

PRESENT: Committee members Chair Jeremy Young, Dayle Harris, Richard Clarke, Gennaro Avolio, Port Commissioner Fred Duckwall, Port Executive Director Michael McElwee, FBOs Anne Yannotti and Denny Kindig, and Port Marketing Manager Mike Doke. Guest: Terry Brandt.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Mike Doke reported that Hood River County Planner Mike Benedict has outlined a tentative schedule for the master plan review. The first planning commission work session is expected Oct. 22 this year, with potential county commission consideration in early 2009. Scott Keillor is the planning consultant working on this project, and the county has secured a grant to pay for most of Kellor's services; that grant takes effect July 1. Michael McElwee noted he had discussed the airport at the recent Heights Business Association meeting. McElwee emphasized that key talking points need to be developed for all advisory committee members, and that we should seek input from the county sheriff and the West Side Fire Department chief.

Jeremy Young said public outreach needs to be developed, suggesting newspaper columns and a booth at the September Fly-In. McElwee noted he refers to the project in his newsletter column.

It was suggested that a bike path should be considered around the runway's east end if the runway shifts to the east as proposed in the master plan.

AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

With possible county adoption of the airport master plan not expected until 2009, Doke noted the airport committee should prioritize a capital project that is independent of the master plan work to take advantage of Federal Aviation Administration funding next year. He presented a list of capital projects that are identified in the master plan. The list generated discussion, and there was support for expanding the northern tiedown area and developing an on-airport road that would carry traffic around the western end of the runway.

The need to upgrade current tiedowns was discussed at length. Port staff will meet with committee members to identify tiedown locations on the northern ramp, with the new tiedowns expected to be in place during July.

Development of a grass runway was discussed. McElwee suggested a simple design with modest sloping and irrigation.

Young noted new airport signage needs to be installed around the airport parameter. The signs should read: "Pilots and Passengers Only Beyond This Point."

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Young reported that the second phase of Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum construction is anticipated this fall. He is working with county planning to revolve some minor issues.

Young noted the Hood River Fly-In is scheduled Sept. 5-7, and so far there has been an overwhelming response. This year's event will have more activities on the airport property, he added.

NEXT MEETING

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