

**AMENDED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\***

**October 9, 2014  
5:30 P.M.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Chairman – Ron Fairfax, Vice-Chairman – Don Keirn, Board – Lawrence Schoen, Fritz Haemmerle, Jacob Greenberg, Angenie McCleary  
**FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT STAFF:** Airport Manager – Rick Baird, Emergency/Operations Chief – Peter Kramer, Contracts/Finance Administrator – Lisa Emerick, ASC/Special Projects Coordinator/Executive Assistant – Steve Guthrie, Administrative Assistant/Alternate Airport Security Coordinator – Roberta Christensen  
**CONSULTANTS:** T-O Engineers – Dave Mitchell; ANTICIPATE – Candice Pate; R/L/B – Nick Latham, Mike Smith; Mead & Hunt – Evan Barrett  
**AIRPORT TENANTS/PUBLIC:** Glass Cockpit Aviation – John Strauss; Atlantic Aviation – Mike Rasch; Lazy 8 Hangars Association – Bob Stevens; BCPA – Tom Lenze; Albe Air – Jack Northcott; Sun Valley Air Club – Steven Garman; Bellevue City Council – Lisa Philips; FSVA – Walt Denekas; Mike Thompson, Jim Perkins, Pam & Ed Jenkins, Bob Leahy, Marc Reinemann, Evan Stelma, Donna Serrano, Len Harlig, Chuck Matthiesen  
**PRESS:** Idaho Mountain Express – Greg Moore

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chairman Fairfax.

**I. APPROVE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

**III. APPROVE FMAA  
MEETING MINUTES**

**A. September 2, 2014 Regular Meeting (See Brief)**

The September 2, 2014 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were approved with the following changes:

**IV. REPORTS**

**E. Communication Director Report**

Communications Director Candice Pate reported on the following items:

- Communications continue with Airport Tours and Coffee Talks
- The “90 before 9AM” campaign is coming to a close
- The Communications Team is currently monitoring the leakage study in order to plan for future campaigns

The Communications Team is developing a campaign that will focus on the upcoming Terminal Expansion

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**C. Bellevue/Flying Hat Ranch LLC 227 Acres Proposed Annexation Process (See Brief)**

The Board discussed various elements of the annexation process including the letter received from the Eccles' attorney, Board Member Schoen's proposed revision to the draft letter that includes language regarding public awareness of the airport zone for prospective landowners and/or developers, and when to send the letter.

**MOTION:**

**Made by Board Member McCleary to approve the September 2, 2014 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Regular Meeting Minutes as amended and the September 29, 2014 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Keirn.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. September 29, 2014 Special Meeting (See Brief)**

Please refer to the motion made under item A. *September 2, 2014 Regular Meeting.*

**IV. REPORTS**

**A. Chairman Report**

No report was given.

**B. Blaine County Report**

Board Member McCleary commented that the Blaine County Commissioners attended the Sun Valley Economic Summit, where she was glad to hear that the public's perception of the Airport is that access is improving.

**C. City of Hailey Report**

No report was given.

**D. Airport Manager Report**

Airport Manager Baird reported on the following items:

- Airport Staff attendance to the Montana Airport Management Association Conference and the Northwest American Association of Airport Executives Conference
- Thanked T-O Engineers, Idaho Power, Intermountain Gas Company, Airport tenants, and the City of Hailey for all the work that has gone into Project 5 of the RSA Improvements Project

**E. Communications Director Report**

Communications Director Candice Pate reported on the following items:

- Communications continue with Coffee Talks and Airport Tours
- A drawing for Airport Tour attendees to receive a free aerial tour of the Wood River Valley has been implemented to promote attendance
- Communications Director Pate managed a booth with Fly Sun Valley Alliance representative Carol Waller at the Sun Valley Economic Summit and received positive feedback from the community regarding FMAA's resiliency
- A new banner advertising the Terminal Reconfiguration Project will replace the "90 before 9AM" banner currently in the terminal

**V. AIRPORT STAFF BRIEF**

**A. Noise Complaints (See Brief)**

**B. Parking Lot Update (See Brief)**

**C. Profit & Loss, ATCT Traffic Operations Count and Enplanement Data (See Brief)**

**D. Review Correspondence (See Brief)**

**E. Airport Commercial Flight Interruptions (See Brief)**

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Airport Solutions

#### 1. Existing Site

##### a. Plan to Meet 2015 Congressional Safety Area Requirement (See Brief)

###### i. Formulation

T-O Engineer Dave Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of the RSA Formulation Project.

