



Airport Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, Oct 11, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.
Gaylord Regional Airport 1100 Aero Drive
P.O. Box 1396 Gaylord, MI 49734

MINUTES

Advisory Chairperson Deerfield called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Roll call – Present: Mike Deerfield, Jeff Ratcliffe, Donna Stubenvoll, Jeff Wieber, Wally McCoy
Kris Klay, Steve Johnson, Dan Wagar, Paul Liss (ex-officio) Matt Barresi (Director)

Absent: Bill Muzyl

Others Present: Commissioner Ken Borton, Greg Wilson

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stubenvoll to approve the agenda, Motion Approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Stubenvoll to approve the minutes of Sept 8, 2011 Motion Approved.

A. Subcommittee Report

1. Planning/Feasibility Study

Ratcliffe briefed that the subcommittee met on 29 Sept 2011 to review packages from potential companies wishing to do our planning feasibility study. Although ten packages were sent out to as many companies only two were received back with interest in our proposal. One was IHS Global Insight and the other was Explorer Solutions. The subcommittee reviewed the two companies using a predetermined criteria matrix and all members scored Explorer the best choice for Gaylord Regional Airport. Deerfield presented the Advisory with an overview of the two companies and surmised for the members items that made Explorer the choice. Some group discussion continued leading to Motion by Wagar to recommend to the Transportation and Airport Committee that Explorer be signed for both phase I and phase II planning of feasibility studies. All in favor Motion Passed. Barresi added on behalf of the airport his thanks to Ratcliffe for doing much of the financial heavy lifting to bring this project to its current stage.

2. Flight Training

Deerfield asked McCoy to brief the advisory on his trip to Sioux City, Iowa where he met with an individual running a successful flight school. He compared Gaylord's population and need to be like Burlington, Iowa and suggested that our market customer for new pilots not be the 18 yr olds who will probably leave the community and may not have disposable income but to seek the 45 yr old established local resident who will continue to use your airport. Also suggested to not meet at airports when having initial meetings because airports are often foreboding to first time aviation customers. Also suggested talking at community service organizations to make people aware that flight training exists at your airport and how tangible flying is both time wise and financially.

B. Airport Manager's Report

1. Ramp Work

Barresi updated the advisory on construction projects completed since last meeting to include the parking ramp and Alpha Taxiway paint marking and the new Compass Rose. Barresi Thanked the EAA's Vic Briley who headed up the project along with the 99's and Sherwin Williams.

2. Friendship Shelter Turkey Trot

Barresi briefed that he had been approached by the Friendship Shelter to host the charity Thanksgiving Day "Turkey Trot" race at the airport. The runners will utilize the newly built perimeter road for the 1 mile and 5K race.

3. Fall Color Tours

Barresi also reported a poor turnout for the Oct 1 Fall Color Tours. Some contributing factors were thought to be the more expensive price point of \$25 set by the carrier being too expensive for many families. Also bad weather the day before could have had some make alternate plans and finally minimal advertising of the event by us and no advertising by the carrier. Deerfield stated that in the last two years with a \$10 ticket price for air tours the turnout was large and only stopped when pilots needed to rest.

4. Donation

Barresi thanked Deerfield for his generous donation of a flat screen monitor which was needed for the flight simulator that will be used as part of the flight training room.

C. Open Discussion

5. Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Conference

Commissioner Borton briefed the advisory on airport related issues covered at the MAC Conference. The consensus of the MAC members was that airports are important to their communities and we need to do more to inform the public of the vital role aviation plays in their businesses and daily life. Misconceptions that the airport is for a select few can overshadow the work the airport does with cargo, medical, charter and tourism. Commissioner Borton stated that Dick Acker who was a guest speaker at MAC and has been the airport manager in Clare for some 20 years suggested survey sheets to document the traffic at the airport and the exposure and financial gain to the community. Barresi added that he had talked with Acker on many occasions and on one occasion about a year ago Acker suggested the survey sheets to Barresi who implemented them at Gaylord. Also discussed at the MAC Conference was that an estimated 60% of airline pilots will be retiring, leaving a void in the industry, Local airports through the use of flight schools and community outreach should find ways to bring people to the airport to spark aviation interest in future generations. Commissioner Borton expressed his desire as a public servant and pilot to see the airport continue to prosper and be viewed in a good light and pledged his support to the advisory and its continued efforts to do the same. Deerfield thanked Commissioner Borton for attending and sharing the information from the MAC Conference with the advisory.

The next meeting date will be on Tuesday, Nov 8, 2011 at 1:00 pm in the airport conference room.

The meeting was adjourned by Deerfield at 1:50.p.m.