



Airport Advisory Committee Minutes

Monday, September 17, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.
Gaylord Regional Airport 1100 Aero Drive
P.O. Box 1396 Gaylord, MI 49734

MINUTES

Advisory President Deerfield called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Roll call – Present: Jeff Ratcliffe, Bill Muzyl, Dan Wagar, John Burt, Jeff Wieber
Mike Deerfield, Commissioner Paul Liss (ex-officio) Matt Barresi (Director)

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Wagar to approve the agenda, Motion Approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ratcliffe to approve the minutes of July 10, 2012 Motion Approved.

A. Sub Committee Report

1. Planning/Feasibility Study

Deerfield informed the Advisory that after much discussion regarding several proposed project ideas built around Security Training, Firefighting Training and Flight Training operations the subcommittee had agreed to have Explorer Solutions re-validate the B-Robot proposal. Ratcliffe explained that although the other proposals have merit the potential economic impact with a robotics industry in our community would have a greater chance of job creation. Training projects do have the potential to bring in new business but Ratcliffe extrapolated that the business would most likely be limited to increasing patronage to local hotels and restaurants serving the students. He added that only if say the Security proposal included a connection to product development research, testing and demonstration could this develop into local higher end wage job creation. This following the subcommittees agreement that without an anchor company to build on the GA City idea, sustaining GA City would not be feasible. The Advisory unanimously agreed to a complete review of B-Robot before proceeding farther.

B. Airport Manager's Report

1. Airport Managers Conference

Barresi briefed on a couple of highlights of the conference including "Through the Fence" Agreements becoming more palatable by MDOT and the future of Avgas Fuel. Some of the items are expected to be in official print soon and Barresi is waiting to see the wording used in the publication when out. Barresi stated that in the interest of time he would make a full report on conference discussion items at the next Advisory Meeting in October.

2. Infrastructure Updates

Barresi stated that the new airport sign was completed and in addition to being easier to read it has been receiving positive comments for its style and design. Barresi briefed that regarding the construction of the SRE building, equipment had been staged by the builder and construction should begin in the next week. Commissioner Liss asked for an update on construction of the large 80X80 private build hangar. Barresi stated that it is insulated and the sheet metal skin is on after a delay in receiving the proper material.

C. Open Discussion

1. Airport Property Acquisition

Deerfield briefed that during an airport stakeholders' meeting, it was brought up as to how the airport was positioned for future land Acquisition. Barresi provided a land map of property currently owned by the county and stated that the next big milestone would be to have a 7000 foot runway. With our existing 6579 on 9/27 this would require an additional 421 feet of runway space. Muzyl added after reviewing some computer graphics that the airport appeared to have more than 2000 additional feet to work with before the West end fence. Barresi added that we would need to acquire property or easements for obstruction glide Slope ratio west of Towline Road. Ratcliffe mentioned most likely power lines would need to be moved. The challenge for purchasing new land with block grant money is convincing MDOT of a current need for the acquisition.

(Post Meeting) Distance from 9 end of runway to West end fence measured at approx. 2500 feet

2. New Hangar Development

Deerfield briefed that recently he had been informed by the airport manager that 2 private Business owners have inquired about constructing T-hangars to be used as rental properties on the airport. This would be in answer to the airport having all its hangars rented most of the year and in some cases some box hangars are double rented. The airport recently has had more requests for rentable hangars but have no vacancy's. Since Hangars are expensive to build and the return on investment is small and lengthy the county at current does not have the funds to invest in new construction of this type at this time. After some discussion on the cost, revenue and management of such properties Mr Burt stated that given the right proposal the county would be willing to allow private build rentals. Ratcliffe asked if we could locate rental agreements between the private build Bozzer hangars with renters and the county as a template. Barresi stated he would look in document files and also ask other airports for templates if they are currently renting out private hangar space. The Advisory asked Barresi to see how many private hangar owners were able or interested in sub-renting there hangars and to also contact the two individuals who expressed interest in building privately constructed T-hangars which the airport could then manage.

The next meeting date will be on Tuesday, Oct 9, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the airport conference room.

The meeting was adjourned by Deerfield at 2:35.p.m.