

MINUTES OF THE BARSTOW AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

July 12, 2022

PRESENT: Commissioners: Matt Janson, Dustin Jermalowicz, Linda Langrill,
Richard Siemer

EXCUSED: James Pollack

LOCATION: Midland City Hall

OTHERS: Airport Manager Sarah Pagano, Assistant City Manager Carol Stone. Public: Kyle George, Dot Hornsby

REPORTED BY: Sarah Pagano, Airport Manager

Comm. Siemer called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Agenda Item #2 Approval of Past Minutes: Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Comm. Langrill moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0).

Agenda Item #3 Mead & Hunt Update: Stephanie Ward presented 4 options for Runway 18-36. Option 1 is closure of the runway with the pavement left in place at a cost of \$70,000. Option 2 is closure of the runway with pavement removal at a cost of \$735,000. Option 3 is displacement of the runway at a cost of \$204,000. Runway 18 would be displaced to 2,441 feet and runway 36 would be displaced to 2,470 feet. Option 4 is leaving the runway as-is and removing the trees at a cost of \$1,145,000.

The environmental assessment for the tree clearing of 6-24 is underway and is scheduled to conclude in June of 2023. Tree clearing would then be able to begin November 1, 2023. MDot would need a decision on 18-36 before the provisional license expires (March 31, 2023) in order to extend the license, however if a decision to close the runway were made the actual closure would not need to occur until after the tree clearing on 6-24 is completed and Barstow is ready to come fully off the provisional license.

Commissioner Jensen asked if the Airport still owned any parcels of land that could be sold to help fund an option. Assistant City Manager Carol Stone clarified that there are no parcels available that do not have a restriction on its usage, in addition funds would only be able to be used on federally eligible projects.

Commissioner Jermalowicz asked if Ms. Ward was aware of any airport that closed and reopened a runway. Ms. Ward responded that she has not, but that she has not seen a situation like the one at Barstow.

Commissioner Langrill expressed concern over keeping the condition of runway 18-36 looking well maintained even upon closure. Ms. Pagano stated that grounds maintenance would still be able to include maintain the grass along the runway and weed killer along the cracks.

Commissioner Janson asked if the parallel taxiway to runway 18-36 would still be eligible for federal funding. Ms. Ward responded that it would continue to be federally eligible, in addition there is potential to reuse the pavement from the runway as build sites. Ms. Pagano added that taxiway C could potentially be straightened as well if the runway were to be closed.

Commissioner Jermalowicz shared that in his experience of landing on runway 18-36 is not enjoyable when compared to runway 6-24.

Ms. Pagano added that runway 18-36's low use is not necessarily due to the height of the trees. Many pilots have expressed a preference to runway 6-24, even in a crosswind situation, due to the limited options provided by 18-36 should an in air emergency occur. Ms. Pagano expressed concern over delays in making a decision on runway 18-36 so that funds can be allocated to projects such as pavement, hangars, fuel upgrades and fencing. Ms. Pagano also reinforced that federal funds are tied up with the tree removal projects, and so if all of the funds made available by the City for airport usage (\$350,000) are to be used on runway 18-36 these other projects will most likely not be addressed until after the tree removal on 18-36 is complete.

Commissioner Siemer asked the other commissioners to give their opinions for what option is least acceptable. Commissioner Jansen stated that closure of the runway with removal of the pavement is least acceptable to him. Commissioner Langrill asked Ms. Pagano about a poll that was sent to pilots about prioritization of projects. Ms. Pagano explained that the poll was not done in a format that forced pilots to choose one priority over another but rather rate potential projects around the airport as highest, high, medium, low or lowest priority. Pilots responded that maintaining runway 18-36 at the current or displaced length was highest priority and pavement was also listed as highest. The poll was only answered by 29 out of over 100 pilots. Commissioner Langrill gave her opinion that the most acceptable option to her would be closure of the runway without removal of the infrastructure with continued weed control. Commissioner Jermalowicz opined that closure of the runway with pavement removal would be his least acceptable option. Commissioner Siemer opined that the option that makes the most sense to him would be closure of the runway without removal of the infrastructure.

Commissioner Jermalowicz asked when a decision must be made and suggested giving the pilots of Barstow the chance to have their opinions heard before making a final decision. Ms. Ward clarified that if option 4 (tree removal for full length of runway) were to be the City's final decision the necessary studies could be done in conjunction with the current environmental assessment. Ms. Pagano pointed out that if the decision to close runway 18-36 is made prior to winter some money would be saved by now plowing the runway.

Commissioner Siemer recommended to hold a special meeting on August 9, 2022 for public comment and that Ms. Pagano publicize the meeting and ask for written opinions from those who are not able to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item #4 Monthly Activity Report & Maintenance Status Report: Airport Manager Sarah Pagano reported that all City owned hangars are currently occupied however privately owned, rentable hangars have space available and she is working to fill those openings. She then reported the number of good flying days, business flights, pleasure flights and training flights in March, April, May and June 2022 versus 2021. March and May total movements were less than last year, however April and June's were

increased from last year's numbers. 100LL fuel sales were higher in all four months except June, and Jet A fuel sales were higher than last year's in all four months.

Ms. Pagano reported that city owned hangar 11A is a 55 year old hangar which houses 10 aircraft. Upon attempting to complete preventative maintenance on the doors of the hangar, the door company identified problems with the opening systems of the doors, however because of the age of the doors the company was not able to address all of the issues. The company is recommending a new door opening system for each of the 10 doors at a cost of \$16,000 each. Ms. Pagano advised that with the age of the building there may be more maintenance issues needed for the building as well which are being investigated. Commissioner Langrill asked for clarification that the cable system opening the doors would be replaced and that the pavement inside the building is in good shape, however, the aprons outside the hangar are in need of repair. Commissioner Siemer asked if there was a possibility of foundations donating to the repair of the hangar, which Assistant City Manager Stone and Ms. Pagano agreed to follow up on.

Ms. Pagano restated the need for pavement rehab across the airport and that crack sealing will take place on the airport as part of the state program. She also shared plans for a new pump reel and grounding cables for the fueling island.

Ms. Pagano reported that the SCCA has held two of their three events at the airport. Future events include a 5K Halloween Run and a celebration of the airport's 75th anniversary in 2023. She also reported that an introductory video for the airport has been shot and is being edited and plans are in place for future videos as well.

Agenda Item #5 New Business: There was no new business

Agenda Item #6 Public Comment: There was no public comment

The next meeting of the Aviation Advisory Commission is:

Tuesday, August 9 at 5:00pm at City Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm