

Airport Advisory Committee Minutes

June 18, 2016

Meeting called to order at 11:02am by committee chair Rich Pewe. Present were: Pewe, Ginger Moore, Jeff King, Mike Nye, Bob Flynn, Curt Sarles, Roy Szarifinski, City Manager David Mackie, Airport Manager Jason Walters (late arrival), Doug Baker of Patriot Aviation.

Motion made by Jeff King to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Ginger Moore. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Pewe reviewed for the board his vision for the future of the airport, including: safety for all customers; expanding the airport use for both business and hobbyists; transformation to become a “tool” for continued growth of the community; return on investment; become a regional hub; and to connect better with citizens of Hillsdale so they have appreciation and support for transformative efforts.

Chairman Pewe announced that the airport now has a courtesy car, courtesy of Hillsdale College. The college donated a Ford Windstar mini-van to the airport. Airport also has a contract with Enterprise Rent-a-car out of Coldwater if more vehicles are needed.

Motion by Curt Sarles to send a thank you to the college. Seconded by Bob Flynn. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Hillsdale resident Penny Swan addressed the committee, stating that the AAC and the City is still not doing an adequate job letting people know what's happening at the airport.

Ginger Moore stated that students at Hillsdale High School may be willing to help with the airport's social media “footprint”.

FRIENDS OF THE AIRPORT

Discussion on recruiting volunteers to help clean up the airport and grounds, i.e.: pull weeds, make minor repairs, paint, etc.... to keep things looking good. Airport manager Walters would come up with a list of projects to be done. Maybe get tenants more involved? First project should be cleaning and painting of hangars.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS

Committee members still feel that the City is not doing an adequate job keeping the AAC apprised of airport related issues that come before City Council. City Manager Mackie said he will work with the city clerk on making sure AAC is alerted. However, Mackie explained that sometimes items pop up at the last minute, and need to be acted on quickly. But, he will continue to work on keeping AAC “in the loop” on all airport matters.

PATRIOT AVIATION FBO

As a housekeeping item, the committee approved of the Fixed Based Operators agreement with Patriot Aviation.

AIRPORT MANAGERS REPORT

EAA/OSHKOSH: The EAA Airventure in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, will be at the end of July. Manager Walters will not be attending, but said Hillsdale Airport will be offering low fuel prices during that time, to try and entice pilots to fuel up at Hillsdale on their way to and from EAA. May also offer free food to those pilots.

FLY IN AIR SHOW: Fly in is scheduled for September 11th. Airshow has been cancelled. Breakfast will take place. Walters said airplane rides will be offered, and he's trying to get a National Guard blackhawk helicopter as a static display.

SOCIAL MEDIA: More discussion on expanding the airports social media footprint. Pewe suggested to Walters that sending a "tweet a day" on Twitter would keep followers updated on airport activities, etc. Motion made by Bob Flynn to create an airport facebook page to post updates as well. Seconded by Mike Nye. MOTION CARRIED.

APRON: Walters said he and City Manager Mackie met with representatives from the State of Michigan Department of Transportation regarding moving up the timeline for construction of the new apron. Both said they hope to hear something soon.

OTHER MANAGER ITEMS: Walters said staff is being trained on new computer software, and ramp fees and landing fees have been implemented for planes over 6,000 pounds (fees are waived if pilot purchases fuel).

Meeting adjourned at 12:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Flynn