

YAMPA VALLEY AIRPORT COMMISSION

June 16, 2021

Meeting

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Yampa Valley Airport Commission (YVAC) was called to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2021.

YVAC members present:

David Franzel – Resident of Routt County
Robin Crossan – Steamboat Springs City Council member
Les Liman – Aviation Community
Randy Rudasics – Steamboat Chamber
Larry Mashaw – Resident of Routt County
Chris Nichols – Moffatt County/City of Craig
Tim Redmond – Routt County Commissioner
Ed Corriveau – Representing the Town of Hayden
Janet Fischer – Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.

YVAC members absent:

Matt Mendisco – Town of Hayden (Alternate)
Jarrod Ogden – Resident of Moffat County (Alternate)

Others present:

Tinneal Gerber – YVRA
Stacie Fain – KSBS
Jeremy Lee – Mead & Hunt
Lauren Rasmussen – Mead & Hunt
Devon Baummer – Mead & Hunt
Sam Gilpin – GoAlpine
Tim Ascher – Atlantic Aviation
Stephen Birch – HDN Condo Association

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2021

MOTION

Les moved to approve the minutes of the above cited regular YVAC meeting, as amended. Chris seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Robin asked about support for employees working on the tarmac while it's so hot. Tinneal said they would be having an operations meeting tomorrow morning to discuss this issue and come up with some mitigations.

Randy commended David on his chairmanship and thanked him for his service.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. YVAC chair, reappointments and upcoming vacancy – David Franzel

Tinneal noted that Tim Redmond had expressed interest in serving as Chair. There was a discussion of the importance of running efficient meetings.

MOTION

Robin moved to appoint Tim Redmond as the Chair of YVAC. Larry seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION

David moved to appoint Les as Vice-chair of YVAC. Tim seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

2. COVID-19/Airport, Capital, Infrastructure Update - YVRA

Tinneal stated the current capital project is AIP-53, a \$6.75M de-icing pad, apron rehabilitation and glycol facility. The grant for the project has been received and United Companies has been chosen as the contractor. This project will be funded 100% by the FAA, with the exception of \$264,000 for the apron rehab, which is not eligible for AIP funding. In response to a question from Janet, Tinneal stated that the project would result in HDN having four de-ice pads, three for mainlines and one for regional aircraft. Construction will begin in 2022. Engineering for the project is underway. Tinneal said that a temporary de-ice pad will be installed for the upcoming season.

Tinneal said that FAA approval was received for a non-federal weather observer's class, and the equipment for this has been purchased. The trainings are scheduled for July 12 – 15. The class will include six participants.

Tinneal reported that the solar array project is moving forward with a \$308,000 DOLA grant and a local match of \$376,000 to come out of YVRA reserves. Completion of the project is expected in November.

The employee parking lot and air field access road paving project is also scheduled for this summer/fall with completion in October. This project should cost around \$1M. The RFP will be put out later this month.

Tim Redmond asked about the new camera installations at HDN. Tinneal stated that the four cameras provide a nearly 360° view of the airport. She said she would send the link out to YVAC, adding that it would be posted on the website soon. This project was funded entirely by the state.

In response to a question from David, Tinneal reported that enplanements this summer are up about 6% over 2019 (pre-COVID) numbers. She said that construction on the hangar project is being postponed until next year.

3. COVID-19/Airport, Capital, Infrastructure Update – KSBS

Stacie reported that she and Kevin had recently attended the Colorado Airport Operators Association meeting. She said she visited six different airports on the trip and the conference was outstanding. Stacie noted that three areas of concern were shared by most airports: space for aircraft on the ramp and in hangars; protection of land around airports; and the ability to hire good personnel. Stacie said that SBS is currently short-staffed. She reviewed the three federal COVID-19 relief grant programs that have benefited airports across the country.

Stacie said that she met with the SBS engineer (Garver), FAA ADO, and CDOT Planner during the conference to discuss the upcoming runway rehabilitation project. Approximately \$6M from the FAA and CDOT will fund the project. The preliminary design work is being completed now and construction will occur in 2022.

Stacie stated that per the Master Plan, she would be moving forward with the development of the northeast portion of the airport as a staging area for EMS and firefighting helicopters. This project will allow the helicopters to be separated from the airplanes, particularly during fire season. In conjunction with this project, a snow storage area for the City will be created through Gate 12 off of CR 44.

Stacie said that she has discussed the potential airpark property to the southwest of the airport with the FAA and CDOT in the past and it now appears that the property is for sale. She said that the property contains a 15-acre parcel which has been submitted to the City for development review as a subdivision in compliance with the airport overlay zone. Stacie said that the FAA is likely to make a statement of no objection for the airpark project if it moves forward once the property has been sold.

