

FIA GAA
The General Aviation Association at Fairbanks International Airport

Meeting Minutes -- FINAL
October 24, 2013

Opening:

The regular fall meeting of the FAI general Aviation Association was called to order at 7 p.m. on 10/24/13 by Tim Berg, president.

Present:

See list of attendees on the meeting sign-in sheet.

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

Hereafter, the minutes of the previous meeting will be distributed for approval

C. Open Issues

President Berg introduced the new air traffic manager (tower chief) Joe Reynolds, who made a few brief comments, including the news that he had just arrived in Fairbanks earlier in the day.

Jesse VanderZanden, airport manager, introduced Melissa Osborn, chief of operations, Clark Klimachesky, chief of maintenance, and Pete VanDeHei, operations officer.

Mr. VanderZanden commented on long-term plans for the east side of FAI, or two-tier lease lot plan phases, including Phase II plans “beyond 20 year compatible.” Phase I includes leasing lots on the north end of the east ramp which “should be open for application in the spring.” Phase II development which would move some operations, lease lots, and a runway/floatpond complex east of University Avenue. He stressed that this phase would only be triggered if demand warranted, and at this time there is “no plan to build this!” The stated purpose would be to “relieve congestion” on the east side of FAI.

Mr. VanderZanden then discussed options to prevent further incursions on Bravo taxiway. These included: A. shorten 20L

B. installation of a radio-frequency-controlled gate

C. eliminate bravo taxiway and locate a different east-west route

Both options for reducing incursions on Bravo and expanded lease lots will be evaluated in more detail by an East Ramp technical committee as part of the ongoing Fairbanks Master Plan update.

Mr. Klimaschesky discussed snow removal on tie-down lots on the east ramp. He stated tie-down permittees may now “push it out of your lot but don’t impede travel of other users.” He feels 4-5 feet from the lessee’s aircraft is appropriate, although stressed the need for good judgment on a case by case basis. His crews will then remove it when they are able following a “snow event.” There is no time limit following snowfall by which permittees must move their snow out of their tie-down space in order for it to be removed. Maintenance crews check the ramp daily and will remove snow on an as-needed basis.

Ms. Osborn discussed approaches as they relate to 20L and the floatpond. National policy changes within the FAA caused FAI to temporarily loose approaches due to obstructions. The airport and FAA came to resolution on Runway 2L, however the GPS approach for 20L is still on an ongoing temporary waiver, until the FAA redoes the approach, limiting it to only Category A & B aircraft. The barricades at bravo taxiway and the floatpond road will remain until Apple resolves the problems that are leading drivers to commit incursions on bravo. The Alaska attorney general has been in contact with Apple.

Mr. Tom George, Alaska Regional Manager for AOPA, discussed customs procedures for those arriving at FAI from Canada. In short, customs needs to be notified prior to takeoff in Canada, and the arrival at FAI must be during their regular hours. (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) Customs did recently resume service to include normal working hours on weekends. AOPA is pushing to restore routine access to Fairbanks to a 24 hour basis, as it was in the past. As officials at Northway have to drive from the border to the Northway airport, the hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

D. New Business

No new business was proposed

E. Agenda for Next Meeting

The agenda for the next general meeting will be developed and available for electronic retrieval prior to the meeting date.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. by President Berg. The next general meeting will be in the spring at a time to be determined.

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Thomas

Approved by: