

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD
HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2012, AT 5:30 P.M., AT THE AIRPORT A/D BUILDING**

CALL TO ORDER /PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair, Gene Stoeckel, called the meeting to order at 6:34. Other members present included Jim Ferlaak, Joe Glenn and Duane Kruse. Members absent: Jeff Dotseth (called). Others present: Dick Dobson (City Council), Engineer Joel Dresel, Engineer Kaci Nowicki, Jeff Ranney, Kevin Colvin, Sharon Sandberg, Richard Anderson, Rick Hoffman and City Administrator/Airport Mngr. Mark Karnowski. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

Rick Hoffman asked to update the Board on the field lighting situation. Sharon Sandberg asked to clarify the relationship between Flight Expo and the Kruse facility as reported in the November minutes. Sandberg shared a brief history of Flight Expo advising that it is a 501c3 tax exempt organization started in 1996 in the Twin Cities. They held several events at the convention center before it was taken over by others. When the organization started to falter, she got re-involved and they're goal is to promote its growth. Toward that end, they've scheduled two events to be held at the Kruse Hanger in the next few months. One is an event centered around working with sheet metal in the aeronautical arena. The second event will concentrate on aeronautical safety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

GLENN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2012 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FERLAAK. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Lighting Update

Rick Hoffman advised that he and MnDOT's John Schroeder and city staff member Jim Sinkel worked on the PAPIs. All eight boxes holding the lights needed to be aligned and leveled. Schroeder taught both Hoffman and Sinkel how to use the adjustment tool to align the lighting. He noted that the PAPI dimmers appear to be stuck on "dim" (they're supposed to be brighter during daylight hours), but there was agreement that, even on dim, they still serve their purpose during daylight hours. Schroeder will attempt to fix them over the next few months.

Hoffman added that there are two potholes near the edges of the main runway and taxiway. Sinkel and Bob Gerold took note and will repair them when it's feasible. Dresel cautioned against using the winter "cold mix".

The pilots group did some heavy cleaning of the A/D building in November. Councilman Dobson again commented on how much improved the condition of the airport is since that group started getting involved.

Hoffman said they also collected about 70 pounds of toys that were donated to a group that provides toys at Christmas for those children who are in Minnesota Hospitals.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Leasing Airport land for Cropland

Engineer Nowicki was present to provide information on the topic to the Committee. Jim Ferlaak indicated that he'd done quite a bite of research on the topic and asked if he could address the group first.

Ferlaak shared several photos of incidents where wildlife, especially birds, interacted with airplanes. He had an FAA Advisory regarding using airport land as farmland. The brochure also provided direction on the use of land near airports but not actually on airports. Ferlaak stressed

several times that airports that receive Federal funding are required to follow the directives noted in the Advisory circular.

Ferlaak's synopsis of the topic indicated that there are several reasons to not allow the farming of airport land. Those reasons include: 1). Such practices attract wildlife; 2) The practice conflicts with the FAA Advisory; 3) Such practices can jeopardize future FAA funding.

Ferlaak noted that he'd called the FAA's Gordon Nelson to discuss the issue and that Nelson had directed him to the FAA circular. Further that Nelson also was against leasing airport land for farming purposes. Ferlaak went on to share statistical information on bird/airplane strikes and suggested that the city should not lease airport property for farming use as requested and, further, that the city should also not lease out any of the 40 acres southwest of the airport.

Engineer Nowicki echoed most of Ferlaak's concerns but pointed out that there are conflicting FAA Advisory circulars regarding the issue and that the advisability of the practice, especially off airport land, is not clear.

FERLAAK MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL NOT APPROVE THE LEASING OF AIRPORT LAND FOR ANY FARMING PURPOSES BASED ON SAFETY CONCERNS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY GLENN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ferlaak noted he also wanted the board to make a recommendation regarding the leasing of the city's 40 acre parcel.

Karnowski advised that the party that originally expressed interest in the city owned 40 acres SW of the airport and part of the airport property has now indicated he's only interested in the 40 acre parcel. Still, Karnowski, noted, Prairie Restorations had expressed some interest in leasing some of the airport property to raise some of their prairie grasses. Karnowski noted that the city has, off and on, had conversations with Prairie Restorations about expanding the city's industrial park onto the Prairie Restoration property to the south. There was even some very preliminary discussion about a land swap for the 40 acre parcel noted above.

Richard Anderson noted that his property is immediately adjacent to Prairie Restorations and that he's never seen any deer or fowl in their fields. He observed that the prairie grasses planted by the firm are not attractive to waterfowl and do not provide cover or feed for deer or other animals. He urged the Board to be judicious in any advisory as the city does need to expand their industrial park and the practices of Prairie Restorations do not appear to conflict with airport use.

GLENN MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL NOT APPROVE THE LEASING OF THE CITY'S 40 ACRE PARCEL ANY FARMING PURPOSES THAT WOULD RESULT IN CROPS SUCH AS CORN, SOYBEANS, OR OTHER NATURAL ATTRACTANTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FERLAAK. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E.A.A. REPORT

The Board was invited to the E.A.A. Christmas Party (a breakfast) on Saturday, December 8th from 8 AM to 11 AM, at Russ Cunningham's hanger.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Karnowski advised that the November fuel report was not yet completed and that he would email the report out to the board as soon as it was ready.

Joe Glenn questioned the \$242,982.88 and \$84,921.57 expenditures for "Land" on the financial report. He also questioned the differential between the cost of the fuel purchased for the fuel facility and the amount of money taken in from sales. He asked if the difference between the two represents the value of the unsold fuel being stored in the tank.

Karnowski indicated he'd find out the answer to both questions and get back to the board.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

ADJOURNMENT:

GLENN MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KRUSE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski
City Administrator/Airport Mngr.

ATTEST:

Gene Stoeckel, Chair