

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Pearson Field Airport - Pilot's Lounge
101 E. Reserve St.
Vancouver, WA

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

Barney Levie, Brittany Sulitzer, Kevin Lux, Peggy Keith, Kristin Reef, Laura Krueger

Commissioners/Board Members Absent:

Michael Kelly

City Staff Present:

Guy Lennon, Angie McBurney, Steve Worley, Craig Redlinger

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

The June 12, 2024, Aviation Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairperson, Peggy Keith. The meeting was held at Pearson Field Airport in the Pilot's Lounge.

Introductions provided by additional city staff in attendance: Steve Worley, Public Works Director; Craig Redlinger, Construction Services Division Manager.

Item 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024

Motion by Barney Levie, seconded by Kevin Lux, and carried unanimously to approve the May 8, 2024, AAC meeting minutes with the following outlined revisions to be made to the 2nd paragraph in the Community Comments Section as requested by community member, Frank Lambert.

- The following wording will be removed:
 - 2-week closure
 - In front of the City Council

Members

Peggy Keith, Chair

Barney Levie, Vice Chair

Barney Levie
Brittany Sulitzer
Kevin Lux
Kristin Reef
Laura Krueger
Michael Kelly
Peggy Keith

Public Works Guy Lennon

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- The following will be added to the amended minutes:
 - “4-week closure”
 - “I also suggest the AAC invite pilots to join them to in order to voice their concerns to the City Council”

Item 3: Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Lease

Per, Guy Lennon, the new FBO lease agreement has not been completed. Motion by Kevin Lux and seconded by Laura Kruger to table the FBO lease discussion until the next AAC meeting when the lease should be finalized.

Item 4: Sub-Committees Discussion and Possible Action

Peggy Keith led discussions on the following sections below based on a handout that she provided outlining each of the Subcommittees and content for each category. She asked the AAC members to select a lead for each of the Subcommittee categories, and to provide important issues and long-term goals to focus on.

Community Outreach: (Kristin, Barney, Brittany, Laura)

Kristin Reef: Agreed to be the lead person for the Community Outreach Subcommittee. She would like to focus on the airport’s history and find ways to effectively educate and communicate the historical value of Pearson Airport to the community by implementing social events at the Pearson Education Center. Hosting a historical aircraft event at Pearson Airport is a long-term goal.

Barney Levie: Visibility of the airport is important and can be achieved through media presence, such as the Columbian Newspaper and media resources across the river. The AAC should facilitate showcasing Pearson Airport to the Vancouver community while highlighting the historical background and how the AAC supports the aviation community. The AAC should have a pulse on community events with an AAC presence at them. Long term goal: Demo airplane rides.

Laura Krueger: Promote education and aviation opportunities for individuals of age twenty and younger, and bring awareness to the historical value of Pearson Airport. Advertise the aviation program through Cascadia Tech (Magnet School Program) that is offered for all school districts and located within the Evergreen School District. Increase awareness and advertise established events by organizations, such as the Eagle Scouts at Pearson Airport.

Brittany: Connect the community with Pearson Airport. Display signs on the nearby existing walking path pointing to the Pearson Airport and Pearson Historical Air Museum. Long-term goal: Historical airplanes fly-in event.

Guy Lennon has been the point of contact for local media and will invite his contacts to future Subcommittee Meetings.

The AAC members can utilize the ForeFlight web application in lieu of the bulletin board in the Pilot’s Lounge to update and increase communication between the pilots at Pearson.

Per Peggy Keith, it would be a good idea for a few of the AAC members to attend the weekly airport hangar tenant’s BBQ function and some of the Saturday mornings pilots’ meetups at Pearson without a quorum.

Operations: (Kristin, Barney, Brittany, Michael)

Brittany Sulitzer: Agreed to be the lead person for the Operations Subcommittee. She currently works with Cascadia Tech representing Aero Maintenance for student involvement. The aviation coordinator would like to have a satellite base at the Aero Maintenance training center. Brittany's long-term goal is to help facilitate a space for classroom training and flight tests. She would also like to have murals painted at Pearson depicting the airport's history and historical aircraft. Brittany also agreed to be the liaison for the AAC and Portland International Airport (PDX) Air Traffic Control Tower (ATC).

Kristin Reef: Maintain a cohesive relationship with PDX pilots to lessen the number of potential Traffic Alert & Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) alerts resulting from Pearson pilots. Guy Lennon recommended that the AAC keep in regular communication with PDX pilots and the ATC – attend their annual meeting. Also, educate flight students and new pilots on air management specific to the uniqueness of Pearson Airport.

Barney Levie: Designate one AAC member to be the main contact for PDX to assist with coordinating tours and meetings with the ATC. Also, setup educational sessions and tours at PDX ATC when onboarding new pilots to Pearson Airport. Per Guy Lennon, when AAC members contact outside agencies, please include the Pearson Airport Manager.

