

Sept. 26, 2017

2:20 p.m.

Newport, Oregon

The Airport Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A, Newport City Hall.

In attendance were: Committee Members Jim Shaw, Mark Watkins, Ralph Busby and Terry Buggenhagen. Also in attendance were: Deputy City Recorder Gloria Tucker, Public Works staff Melissa Roman and Airport Director Lance Vanderbeck. Committee Members Susan Reese Painter, Jeff Bertuleit and Ken Brown were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Buggenhagen, seconded by Shaw, to approve the minutes of the Aug. 1, 2017 meeting. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Presentation of Tree Removal Issue at the Airport

Roman presented the tree removal issue at the airport. She said the approach and the departure surface at the airport have not been maintained for many years and a survey pinpointed trees penetrating the surfaces. As part of the Master Plan project, she said obstruction tables show the airport has about 165 known trees that are penetrating either the approach or departure surface. There may be more because the trees are grouped together. Roman said the airport put together an action plan to address the FAA concerns before they get the obstruction tables and close the airport. She said the project will take three years roughly. The city will need to go out and get easements from approximately 25 property owners. Roman said because of the sheer volume and area, the airport may have to do an environmental assessment that will take two years. Busby said Roman's statement about the FAA closing the airport needs clarification. He said FAA will not shut down the airport down, but they can cancel the instrument procedures and withdraw grant funding. Roman said trees are close to the end of the runway and trees are at the 10,000-foot mark. She said she anticipates, the city will be required to get all of them. Watkins asked if there would be any money from the FAA for help. Roman said there won't be money for easements, but there is funding for the predesign, environmental study and logging. She said where the trees go will depend on the negotiation per easement. Roman said ODFW will still be working on its salmon habitat restoration, so some of the trees could go to them for restoration purposes. Watkins asked if the city should also look at trees that will grow into the surfaces in the next five years. Roman said the airport would try to go 15 feet below the surfaces. Roman said the city manager wants to know if the airport committee is behind the project and if the city council is behind it. Roman said the city will meet with county, send out letters, then host an open house for anyone who is interested. Busby said it might be better not to have public meetings and keep the profile of the process lower. Vanderbeck said the reason for public meetings was because in the last tree project with one property owner, all the other property owners got involved and got mad since they felt they didn't have enough information. He said they requested the next tree project have that reach out.

MOTION was made by Buggenhagen, seconded by Watkins, to endorse the project and move forward. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

Airport Pavilion Discussion

Roman presented the plans for the airport pavilion project. She asked the committee for its opinions on bid options for the project. In consensus, the committee said there were no issues with the companies the city will seek bids from.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Vanderbeck gave his operational report included in the Sept. 26 packet.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Busby said he is concerned about an environmental study for both shortening the runway and apron redesign. He said the redesign was accepted begrudgingly by the committee as part of passing the Airport Master Plan. He said the committee did not feel it was a good idea. As a result, he said the environmental study for it should be delayed as long as possible. Watkins agreed. Roman pointed out that the joint study saves the city \$160,000. She said the primary reason for the study is the expectation the airport will have to fill the ravine.

Watkins suggested if the results are positive for resilience after a Cascadia event in the airport's seismic study, then the study should be used to encourage FEMA presence at the airport.

Shaw asked how Lifeflight has settled in at the airport. Vanderbeck said everything is going well. Busby said Lifeflight averages two missions a day.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.