

City of Mt. Pleasant  
Airport Advisory Board

Thursday, May 10, 2012

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Cathy Tilmann, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: Jerry Elliot, MD (6:15 pm), Donna Husted Kriss, Glen Irwin II, and Cathy Tilmann

Absent: Chairman Mike Verleger

Staff: John Benzinger, Roger H. Rouse

Others Present: Union Township Manager John Barker, Mark Drumheller, Richard C. Evans, Student Connor Jones, and Darrell and April Jones.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Vice Chair Tilmann, support by Husted Kriss, to approve the agenda as listed.

Motion approved

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Vice Chair Tilmann, support by Husted Kriss, to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2012 regular meeting as submitted.

Motion approved

The order of the meeting was changed to accommodate guest Union Township ~~Manager~~ Supervisor John Barker.

V. New Business

A. ~~Airport Traffic Pattern~~ Auto Traffic Pattern and Safety Concerns

Vice Chair Tilmann stated that it was not the traffic pattern, but the road speed and safety, and the new Tribal RV park rights-of-way that were of most concern to her.

Union Township ~~Manager~~ Supervisor John Barker shared that Union Township voted to hire the traffic consulting firm, Rowe Engineering, on May 9, 2012. Barker further stated that Union Township's main concern is Lincoln Road and the people using the Lincoln Road Bridge to access the Chippewa River. He reported that the Township would assume the policing of Township roads, and there will be a speed of process of working on items of concern. Barker stated that he would move the Board's concerns about Airport Road to number two on Union Township's list of priorities.

Barker mentioned that a group of people was still interested in a dog park off the end of the runway.

Discussion ensued. Much of the discussion focused on why this would not be a viable spot for a dog park, such as:

- A. The noise of over 282 jets a year taking off;
- B. The three jets currently housed at the airport;
- C. If an airplane overshot the runway;
- D. The Bureau of Aeronautics would not approve the dog park;
- E. MDOT would say no this close to the airport; and
- F. Issues with available parking and restrooms, or if participants brought kites.

Evans stated that there are no small aircraft accidents, and most occur during takeoff or landing.

Barker added that perhaps moving the dog park to a different location would be more appropriate. Barker added that Union Township has an "L" shaped property where the underground party store used to be on Old Mission Road. Union Township has written into their Master Plan for a dog park, and perhaps across the street from the old party store near the pumping station would be a better location for the dog park.

## VI. Airport Manager's Report

Discussion ensued about how the existing corporate hangar apron sand sub-base requirements are different from what are used for road construction. Benzinger reported that Betsy Steudel, of the Michigan Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aeronautics, had visited the airport. Benzinger added that the corporate hangar runway apron must be replaced and that there is available funding from the Bureau of Aeronautics.

Division of Public Works Director Roger Rousse stated perhaps the runway failed prematurely due to the lack of adequate drainage. Others stated that, according to the pictures on file, the runway was resurfaced in 1993.

Benzinger stated that the project will occur in stages with ability to service incoming planes/jets. There will be reduced tie-down ability on that apron.

Discussion again occurred about T-hangar rentals. Benzinger had a list of available T- hangars and explanations why some tenants had left (sold airplanes, health issues): nine sold airplanes, five because of age, two moved to T-hangars, Tarlton has one building being sold, three have been vacant for years, and two were evicted. Acker stated Clare has vacancies, and Alma is not fully occupied. It was suggested perhaps Craigslist should be used for T-hanger rentals. Benzinger stated that in the past advertising had not been successful.

Benzinger stated the new mower was working great.

## VII. Old Business

A. Benzinger met with Betsy Steudel, with the MDOT Bureau of Aeronautics, who is the go between for FAA and MDOT funding. Ms. Steudel inspected the apron and stated it must be replaced. The core sample borings indicated that too much SILT is holding water, and instead of one foot of sand three feet of sand will have to be taken out. A discussion was held to do it in phases, so pumps can be utilized the entire time. Some figures discussed were from \$320,000 to \$428,000; the Bureau of Aeronautics would cover \$90,000, and the City's original portion of 2.5 % is now 5%, which equates to \$16, 000.

### B. Airport Working Capital

Rousse discussed the Airport Working Capital (attachments discussed). There were modifications to the first quarter. First quarter corporate hangar daily rent and T-hangar rent were added line modifications as discussed last meeting. The Capital Projects and Operating Budget presentations that were made to the City Commission in June were discussed.

## VIII. New Business

A. Rousse discussed the Airport Layout Plan (ALP). Also discussed was the "outer ring" of individuals for the Master Plan process including community marketing and Tribal members. We are trying to develop a shared vision between the Airport Advisory Board and the Mt. Pleasant City Commission on the future of the airport.

It was suggested that Mead and Hunt come to next meeting to bring us up to speed on the ALP.

Discussion occurred on what we don't need at airport, i.e. restaurants, hotels, etc. Tilmann stated she supported ALL aviation-type businesses at the airport.

#### B. 2013 Budget Update

Rousse updated all budget figures for 2013, and increased the ALP cost. He wants to update the budget in the next six weeks, coordinate with the 2013 Capital Projects, and tie the 2013 budget into the Vision Statement.

#### IX. Miscellaneous

Discussed "Growing" pilots in each local area. How do we assist with that? Give discount gas cards to t-hangar renters? Tilmann mentioned the article "Pilots for Pups".

Congratulations to Benzinger and the airport for the very nice newspaper article regarding "Leni the Airport Dog".

#### X. Public Comment

A Community Service Award was presented to Connor Jones for his over 50 hours of work here at the airport on computers, etc.

Rousse and Benzinger awarded Connor Jones, a 13-year-old dually enrolled student at Mt. Pleasant West Intermediate and High School, a certificate thanking him for his over 50 hours of community service work this spring. Jones continues to do community service at the Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport. Jones is also in the Naval Sea Cadet program, and will be attending Petty Officer Leadership Academy in Chicago. His parents are Darrell and April Jones of Mt. Pleasant.

#### XI. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Roberta Tarlton, Gateway Air Service, Inc., spoke regarding the Mt. Pleasant Website errors. Husted Kriss said she would check into that. It has nothing to do with the airport. She also would like ~~the City to list all the FBOs on the website so pilots KNOW there is a mechanic available~~ Roberta had a list of questions to be discussed at the next meeting. She requested a list of all of the FBOs and Airport Board members with contact information, and a copy of Dan Otto's report.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Glen, support by Tilmann, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.