###### ii. Project 1 Relocate Hangar Taxi lane/Overlay Apron/Security Fence Improvements

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of Project 1 of the RSA Improvements Project.

###### iii. Project 2 Relocate/Extend Taxiway B and Runway Safety Area Grading

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of Project 2 of the RSA Improvements Project.

###### iv. Project 3 Terminal Reconfiguration

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of Project 3 of the RSA Improvements Project.

###### v. Project 4 Airport Operations Building

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of Project 4 of the RSA Improvements Project.

###### vi. Project 5 Terminal Apron Reconstruction/Site Preparations

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of Project 5 of the RSA Improvements Project.

Board Member Haemmerle commented that the work Airport Staff has completed at the Airport in a short amount of time is spectacular and deserves to be complimented.

Board Member Schoen discussed ~~discussed~~ **asked Airport Staff** how the change order process works ~~with Airport Staff~~.

###### vii. Project 6 Relocate Taxiway B/Remove Taxiway A/North Apron

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of Project 6 of the RSA Improvements Project.

###### viii. Facility Acquisitions

Engineer Mitchell updated the Board on the current status of the facility acquisition part the RSA Improvements Project.

###### ix. CIP/Cash Flow Update

Airport Manager Baird updated the Board on the current status of the CIP/Cash Flow for the RSA Improvements Project.

###### x. Future Projects

No update was given.

**b. Retain/Improve/Develop Air Service**

**i. Fly Sun Valley Alliance Report**

Fly Sun Valley Alliance (FSVA) representative Walt Denekas reported that FSVA is actively responding to complaints received about the bussing service that occurred last winter and they are negotiating with a contractor to provide busses that will transport passengers in the most comfortable atmosphere possible.

**B. Master Plan Update (See Brief)**

Mead & Hunt Planner, Evan Barrett, updated the Board on the status of the Master Plan Project.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Voluntary Noise Abatement Program**

Airport Manager Baird briefed the Board on the development and history of the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program as well as the recent increase in noise complaints from the immediate surrounding community.

Board Member Haemmerle appreciated Airport Manager Baird's presentation and commented that Staff does a fine job managing Airport operations. He also commented that it does not serve the public well to characterize citizen complaints as frivolous and asked when the last time a committee was formed to review the Voluntary Noise Abatement procedures.

Airport Manager Baird answered that the last update occurred in 2001 and agreed that the procedures should be updated again with a committee consisting of Board Members, community members, and members of the aviation community.

FSVA representative Walt Denekas asked a technical question regarding the Automatic Terminal Information System (ATIS) and tower procedures for handling operations from the north and operations not within noise abatement hours.

Board Member Greenberg commented that the Board is not discouraging the public from making calls to the Noise Abatement Hotline provided that the complaints are not common occurrence due to the resident being located under the flight path. He commented that he empathizes with those residents but Staff cannot mitigate the problem if the aircraft is following the correct flight path procedures. He suggested that the Board discuss whether or not a solution can be found for this issue.

Chairman Fairfax commented that if a citizen reports a complaint about an operation, he does not want Airport Staff to contact the pilot if they were in compliance with the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program procedures. He also commented that an excessive number of complaints received about normal operations defeats the purpose of the program.

The Board continued to discuss the parameters and policies of the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program, including what type of operational activity does or does not comply with the program's policies, why tying up the Noise Abatement Hotline with calls regarding normal operations reduces the effectiveness of receiving calls for aircraft not following program procedures, and how Staff's record keeping process works when a complaint is received and a letter is sent to the pilot.

Airport Manager Baird discussed the large amount of noise complaints received from a small group of residents from the Chanterelle Subdivision and the process Airport Staff takes to research each complaint that is received. He responded to the comments made about the term "frivolous" that was stated in the Board packet to describe those complaints. He also explained that if complaints are deliberately excessive and consume Staff time, it could jeopardize the integrity of the program.

Board Member Schoen suggested that the Board communicate to the public on an annual basis what the components of the program are and the context under which it operates.

Board Member McCleary and Vice-Chairman Keirn agreed that educating the public about the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program is important and asked Staff to ensure that that information is included on the Airport website and in Airport Solutions Updates.

Chairman Fairfax commented that he hopes citizens will continue to submit their complaints in a responsible manner so that the program can continue successfully.

