

City of Mt. Pleasant
Airport Advisory Board

Thursday, June 14, 2012

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chairman Mike Verleger called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: Donna Husted Kriss, Glen Irwin II, Cathy Tilmann, Jerry Elliot, MD (5:37 pm.)

Staff: Airport Manager John Benzinger, DPW Director Roger Rouse

Others Present: Darrell Jones, Brian Smith, Union Township Manager, Lisa and Scott Schlosser, Adam Raycraft, Roberta and Todd Tarlton, and Taylor Lee

II. Approval of Agenda

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

Roberta Tarlton requested "traffic pattern" be changed to "auto traffic pattern."

Mr. Brian Smith, Union Township Manager, was present and spoke. He stated after meeting with Airport Manager John Benzinger and Airport Board Member Donna Husted Kriss earlier in the month, and after talking to the "dog park" people, any further discussion of having a dog park on the Airport property or area has ceased. He stated auto traffic is a hot spot right now, and that Union Township is not the "enforcer" of speed and traffic. Discussion ensued. Thanks given to Brian for opening the lines of communication.

III. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Public asked to please state their full name and address, and that they are limited to three minutes of comment.

No public comments were received on the agenda items.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

May meeting minutes should be approved at the July meeting once the above requested change has been made.

V. Airport Manager's Report

Benzinger reported that after about seven years, the Kent Turbo Commander was moved from the corporate hangar and relocated closer to their business, and he is sad to see them leave. Benzinger stated that the pilot expressed thanks for the great service-oriented perspective through the years.

Benzinger reported that the plane that has been under repair since March after hitting a deer was finally finished and left. However, the bill for the hangar charges remains an issue.

Benzinger stated he has a meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 with Sparling to check the fuel, filters etc.

Benzinger spoke of the AWOS upgrade to replace the tower. The City's cost would be approximately \$1,400.00 and spread out over four quarterly payments.

Discussion ensued regarding the economic impact of the airport; \$3.97 million locally, State-wide \$4.1 million.

VI. Old Business

Corporate Hangar Apron Reconstruction Update

Pre-bid the week of June 18, 2012

Bid opening, preconstruction, \$480,000, no major changes. Time period is about in a month. \$90,000 at 5% payback instead of 2.5% at \$16-18,000.

DPW Director Roger Rouse discussed the budget, and stated that the Airport's expenses are now at 21% of the total operations; fuel sales are at 25%. Roger mentioned of the possibility of having an energy audit of the airport completed.

VII. New Business

A. Airport Layout Plan

Rouse discussed the scope of services, and said he is looking at a July kickoff. All interested individual should email their names to him.

B. Proposed 2013 Budget

Expenses for airport operations are down significantly, made line item and detail sheets for call out and salaries.

C. Review /File Dan Otto's Airport Best Management Practices Report

Discussion ensued. Whatever occurs must coincide with City Goals, Strategic Plan and Objectives. It also needs to fit into the Airports' long term business plan.

Irwin asked who commissioned the report. Rouse stated the City requested the review.

Discussed the Airport Authority Board. City Manager has stated in the past they are not interested in an "Authority" as the City would not receive any revenue.

Rouse stated that the City Commission is expecting this Board to move toward self-sufficiency and be financially self-sustaining.

Roberta Tarlton, 4131 East Rosebush Road, Rosebush, questioned how to address inaccuracies in the Otto report.

Tilman questioned why the Board is not addressing the report today.

Rouse stated he wanted to just receive and file the report.

Tilman wanted to be assured it would be discussed on the Agenda at the next meeting.

Husted Kriss stated she wanted to discuss and review the report before filing it.

Motion by Irwin, support by Elliot, to receive Dan Otto's Airport Best Management Practices report.

Motion passed.

AWOS Update – Done earlier in Airport Manager's report AWOS= Automated Weather Observation System. Our tower will be replaced sometime this summer or fall. (From Steve Schultz, Department of Transportation, (517) 335-9627)

VIII. Miscellaneous

IX. Public comment on Non-Agenda Items

Taylor Lee, 3170 Hunters Trail, Mt Pleasant, stated he was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, and his dad and others support Todd Tarlton's request for hangar space for the flying school, and discussed hangar availability.

Tarlton reported of his plans to purchase planes.

Benzinger stated Ralph Pruett's brother-in-law is training and hangaring in Clare, but will move plane down here after training.

Benzinger reported 15 hangars are empty and generating zero revenue.

Tilman stated that a flight school is great; it supports the functioning of the Airport; that "Growing" pilots is of top priority.

Scott Schlosser, 707 South Isabella Road, Mt Pleasant, stated he had met with Rouse and requested input on construction of a new hangar at the east end of the field across from Todd Tarlton's hangar. He also stated he was frustrated that it was not put on today's agenda as they had been told it would be.

The Board discussed access to the public utilities. Rouse stated will need to see how it is addressed in the Airport Master Plan.

Todd Tarlton, owner of Gateway Air, reported that the FAA wants to work with aviators, and are flexible about beginning flight school. He discussed the big picture of having 60-80% of tenants in t-hangars trained locally; soliciting hangar was a proactive event.

Tarlton asked how do we create incentive for different types of businesses; leasing, hangars, fuel, aviators. He stated the pilot pool is aging, mechanics are aging, and these need to be addressed.

Tarlton further stated that three minutes is not enough for all discussions. Tarlton said both he and John's desire to keep drama down and put turmoil aside, to disagree with the Otto report on the Jump School.

Taylor Lee stated he was moving to Florida in 8-10 months and wanted resolution as quickly as possible.

Tilman suggested each FBO get a free hangar. She also suggested working with local golf courses for a possible Golf Fly in Open House.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- 1) T- Hangar free rental
- 2) Otto Report

- 3) What is required for new constructions
- 4) How do we create incentives for new types of business/support ones here

X. Adjournment

Motion by Elliot, support by Irwin, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.