



Airport Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, Dec 10, 2013, – 2:00 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 2:00 p.m.

Roll call – Present: Mike Deerfield, Jeff Ratcliffe, John Burt, Wally McCoy, Dan Wagar, Tom Marker, Steve Johnson, 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 Mr Burt to approve the minutes of Nov 12, 2013. Motion Approved.

A. Subcommittee Report

1. Advisory Secretary Resignation

Ratcliffe informed the committee of his resignation from his position as the Economic Alliance Director effective March 2014 and gave his formal resignation from the Airport Advisory Committee effective after the Feb 11th Advisory meeting. The Advisory wished Ratcliffe success in his future endeavors.

2. Planning/Feasibility Study

Ratcliffe stated the next meeting with Explorer Solutions and the Autonomous project will be Dec 11th to review the business plan and that we are expecting about 20 people to attend in person or by phone. The project still needs about \$18K to complete Phase III. Deerfield added that with Radcliffe's resignation from the Advisory committee the incoming Economic Alliance Director when hired should be given a place on the Advisory and would make the logical point person on the Autonomous project after transition.

3. Membership Renewals

Several members are up for renewals and some have not attended in many months. Deerfield asked that the Advisory reach out to those members and see if they still have time for the committee or if schedules or other commitments have made it difficult.

B. AOPA Update

1. Avgas Replacement

Deerfield informed the committee that Shell Oil announced that it has developed an unleaded 100-octane piston engine fuel to replace 100LL and, presumably, the fuel will enter the FAA's recently established fuel testing and certification process. No information has been released on what the new fuel will cost but it is designed with the intent of making flying more affordable.

2. House Bill 4571 & 4572

Ratcliffe brought copies and Deerfield asked the committee for discussion around the legislatures review of House Bill 4571 & 4572 the aviation fuel taxes, amendments to state aeronautics code and general sales tax act. This would amend Section 203 of the State Aeronautics Code (1945 PA 327) to change the current excise tax on aviation fuels from the current rate of 3 cents per gallon to a tax of "2% of the average wholesale price on each gallon of aviation jet fuel, aviation gasoline, and fuel sold or used in producing power for propelling aircraft." The bill directs the Michigan Department of Treasury to determine the tax rate per gallon quarterly as the product of the average wholesale price of aviation fuels and 2%, rounded up to the nearest 1/10 of one cent. However, the bill would set a floor for the new tax rate of 6 cents per gallon. The House did pass the Bill with 4% sale tax and 2% whole on distribution of fuel which should generate 16 to 17 million for aviation. This had not yet passed the Senate at the time of this meeting.

C. Airport Manager's Report

1. Fuel Farm/ Self Serve

Barresi informed the committee that Northern Pump has called on an out of state expert to evaluate the pumps pricing issue and is conducting testing.

2. Turkey Trot

Barresi informed the committee that this year's Turkey Trot was held in 11 degree weather and had about 140 runners. About 100 less than last year. The final numbers are not in but was considered profitable and Barresi feels it is worth doing again mindful that weather will always play a factor in turnout.

3. Business After Hours

Barresi invited the Advisory to attend the Jan 8th 2014 Business after Hours. This will be the 3rd year the Airport has partnered with Alpine Tavern and Eatery for this Chamber of Commerce event. This also acts as the official kickoff of the planning and countdown to Wings over Gaylord Airshow.

D. Open Discussion

1. Permanent Meeting Time Change

Deerfield stated that Barresi had asked that the Advisory consider moving the meeting time permanently to 2pm on meeting days. This works better for the airport and allows someone to answer the phones during the meeting. All present agreed to the change in meeting time.

The next meeting date will be on Tuesday, Jan 7, 2014 at 2:00 pm in the airport conference room. The meeting was adjourned by Deerfield at 2:45.p.m.