Kevin Lux: Unleaded AV gas is an important topic – the future of aviation and relations components. When the time is right, figure out how Pearson can prepare to transition to unleaded AV gas with above ground fuel tanks. Also, future airport runway approach upgrades and discuss details later.

Per Peggy Keith, adding unleaded AV gas at Pearson Airfield should be a future project. The AAC should reach out to other airports that already have unleaded AV gas to glean information.

Peggy Keith: Runway maintenance and upgrades are important to attract and retain quality flight students and pilots. A long-term goal is to be knowledgeable of options for upgrades that affect aircraft landings and takeoffs. Per Guy Lennon, the runway topic should be encompassed in the upcoming Master Plan. The following stakeholders will be included Master Plan preparations: City of Vancouver, National Parks Service, Aero Maintenance Flight Center, Pearson Airport's tenants, and the public at large.

Finance: (Kristin, Michael, Peggy)

Kevin Lux: Agreed to be the lead person for the Finance Subcommittee. Focus on utilizing existing grants options and finding additional grant opportunities. Evaluate current rental fees and commercial lease rates. A long-term goal would be having the AAC advise and tie into capital projects. Also, add aircraft hangars and install above ground fuel tank storage while monitoring the airport's funding baseline, procuring grants, and advising the airport manager accordingly.

Peggy Keith: Possible consideration of building a new facility at the north end of the airport for additional educational spaces for Cascadia Tech and Clark College students. Also, create a timeline for engaging the National Parks Service for the Master Plan implementation. She agreed with Kevin regarding utilizing grants for all areas of the airport.

Planning: (Kevin, Laura, Peggy)

Laura Kruger: Agreed to be the lead person for the Planning Subcommittee. Due to Planning not being included on the agenda for this meeting, it was not discussed other than the content on the handout from Peggy Keith. Planning ideas and goals will be discussed at the next AAC meeting.

Item 5: Workshop Discussion and Possible Action

Barney Levie recommended that subcommittee representatives connect externally as needed with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and create reports with gleaned information. Each Subcommittee lead person can disseminate their respective report at subsequent AAC meetings, or suggest the SME attend an AAC meeting for the entire group's participation.

The group agreed to test out Subcommittee's reporting back at the next AAC meeting to determine if that format provides sufficient time or if a separate workshop will be warranted. Subcommittee's will meet before the next AAC meeting to create their content reports. If any Subcommittee meets a quorum, a formal meeting will need to be held with the airport manager and advertised ahead of time. If needed, a workshop with dedicated speakers can be scheduled in the future.

Item 6: Airport Managers' Report

Guy Lennon:

- FBO lease should be finalized by the next AAC meeting
- Transient parking fees increased
- Hangar rental fee adjustments post airport inspections – all hangars are on the same schedule
- FAA Grant for the Electrical Upgrade project is on the July 15th City Council Agenda
- Airport Manager recruitment
 - Phone interviews week of 6/24
 - In-person panel interviews week of 7/15 – Need one AAC member to volunteer on panel
 - Laura available at the beginning of the week – Barney can attend in Laura's absence

Item 7: Committee Members' Comments

No other comments.

Item 8: Community Communications

Paul Lawson:

The airport's east entrance gate has longstanding malfunctioning issues – it's an inconvenience for the airport users who pay fees. This is also a safety concern regarding fire trucks and emergency responders effectively entering the gate in the event of an emergency. Action should be taken soon and the City should hire an external contractor to fix it. Also, he would like 4-hour parking periods imposed along 5th Street near the airport.

The gate issues were discussed further with Peggy Keith, Craig Redlinger and Guy Lennon. Guy explained the City has replaced motors and parts on the gate, but the gate has intermittent ongoing issues. The City will further investigate the gate's functionality and utilize an emergency vehicle tester to evaluate emergency vehicle access.

Peggy Keith would like to have the airport's front entrance improved to reflect a historical, safe, clean and professional appearance and functionality. Parked cars routinely block the fire hydrant on 5th street - a fire lane would allow hydrant access. Guy has been in contact with the City's Transportation Manager and Craig will follow up to see if there is a timeline for possible 5th Street improvements.

****Comments Received Outside of the Community Communications Section of the Agenda****

Paul Lawson:

- There is a national shortage of land for aviation related businesses, so before extra land at the airport is developed, have in depth conversations including the airport's users.

Frank Lambert:


- Would like Motor Gasoline (MOGAS) to be added as a fuel option at Pearson Airfield for pilots.
- Asked for ongoing status of turning the airplane runway Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI) back on. It was turned off due to a nearby crane for waterfront commercial construction that is still in progress.

Item 9: Calendar

The next ACC meetings will be July 10th and August 14th.

Motion by Kevin Lux and seconded by Barney Levie to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM.

Peggy Keith, Chair

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