announced her business, Flightline Services, would not respond to an upcoming Request for Proposals to select a Fixed Base Operator, and that her operation on the airfield would end with the current contract, which expires Dec. 31, 2008. Committee members expressed appreciation to Flightline Services, which has been operating at the airport since 1995. Doke outlined the RFP solicitation schedule: An RFP will be issued in September with a goal of identify a new FBO by mid-November. Committee members were concerned that the schedule was tight, but Doke felt a new FBO could be on board by January 1, 2009.

NEXT MEETING

No meeting date was set.