Stacie said she had also provided an update to the FAA on the ground leases for hangars at SBS and asked for recommendations. She said that insurance on airplanes is becoming difficult to obtain for older pilots, and aircraft insurance is currently required on ground leases for hangars. Stacie said that she has been in discussions with the City Attorney's Office on how to handle this issue.

Stacie said that in-person meetings, such as Civil Air Patrol, have resumed at the FBO. She said that operations for the past couple of months are slightly down from 2020, but fuel sales are up. Operations are increasing with fire season. She said that they are expecting a robust fire season, but so far only one firefighting helicopter has come through SBS.

Stacie said that new cameras are being tested and are up on the website.

Stacie reported that during mud season she had kept a log of calls and walk-ins by people looking for HDN. There were 15. She said that she had sent around proposed language for a sign to be posted on the FBO.

Larry noted that the website is not up-to-date regarding the completion of the Master Plan. Stacie said she will ensure it is updated immediately.

4. Air Service Update

Janet noted that from April 13 through mid-November the seat capacity is up 117% over 2019. She stated that this increase is due to the Southwest flights as well as more United

flights on bigger aircraft. Janet reported that she has met with several carriers Regarding the coming winter schedule. She reported that Southwest has loaded a similar schedule of flights as last year, plus Houston. She said that she is expecting to have all six major carriers serving HDN for the 2021-22 winter season. Janet said that if all goes as planned, it will be the biggest capacity winter season ever. She suggested that the competition from Southwest has been a significant factor.

Janet said that Ski Corp would be meeting with the Local Marketing District (LMD) Board next week to discuss the winter schedule. She noted that many of the flights are not contracted.

Janet reported on the advertising campaign for the summer season.

Robin expressed concern regarding the difficulty of finding employees. She stated that everyone needs to do whatever they can to get people back to work. Janet added that the rental car situation is very difficult, although Steamboat is in slightly better shape than many comparable locations.

Chris asked if there is a study on the capacity of the airport to handle the increased number of flights, particularly on the Saturdays. Janet agreed that this is an issue that needs to be discussed with the airlines. She noted that it is more difficult to control the schedules with many of the flights not being contracted.

5. Atlantic Aviation

Tim Ascher reported that the parent company of Atlantic Aviation has entered into an agreement to sell Atlantic Aviation to Kolbert Kravitz Roberts (KKR), a leading global investment firm. He offered that this would have no material effect on operations.

Tim said that Atlantic is also having staffing issues. He said that the summer season has been busy so far. In response to a question from Tim Redmond, Tim reviewed the extensive training provided for employees who work on the ramp.

V. REPORTS FROM YVAC COMMITTEES

1. Community Outreach and Marketing

David reported that they had made presentations to both Mainstreet and the Chamber Restaurant working group, which went well. He reviewed how the presentations are structured. He said that it is difficult to squeeze the presentation into a 20-minute time slot, and that 30 minutes works better. David said he would re-circulate the list of organizations that may be interested having a presentation.

Robin reported on the groups she had contacted: Both the Young Professionals and the Winter Sports Program may be scheduling presentations in the upcoming months. Randy said that the Chamber Marketing Committee would probably schedule a presentation for late summer or early fall.

2. Infrastructure and Finance

David said that the Finance Committee had not met since the last YVAC meeting, but that the budget season will soon begin. He suggested that the Committee should meet in the next couple of months to review the draft budgets for YVRA and SBS. Stacie said the

City is transitioning to new budgeting software package this year, so there may be some hiccups in the process.

VI. MANAGERS' REPORTS – provided via email

1. Yampa Valley Regional Airport

No questions.

2. Steamboat Springs Airport

Les asked about progress on acquiring a snow blower. Stacie said DIA is not selling any equipment this year, so it is doubtful she will be able to find one. She added that she has been unable to purchase the ToolCat due to not being able to meet the Buy America requirements of the grant. She said she is trying to move money around to be able to purchase a ToolCat with other funds.

Les asked about the hangar project. Stacie said after a developer has been selected, the project will have to go through Planning. She said she doesn't know if they will be able to break ground before winter.

VII. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The YVAC Board agreed to move back to in-person meetings. The date is next scheduled meeting is August 12, 2021. Robin said that there needs to be a virtual option for participants. Tinneal said that the technology will be available at YVRA for a hybrid meeting. Tim Redmond said that this should remain as an option for all meetings going forward.

VIII. PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST YVAC MEETING

Janet asked if YVAC would be interested in seeing a presentation on the developments at the ski area. The YVAC Board agreed to include this on the August agenda.

IX. ADJOURN MEETING

The YVAC meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 8/12, 2021

By: Tim Redmond
Tim Redmond, Chairman
Yampa Valley Airport Commission