



City of Ann Arbor

Formal Minutes

Airport Advisory Committee

801 Airport Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

5:15 PM

Ann Arbor Airport, 801 Airport Drive, Airport Terminal

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Canter called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

ROLL CALL

*Committee members present: David Canter, Peter Greenfield, Ray Hunter, Theresa Whiting, Gordon Garwood, Greg Farris
Committee members absent: Mary Karen McClellan
Ex-Officio members present: Matthew Kulhanek
Others in attendance: Mark Perry, Kathe Wunderlich*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 Airport Advisory Committee Minutes - January 21, 2015

The January 21, 2015 Airport Advisory Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair Canter welcomed those in attendance. There was no public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee reviewed two items of correspondence.

B-1 Tower Operations/Fuel Usage through January, 2015

B-2 Airport Hangar Occupancy through February, 2015

AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT**C-1 Project Updates - Environmental Assessment, Solar Array**

The City and MDOT-Aero staff continue to work on updating the draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed runway safety extension project based on recent discussions with the FAA. We are hoping to have the revised draft EA completed by this summer. The question of if an additional public comment period is necessary is still pending. Member Hunter asked about the status of the 2013 petition filed with the US Department of Transportation by Pittsfield Charter Township to block the proposed runway safety extension. Manager Kulhanek reported that the petition was denied by the federal government in 2014. Manager Kulhanek updated the Committee on the status of the solar array project. Pittsfield Township has passed a resolution opposing the solar array at the airport citing a number of reasons, including a lack of communication. The Manager reviewed with the Committee the meetings held with Township staff, including dates and participants. The Committee is also aware of the discussions held at previous Airport Advisory Committee meetings and that these agendas and minutes are provided to Pittsfield Township. Chair Canter asked that a copy of the minutes and agendas be provided by regular mail to the Township Supervisor in addition to the electronic communications. After discussions with the Pittsfield Township Supervisor on March 2nd, DTE decided not to move forward with the solar array project. There are some higher level discussions still underway but the project as proposed is likely done. There was also discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance amendments being considered by the Township and the impacts of these proposed changes on future solar projects within the Township.

C-2 Other Items

The Manager reported that we are out for painting bids for hangar rows Lima & Mike. If funding is available, we hope to repaint these two rows in May/June depending on the weather. The City has approved the purchase of a new loader at the airport, using FAA grant funds, which will be used in snow removal efforts. Hosted by the Michigan Flyers, the airport will be the site of two days of school field trips next week. This is the second year for the program which exposes school children to math and sciences through aviation. This is a great program and the Manager encouraged Members to stop by and check out the event. The FAA notified the Manager that the ODALS were likely to be turned off in the near future as they move forward with the decommissioning process of these navigation aids. Removal of the ODALS provides insignificant

changes to the airport minimums, but the airport has conveyed to the FAA that we want to ensure they don't shutdown the Rwy 24 REILs, which are integrated into the ODALS.

REPORTS OF TOWNSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

D-1 Pittsfield and Lodi Township Reports - T. Reilly & J. Godek

Neither Township had anything to report.

D-2 A2GA2 Report - C. Gordon

Their items to report are already on the agenda.

D-3 MI General Aviation Committee Report - M. Perry

Mark Perry indicated that the upcoming school field trips to the airport will be monitored by the MI GA Committee. The Committee has expressed interest in replicating the event to school districts statewide.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E-1 Family Friendly Improvements

Member Garwood distributed an updated design for the play area and discussed the next steps in finalizing designs and plans. Mark Perry, on behalf of the A2GA2, discussed the start of fundraising efforts, establishment of a project budget, and a proposed schedule which would see bidding and construction start in 2016.

E-2 Airport Long Term Planning Process

Nothing new to report.

E-3 Community Membership Needs

The City's recent charter amendment still allows non-residents to be appointed (or re-appointed) to City Committees and Commissions. The amendment formalizes the process and requires that a resolution, with a seven vote minimum, be approved by City Council for non-resident appointees. There is no difference between initial appointments and re-appointments. Chair Canter indicated that he will try to meet with the Mayor regarding future appointments.

NEW BUSINESS

F-1 Fireworks Display

Member Greenfield discussed the recent meeting with A2GA2 to discuss planning efforts for a professional fireworks display at the airport. Mark Perry distributed information on the proposed event which would be sponsored by the A2GA2. The primary question at this point is if we can secure enough volunteers to move forward this year, or if we defer to 2016 and use the time to further prepare. A2GA2 will make exploratory contacts to determine the level of volunteer availability for this year. The Airport Manager will send out an email to City and Pittsfield elected officials and public safety leadership to assure them that the exploratory efforts being made now do not mean that the fireworks will happen this year. Required local approvals will be sought once we determine if this event is possible for this year.

F-2 Wildlife Management Efforts

Manager Kulhanek outlined the next step in the airport's wildlife management efforts. We still have a number of deer and coyote within the fenced area of the airport. A Damage and Nuisance Animal Control permit has been sought from the MDNR. A list of approved hunters and a meat donation plan has been prepared and submitted as well. We are requesting continued use of archery for culling of the deer herd though the state prefers firearms. Once the permit has been issued, we will work with USDA officials about trapping and eliminating the coyotes.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Chair Canter asked that the fireworks item be carried over as unfinished business to the next agenda.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2015 @ 5:15 p.m. Please call the airport manager's office (994-9124) by Monday before the meeting if you cannot attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.