The Board and Airport Manager Baird continued to discuss the use of the term “frivolous” and the desire for the Airport to be as good a neighbor as possible.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Perkins commented that the local pilots are very aware of landing and takeoff procedures and do not perceive the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program as voluntary. The procedures have been discussed with pilots at several safety seminars and Airport Staff has done an excellent job communicating with them about it. He commented that he finds it hard to believe that 49 abuses to the program were found in one day as local pilots follow the instructions of the tower who also follows noise abatement procedures when giving pilots their clearances.

Pam Jenkins commented that while she appreciates knowing the history of the program the present circumstances need to be addressed. She assured the Board that the tirade she displayed last month to the Noise Abatement Hotline will not happen again and only appropriate complaints will be submitted in the future. She commented that Airport Manager Baird’s presentation did not clearly identify a path forward regarding the program and invited Board Members and Airport Staff to spend one day in the Chanterelle Subdivision if there are any who disagree with her analysis.

Walt Denekas commented that when one person makes ten times as many calls as the rest of the community combined it is not, in his opinion, frivolous but harassing, obnoxious, abusive, unacceptable, and borders on attempted bullying. He commented that this Airport is not going to relocate for a long time and if the sage grouse gets listed as an endangered species the Airport will never relocate. The community has to either live with the Airport as it is and accept the fact that airport noise is going to be a part of living here or move to a different part of the Wood River Valley.

Bob Leahy asked if the elevation the planes are at when they pass over the Chanterelle Subdivision could be increased. He commented that the Airport’s first priority should be safety over noise but if the elevation of the planes could be adjusted without affecting safety, that would help lessen the noise impact.

Donna Serrano commented that if 58% of planes now use instrument landing there will be that many more planes flying over the Chanterelle Subdivision.

Glass Cockpit Aviation owner John Strauss commented that he supports Airport Manager Baird and appreciates the time he invests in the noise abatement program. He commented that as a flight instructor he teaches every pilot how to comply with noise abatement procedures and he knows of several corporate operators who have the noise abatement procedures as part of their company policies. Mr. Strauss commented that the instrument landing and departure paths guide planes through the center of the valley and cannot be avoided, but the local pilots do a sterling job complying with noise abatement procedures. He also volunteered to assist in educating the community about the program.

Ed Jenkins commented that nothing has been accomplished tonight and a plane flew directly over their house as they left to come to this meeting.

Bob Stevens commented that this community is very lucky to have an Airport Staff that supports a noise abatement program as he has not seen very many airports have them in his 58 years of being a pilot.

Airport Manager Baird commented that pilots are complying with noise abatement procedures when they fly over the Chanterelle Subdivision and he is disinclined to contact pilots when he receives complaints about planes flying over houses located in Chanterelle.

Board Member Haemmerle commented that the whole noise abatement discussion was very important from an objective point of view and the public and Board has been objectively notified of how the program works.

Chairman Fairfax commented that as a pilot he flies the instrument approach sometimes and although he does fly over Chanterelle, he follows the noise abatement procedures.

Ed Jenkins commented that he was unaware until now that planes flying over Chanterelle were following noise abatement procedures and asked if it were possible for pilots to turn west before approaching the Chanterelle Subdivision.

Steven Garman commented that one of the technical features with jets is that a terrain alarm system (TAS) will sound in the cockpit if the plane goes too near the obstructions (mountainsides) east or west of the center of the valley.

Pam Jenkins commented that the main issue she has are the planes that fly too low over her house in the Chantrelle Subdivision.

Donna Serrano thanked Rick for all the work and effort he put into the presentation as it answered a lot of questions she had about the noise abatement program.

Board Member Greenberg commented that he does not want to discourage public comment and understands Chanterelle's situation; however, nothing can be done if the pilots are following noise abatement procedures. He commented that the Airport's main concern should be safety and if the Noise Abatement Hotline is full, calls that could be related to safety concerns would not be addressed.

Board Member Schoen commented that the only way to resolve these differences is to listen to each other and keep working towards making the program better.

Ed Jenkins asked if the Board was still pursuing a dual path forward. Chairman Fairfax answered that the Board is moving forward with the dual path starting with updating the Airport's Master Plan.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The October 9, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

  
Lawrence Schoen, Secretary

\* *Additional resources/materials that should be reviewed with these meeting minutes include but are not limited to the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Board Packet briefing, the PowerPoint presentation prepared for this meeting and any referenced attachments.*