Humboldt County Aviation Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
6:00PM
Hybrid Meeting
On ZOOM or in person at ACV conference room

In Person:
Conference Room 2nd Floor of ACV Terminal
3561 Boeing Avenue, McKinleyville, CA 95519

Zoom:
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89124149361?pwd=Tka3RauOaaerEgAPL8BlmVHU4rv46.1
Meeting ID: 891 2414 9361
Passcode: 326720
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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – [1803]
The Committee reserves the right to bring presentations by invited guests forward as a courtesy to those individuals.

Committee Attendees: Alex Stillman, Chris Nelson, David Marshall, Caleb Lesher, John McBeth, Justin Zabel, Ben McWhorter

Absent: Kyle Gabel, Lt. Blake Thompson

Staff: Cody Roggatz-Director of Aviation, Curt Eikerman-Airport Operations Manager, Dianna Rios-Project SOAR

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment during this portion of the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 24, 2023
Motion to Approve: [Alex Stillman] Second: Approve: Oppose:

Alex Stillman initially made a motion to approve, however, Dave Marshall who was participating remotely had questions about the previous meeting minutes and simultaneously had connectivity problems, so approval of the minutes was deferred. The Advisory Committee never returned to formally approve the minutes.
4. DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION REPORT

A. 2024 Air Show – The Director of Aviation provided an overview to the Airport Advisory Committee regarding the proposal to host an airshow at ACV Airport tentatively scheduled for August 10-11.

At this point Dave Marshall was able to reconnect to the meeting remotely and provided three questions for consideration.

1. Do committee members questions asked during the meeting appear in the meeting minutes?
2. Dave Marshall mentioned that during the Las Vegas launch for Avelo Airlines service he didn’t believe the Airport Advisory Committee Members received adequate notice and asked that in the future the Airport Advisory Committee members be invited to these types of celebrations.
3. Dave Marshall indicated that he felt that the results of the Roll Call should be included in the meeting minutes. Dave Marshall requested that going forward this should be part of the minutes.

B. ACV

a. Parking Lot – The Director of Aviation indicated that the Department was still waiting on the FAA to issue a Grant Offer Letter. He further indicated that he hoped this Grant Offer Letter from the FAA would occur in the next 2-3 weeks. The Director also stated that if the Grant Offer Letter were received soon he anticipated construction starting in a March/April timeframe, weather dependent.

b. Runway Project – The Director shared his appreciation with Airport Advisory Committee and the tenants participating in the meeting for their flexibility and accommodations during the runway project. The Director went on to explain that there were some outstanding items due to inclement weather which included taxiway signage and final striping. The Director indicated that he anticipated this work to occur in an April/May timeframe, dependent upon weather.

c. Rental/Leasing – Alex Stillman clarified that this discussion item was related to attracting another Car Rental Agency to the Airport. The Director mentioned that Hertz Car Rental had had some initial discussions with the Airport about returning to the Airport, but that Hertz has continued to pursue this conversation since their initial interest. The Director further stated that if Hertz were to return to the Airport that it would be crowded and challenging to identify adequate space for their operation.

Dave Marshall asked about Car Rental Quality of Service reports. He further clarified that the type of report he was suggesting would, as an example, identify any shortage of cars resulting in cancelled reservations. He felt this report or information could be used in future discussions with Car Rental companies interested in serving the Airport.

The Director stated that the Department has not received any complaints of a shortage of rental cars or cancelled reservations as a result of a shortage of cars.

Alex Stillman asked if the Parking Lot Project would add any additional spaces for rental car parking. The Director answered no that the Parking Lot Project was focused on providing additional paid parking, compliance with ADA requirements and the installation of new technology.

d. Car Rentals – This Agenda item was skipped based upon the above conversations which had already covered Rental Cars.
e. Banners – Alex Stillman indicated that she liked the new banners in the terminal building promoting Cal Poly and College of the Redwoods. She encouraged more use of banners.

f. Café Chairs – Alex Stillman confirmed the chairs at the café had been replaced.

C. EKA – At this point a member of the public asked about Aviation Days at EKA and asked whether this would happen in light of the proposed Airshow at ACV. The Director indicated that no he was not supportive of hosting both events due to the impact on Staffing.

The same public member encouraged the Director to reconsider because of the need for more pilots. The community member indicated that he felt Aviation Days at EKA would help alleviate the demand for more pilots. This same community member also asked several questions about the aircraft types which would be participating, whether a blimp would be part of the Airshow and a question about Air Traffic Control during the Airshow. The Director answered his questions and thanked him for his participation.

