

**Seaside Municipal Advisory Committee
Minutes March 24, 2022**

Meeting Called to order by Committee Chair Randall Henderson at 18:04 pm

Members present: Roy Bennett, Randall Henderson, Dianne Widdop, Dale McDowell, Randy Frank, Joyce Hunt, Bruce Francis via Zoom.

Members absent: Mark Tolan

Guests Present: Jeff Gage, Josh Duff, Jim Grant via zoom

Review of Minutes: Joyce Hunt makes a motion to approve January 25, 2022 minutes as presented, Dianne Widdop seconds, motion approved.

Infrastructure / Improvements / Funding

Federal & state projects/grants: Dale reports no new news on Federal. The city of Seaside sounds positive about moving ahead with approving the stainless steel chain upgrades along with the proposed budget.

Oregon state Pavement Maintenance Program: Dale reports it is not being done this year

Donations, tourism grants (outside of committee purview): Randall proposed donations to be used to offset 1/6 cost of internet to the airport currently being paid for by hanger owners as that service supports surveillance and weather for the airport. It was proposed the visitor bureau be asked for financial support as incoming visiting pilots use the wifi.

Port of Astoria request: still tabled

Maintenance / Safety / Security

Airside (runway/taxiways, navigational aids: wind socks, beacon, runway lights, reflectors): Airport reported in good shape, Josh reported water in the taxiway sign at the south end. Josh also asked about additional wildlife fencing. Randall related that this has been proposed in the past and determined to prohibitive do to factors such as how close the creek is to the runway and taxiway, and the bridge there where wildlife could get through, and the area is a designated wetland. The fence height is also presumed to be 10' to keep wildlife out, and would need to surround the entire airport. Roy suggests animals will still get in due to the creek and have an issue getting out. Hunters being allowed in Astoria is brought to the conversation by Josh. Dale suggests fencing may still nevertheless be on the improvement list.

Groundskeeping: A work party had been proposed but the city and Teri did it so we didn't end up needing to. Dale says summer help has not been acquired yet by the city. Grass mediation and spraying to maintain paved surfaces reviewed.

Trespassing & Security: nothing new

Fire lane: Paint is set aside for the fire line, and Dale has it still on the Schedule

Cameras / website / internet: See notes above under Donations. Suggestion that the tourism department could be asked to pay for a dedicated internet connection for the cameras as they are linked by the tourism dept. and help attract visitors.

Condition of gates, locks, fencing, signage: no new news

Operations

Visitors/logs: Randall reports spring has been slow due to weather.

Commercial: Jim would like to bring his biplane. He is requesting an inside hanger space to park his plane but has been unable to secure a space. He just needs 10 days of space and cannot get a commitment from Terry and is willing to spend ½ months rent.

Military: none observed

Services / Promotion / Events

Shed: Close to completed and in use now, Dale report finishing & inspection still in process.

Bikes & equipment: Dale reports the addition of some tables for the shed. Randall reports additional bike has been donated, and more helmets are now available, so every bike has a helmet. Bike program is definitely attracting visitors who have many kind words about it.

Merch: Nothing new to report.

Signage, reader boards, city maps, sign-in box: Randal discussed new signage re. Bikes and other things between the window and door on the shed. Enclosed cork board to be moved from inside to outside the shed.

Hangars: Dale has not heard back from FAA regarding possible locations of new hangars and specifically Josh Duff's request for a single hangar. Frustration expressed with the time it's taking to get any response.

Website & social media: Nothing new to report.

2022 fly-In scheduling: Randall proposed a separate meeting for planning event. Discussed concerns about safety and resources in light of the fact that the event is being promoted to the general public this year, so hopefully we don't get so many people that we can't handle it.

Regulatory Review

Dale reports that regardless of some outside suggestions, the airport is not on the list for homeless camping location. Randall has made up a fact sheet outlining all the protections that are in place that prevent the airport property from being repurposed.

Randall asked Dianne Widdop to follow up with Gearhart on the need for zoning congruency as the north end of the field, which is in Gearhart city limits, is not currently zoned AD as is the rest of the airport.

Committee member reports

Open committee positions: Randall wrote a letter to the city council asking that membership be expanded to additional areas maybe say communities instead of areas. Pending.

Good of the order: Randall said that model aircraft hobbyists occasionally ask about operating on the airport, and that we would need a policy if it were to be permitted. Dale suggested need for collaboration from people who fly model airplanes. Jeff voiced safety concerns. Randall felt that the hobbyists themselves would have to take the initiative on it but with a proper policy to make it safe, it could be a way to bring aviation-related activity to the airport.

Randall brought up the lack of any flight training on the north coast and whether a flight school could be attracted to the airport, and the notion was discussed. As a former flight instructor in the area, Bruce was not optimistic that someone could make a go of it here.

Next scheduled meeting

Date: July 26th, 2022, at the airport (note: this was later moved to August 2)

The meeting adjourned at 19:22 hrs.