

Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting Minutes May 28, 2024

Chairperson Ben Ennenga called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Roll Call: Richard Clapp

Members present: Ben Ennenga, Richard Clapp, Dennis Swartout, Tricia Harrell, Dale Hagenbuch

Others Present: Earle Bares -Airport Manager, Tom Mandersheid -Airport Liaison

Guests: Jennifer Bares, Mayor Bob Monetza, Tim Price- Asst City Mgr., Roland Ashby.

First Call to the audience

Jennifer Bares- Seeking help for the Dawn Patrol event this Saturday

Earl Bares- Grand Haven Aviation Association, Airport open house on June 1, 2024 with Dawn patrol breakfast. 75th anniversary of the airport with breakfast and lunch. Hooligans flight team will have two performances.

April 4, 2024 chapter EAA 211, future events & plans discussed.

April 23, 2024 Minutes:

Motion to accept the March 26,2024 minutes by Swartout, seconded by Clapp. Motion carried.

New business:

Recommendation to Grand Haven City council to approve Prein and Newhof as consultants for \$48,000 design plan of new 18/36 runway. Motion to accept by Swartout, seconded by Clapp. Motion carried. Prein & Newhof as consultants. Discussion by Clapp, "do we want to move forward with Runway 18/36 rehab in light of the condition of the East/West taxiway?" Answered by Earl Bares, runway 18/36 is in worse condition.

Motion by Swartout, seconded by Clapp to recommend Prein & Newhof as consultants for design of runway 18/36. Motion carried.

Old Business: Land leases: Discussion of land lease option for private built box hangars.

- Ben- Do we have an attorney draft and agreement for land leases?
- Tricia emphasized that she does not like the sublease agreement. Shouldn't do anything less than 20 years.
- Denny detailed the process of how this would look and details who would have this available, i.e. residents, make a case that this would be a good idea, and present this to city council. Create an outline for city council.
 - Generates Revenue
 - Allows for additional hangars open for rentals
- Rick- "I believe it's a good thing for the airport community to have the option to build hangar space, within reason. There needs to be limitations on size, placement of hangars, and number of hangars. The city needs to determine a lease length long enough that there can be a return on investment for the lessee."
- Ben- What would be a reasonable length of time?
- 10-10-10, 20, 30?
- Earl to create a draft. To give us a representative sample of several other communities that have land leases.
- Rick- "Please note drawbacks that communities have encountered."

Brief discussion regarding teardown, design, and building of new T hangars at C row.

Airport manager report: Earle Bares

Activity

Activity and fuel sales a little below average. Flight instruction & aircraft maintenance was very limited. Lengthy discussion with the airport manager regarding the lack of steady maintenance activity.

Recently received a visit from MDOT AERO. They flew in to inspect the South approach using measuring devices. (obstacle clearances.) Also reviewed taxiway PCI rating. They agreed that new hangars are more important than taxiway condition, at this time. Overall they said our airport is looking great.

Spraying for spongy moths, (in the township), occurred using two helicopters. A couple noise complaints.

Expecting over 1000 people for the airport open house.

Projects

A row & Maintenance hangar painting is complete.

Design phase of rehabilitated runway 18/36 has started.

AIP funding has been approved by house, senate, and president. \$4 billion. An increase. Priorities are for General Aviation and building hangars.

100LL must be available until 2030

Wildlife management: Contacted state of MI regarding wildlife issue we seem to be having. FAA requires a wildlife assessment. (Earl detailed non-lethal options, effective for the first month, then not effective at all. Turkeys are as big a problem as deer.

Earl has no reports of deer from airport users.

Rick- Lets be proactive not reactive. An accident would be terrible P.R, for the city. (Terrible all around)

Earl- Is an accident involving an aircraft any different the on the road with a car?

Rick- Absolutely. An airplane is like a pop can in comparison. Crumples right up. And loaded with fuel.

Denny- Earl, please put responsibility on the pilots to follow proper protocols to report wildlife encounters.

Fuel sales, Operations, Activity

- Fuel sales are going down for this time of year
- Fuel prices going up recently
- Flight instruction slow

242 log entries

Fuel Sales were 1026 Gal. 100LL, 200 Gal. Jet A

59 Aircraft home based on the field.

Worked on 1 aircraft.

Hangars are fully occupied and adding more people. 6 very interested parties.

Airport Facilities

South deck door jamb and frame came out. Door opened with the jamb.
Fascia repaired and terminal building power washed.
City has moved out of their C row hangar, rented to new renter as store and lock within an hour.
Runway lights, 22 repaired.
DEQ logs complete.

Safety & Security

4 noise complaints because of helicopter bug spraying.

2 Notams

Airport Liaison Report:

Airport Cash balance: \$330,905

Receivables under 30 days, \$0 in arrears.

Capital operating budget approved by council. Will be rolled out the 1st of July.

Budget looks good, expenses are fine. Right on schedule. Fuel sales are down. Will affect our revenue and expenses. Expecting bill to be higher for natural gas during maintenance hangar painting. Letter in packet from MDOT detailing acceptable use of hangar space.

Second call to the audience:

- Roland Ashby, 130 kids expected for EAA flights for open house. 9 Aircraft committed. Google youngeaglesday.org to sign kids up.
- Tom Howard, “Can hangars privately built be subleased?” “I would not want to put forth those kind of bucks knowing I could not sublease a hangar I built.”
- Tim Price, March 4th was the date of the wild life management presentation. Also spoke with the Coast Guard commander regarding items near storage hangar. They are getting a plan together to remove excess items.

- Rick Clapp, “what would we need to do to facilitate camping for Skydive Grand Haven?”
- Tom Mandersheid, “City would need to facilitate this.”
- Denny Swartout, board would need to put it in the agenda for next month.

Adjournment: 6:52 pm

Motion to adjourn: Ben Ennenga, seconded by Clapp

Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by board secretary, Richard Clapp