

# Airport Advisory Committee

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Hoffman, Vice Chairperson  
Scott Crain  
Cliff Hix  
Nathan Keizer  
Ron Long

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jay Humbard  
Donald Murray

**OTHERS PRESENT:** William A. Beasley, Director of Public Works  
Bill Pyle, Airport Manager  
Bruce Remsberg, City Engineer  
Joye VanGorden, Admin. Asst. to Dir. of Public Works

***Prior to the meeting, the engineering consulting team of Professional Engineering Consultants and Bucher, Willis & Ratliff provided the Airport Advisory Committee with information that has been gathered to date for the preparation of the Update of the Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan. They were advised to review the information and to let them know within two weeks if they would like to see any changes before submitting it to the FAA for review and approval.***

The Airport Advisory Committee met on Monday, February 15, 2010, at 11:15 a.m., in Room B-1 located in the lower level of the Memorial Auditorium and Convention Center, 503 N. Pine. Vice Chairperson Chris Hoffman called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. with five (5) members present.

**The first order of business was the introduction of new members Nathan Keizer and Ron Long.**

**The second order of business was the election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to serve the 2010 term.** Jay Humbard was elected as Chairperson and Nathan Keizer was elected as Vice Chairperson.

**The third order of business was the approval of the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2009.** Scott Crain moved, seconded by Ron Long, that the minutes be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

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**The fourth order of business was the discussion of fuel prices.** Mr. Beasley stated that City staff had a meeting with some of the users of the airport and the users had expressed concerns about the fuel prices. During this meeting, several of the users indicated they were tankering fuel, but pledged to make every effort to purchase as much fuel in Pittsburg as possible if the City would lower the fuel prices. Staff presented these concerns to the City Commission and based on this information, the City Commission voted to reduce fuel prices from \$1 above City's cost to 75¢ above City's cost for local users and from \$1.25 above City's cost to \$1 above City's cost for transients. The caveat is that staff would continue to monitor fuel prices/sales and the cost of operating the airport and report back to the City Commission on a quarterly basis, or at least bi-annually, where the airport stood on fuel sales and any losses. The City Commission realizes the importance of the airport to industries and the community as a whole; however, they are not interested in subsidizing the airport in excess of \$100,000 year after year. If the subsidy can be kept to a minimum, the fuel prices will not be increased.

**The fifth order of business was discussion of the installation of Vaisala's Avi-Met Data Link Services and the information available to pilots.** Mr. Beasley stated it was suggested at a meeting last year that the City move forward with a data link from the airport's AWOS to FAA to provide current weather conditions for Pittsburg's airport. After receiving quotes for the equipment, equipment installation and data link services, staff approached the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the City Commission to consider the use of Industrial Development funds for the purchase and installation of this equipment. This request was granted and the equipment has been installed. The cost of this equipment was \$6,000 with a maintenance fee of \$100 per month. As of January 13<sup>th</sup>, the airports' AWOS observations were being delivered to FAA's National Airspace Data Interchange Network (NADIN) and will continue every 20 minutes, 24/7. This makes the data available to the National Weather Service, Air Traffic Control, the Weather Channel and Flight Services. The City has been advised that it could take up to 120 days total for all in/out users to pick up the information.

**The sixth order of business was an update on repairs to the PAPI and REIL at the airport.** Mr. Beasley stated there were two occurrences at the airport during heavy rains last summer where water rose up and got into the control box of the PAPI and fried the controls. Since that time, staff has been trying to get it repaired. Strukel Electric was finally able to get all the necessary parts and get it repaired and put back into operation.

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In investigating the problem with the REIL's, all indications are they were struck by lightning. It was first thought there were only two REIL's damaged, but come to find out the master controller was also damaged and all four REIL's needed repaired. Strukel Electric has repaired the REIL's and all lighting should now be up and running. Mr. Beasley stated the City was fortunate to have Warren Strukel in the area because he is FAA certified to work on the lighting. Mr. Strukel does a good job and he is local.

**The seventh order of business was a report on the winter storm responses at the airport and associated costs.** Mr. Beasley stated the Winter Response Plan has had to be activated on three different occasions this year. When this plan is activated it also includes the airport. Bill Pyle and his crew are to be commended for all their hard work and dedication working day and night to get everything cleared so that flights would not be interrupted. This year, a new ice treatment was used. Urea fertilizer was purchased from the Girard Co-Op and was put down before the projected storms to make it easier to remove ice and snow from the runways, taxiways, etc. There was only one occasion where a pilot could not get back, but it was because of conditions at the airport he was departing from. Staff is looking at making arrangements with Co-Op to keep a spreader at the airport so they would not have to be contacted on short notice to come and spread the fertilizer.

Chris Hoffman stated there was a huge difference in winter response from the past and that staff's efforts were appreciated. Nathan Keizer reiterated the appreciation noting that they had to divert to Tulsa one time, but were able to get in the next day. Ron Long reported no problems getting in or out.

**Under Other Business,** Chris Hoffman stated there was talk at one time of having an Airport Day and wondered if it was still on the table. Mr. Beasley stated there was talk to do one last year; however, it was not done because of the lack of financing.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joye VanGorden  
Administrative Assistant to the Director of Public Works-Public Utilities/Deputy City Clerk