A different community member asked why the proposed Airshow was taking precedence over Aviation Days at EKA. The Director explained that although he felt Aviation Day at EKA was very successful last year, this year he felt that it would be best to focus resources on the Airshow. He further explained that the Department has already been busy planning several maintenance activities at our outlying airports and that some of these would conflict with hosting an effective Aviation Day at EKA. The Director specifically identified a planned maintenance activity to crack seal the runway at FOT early in the Spring.

A community member next suggested that Aviation Days at EKA could be staffed with an all-volunteer effort. The Director indicated that he wasn’t supportive of an entirely volunteer team running Aviation Day at EKA without support and oversight from Airport staff. He also indicated that he didn’t think County Risk Management would be supportive of an all-volunteer team trying to host Aviation Day at EKA.

Dave Marshall stated that the Cal Poly Aviation Club had sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Aviation Days at EKA. Mr. Marshall indicated that the general response was that the BOS were supportive of continuing this event however the Aviation Director reported that Airport staffing would not be able to support the event. The Director indicated that he was unaware of this correspondence and requested the Aviation Club share a copy of the correspondence. Alex Stillman followed up requesting that Dave Marshall share a copy of the correspondence.

Dave Marshall next listed a number of entities who he believed were supportive and would volunteer to help during Aviation Day at EKA including but not limited to; Humboldt County General Aviation Tenants, USCG, Cal Poly Aviation Club, Air Ambulances, local law enforcement and Aviation Department staff.

Next Dave Marshall identified that he had previously asked to better understand the staffing needs for hosting Aviation Day at EKA but since the Committee Meeting has been deferred for several months it hadn’t been discussed further.

a. Fuel Tank – The Director provide a PowerPoint slide deck regarding aviation fueling. This PowerPoint focused on a recent EPA final determination finding 100LL aviation fuel as a danger to air quality which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health. This PowerPoint also highlighted alternative fuels which had recently or were anticipated to soon be available. The Director sought input from the Aviation Advisory
Committee on whether they felt the County should consider the option of utilizing one of the alternative aviation fuels in the new fuel tank being installed at EKA. There was an active discussion amongst the Committee members and community members regarding both the pros and cons of alternative aviation fuels. In the end the Aviation Advisory Committee decided to put forth a motion with their recommendation.

Ben McWorter put forth a motion to recommend keeping 100LL at this time and request the Director consider revisiting this discussion annually as more data and information becomes available. Chris Nelson seconded the motion, and it was put to a vote.

Those Aviation Advisory Committee members voting in favor of the motion included:

Alex Stillman  
Chris Nelson  
Dave Marshall  
Caleb Lesher  
John McBeth  
Justin Zabel  
Ben McWhorter

There were no Aviation Advisory Committee members opposing the motion.

b. Rentals/Leasing – Alex Stillman asked about the use of the large community hangar and the terminal building recently used for filming activities. The Director responded by thanking the General Aviation tenants and facility users for their flexibility and cooperation in allowing this filming to occur at EKA. The Director also informed the Aviation Advisory Committee that the film company will be reimbursing the County for the use of EKA as well as staff time. The Director also spoke briefly about some of the economic benefits the County realized as part of this partnership.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Caleb Lesher asked about the restoration of the night-time approach at EKA since several obstructions had been removed. The Director of Aviation explained that he has reached out several times to the airport’s contact with the FAA and that as of now, the FAA representative has not responded regarding next steps.

Dave Marshall indicated that he had recently had a discussion with an FAA representative who suggested that the Airport identify this as a public safety issue related to medical flights need to utilize EKA. The Director of Aviation confirmed that this had been part of his conversation with the FAA.

A community member asked if it was possible to ask the cargo operators if they would consider having an aircraft on static display at the proposed Airshow. The Director responded that he would encourage local operators to consider, if space was available.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATES

A. Potential Aviation Days – Discussed at length previously so there were no more comments.
B. Cal Poly Aviation Club simulator – Dave Marshall provided an update that Cal Poly had sent payment to AADT and they have a ship date of April 15, 2024.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Alex Stillman, after considering conflicts to the next scheduled meeting on February 27 determined that the next Aviation Advisory Committee Meeting will be February 20th.

9. ADJOURNMENT – The Meeting was adjourned at 1931