



Airport Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2013, – 2:30 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 2:30 p.m.

Roll call – Present: Mike Deerfield, Jeff Ratcliffe, John Burt, Wally McCoy
Dan Wagar, 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 Wagar to approve the minutes of August 6, 2013. Motion Approved.

A. Subcommittee Report

1. Planning/Feasibility Study

Ratcliffe updated the Advisory that Explorer Solutions was in conversation with US AIR and West Jet who are already vested in automation in the “front of the house” ticketing and payment. They are showing interest in automation primarily dealing with cargo on the back of the house or flight line. Air Bus felt we were conservative in our approach and should envision automating more. Ratcliffe added that with the recent sale of a property in the industrial park the business plan will need to include the building of structures and pavement to support the project . Follow up with the steering committee to review the business plan is slated for 2 Dec 2013.

B. AOPA Update

1. Can Airshows Come Back?

Deerfield briefed on information he had collected on from the AOPA stating that 2013 was the worst year in history for airshows. Partly due to the sequester and partly due to numerous airshow related accidents. Add to this the large \$45K cost levied on Air Venture by the FAA for the air traffic controllers. Deerfield added that the success of our local airshow is in part due to finding the correct formula of performers, presentation and community support. Barresi stated that after attending Thunder Over Michigan this year he felt Wings Over Gaylord was a must see for families in Michigan

2. Searches

Deerfield briefed on an AOPA reported concern which identified increasingly frequent detention and search of pilots nationally by agents of the US Department of Homeland Security and Border Protection. Some searches conducted well inside the nations borders.

3. Better NOTAMS

Deerfield briefed that the FAA is making moves to standardize NOTAMS that are better deciphered, legal and easy to read and understand.

4. First Eagle Flight Pilot

Deerfield briefed that Brian Lewis, now 54 of Cottonwood, Arizona, who became a pilot this year thanks in large part to EAA's year-old Eagle Flight program. Lewis went up with Dale Williams for an Eagle Flight on November 27, 2012, and this past July Lewis became the first "Eagle" to earn a pilot certificate. Deerfield also briefed that the Young Eagles Flight program has recently reported 1.8 million flown since its inception.

C. Airport Manager's Report

1. Airport Manager Conference

Barresi briefed the Advisory on numerous subjects discussed at the Fall Airport Managers Conference in Acme Michigan. Discussion included National fuel sales statistics, fuel taxes potential increase, Next generation infrastructure, The future of Flight Schools, Flight line Accident Statistics, FAA Airport Inspections, Changing the way airports work, Hangar usage, pilot statistics and House Bills pending. There was much discussion centered around several of the subject areas.

2. Drag Racing

Barresi stated that he had made a local contact on the Sport of Drag Racing who was willing to act as an operational expert for the committee. Barresi is researching the history, insurance and operational information with MDOT and the FAA around racing at airports.

3. MAAE (Michigan Association of Airport Executives) Board Appointment

Barresi informed the Advisory that the MAAE Vetting Committee had placed him before the 189 member association and voted Barresi on to there 5 member Board of Directors. Barresi will be required to attend meetings in Lansing and if needed testify before Michigan lawmakers on aviation issues that affect our airports.

4. Turkey Trot

Barresi informed the committee that the Wings Over Gaylord Airshow and the local Toys for Tots were partnering for the 2013 Thanksgiving Day Race. Costs for putting on the event and proceeds would be split between the two groups.

The next meeting date will be on Tuesday, Oct 8, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the airport conference room. The meeting was adjourned by Deerfield at 3:32.p.m.