

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Sawyer International Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, September 14th, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Steve Rodgers, Brianna Bauer, Scott Bolster
Staff Present: Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager
Public Present: Bruce Finn, Mathias Munger

Call to Order: 4:02pm

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Scott Bolster with support from Brianna Bauer. All members were in agreement.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from July were moved for approval by Scott Bolster with approval from Brianna Bauer. All members were in agreement.
3. **Public Comment:**
 - A. Bruce Finn expressed his concern that the Bylaws should focus the language to being more easily understood.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
 - A. Review Recommended Changes to the Bylaws: Staff presented proposed changes to the board for their consideration. A long discussion of the quorum requirements ensued. The Committee members requested that Staff revisit with Civil Counsel to clarify the line and then present again at the October meeting.
5. **Informational Items:**
 - A. Hangar 664: This project is a MAP project that is continuing smoothly, awaiting final submittals for items such as door, gates, fencing, and some pavement. Expected completion coming soon.
 - B. Building 608: This building functions as a support facility for the Envoy MRO. Through the use of a CARES Act grant, that is still awaiting award, however this project is moving forward. This building will receive updates to electrical system, roof, siding, windows, and doors. The project remains on schedule to be completed by May 2024.
 - C. Kubick Aviation: Airport and Kubick staffs continue to work together to continue the smooth transition. Equipment is being evaluated, relocated, and repaired to better serve the operation going forward.
 - D. Argonics Roof Drain Project: Recurring issue with roof drain system causing floor drains to overflow and flood the facility. CARES Act project with United Contractors completing the work. This project is ahead of schedule and is expected to end in calendar year 2023.
 - E. Crack Sealing and Pavement Marking Project – Grant Awarded: This project is a requirement of the last FAA inspection and needed to be completed before winter. The crews are completing work quickly to account for rain delays incurred earlier in the project timeline. Anticipated completion within the next 10 days.
 - F. Building Demolition Project: The County Board awarded the demolition bid for the 14 buildings to MDR Construction at a price for approximately \$2.6 Million. These buildings are in disrepair and are posing a hazard. The county hopes to proceed with this project as early as October.
 - G. Yooper Looper: The event occurred this past weekend, with limited turnout due to the rescheduled day based on weather. The event had four aircraft, down from 19 signed up for the previous date. Overall, this event hopes to continue next year with restored numbers and a better marketing plan between the Airport, Kubick, and event organizers.
 - H. Selfridge ANGB Refueling Wing Relocation: Due to a complete runway rehabilitation project at both Selfridge ANGB and Alpena CRTC, the refueling wing needs to relocate to a facility that meets their ramp space and runway requirements. Planning staff for the wing reached out to us to see if the Airport could accommodate their needs. The relocation will have a total of four tails and a fifth transient aircraft that will go between Detroit Metro and Marquette. There should be a final answer by the next meeting.

- I. Troop Deployment Return: Michigan National Guard will have two deployed units returning sometime in November, the armory would like to have the event here in one of our hangars. Currently in talks with armory staff on the particulars.
- J. GA Ramp Repair Plan: Adapted from the FOD Walk, this is a plan in its infancy. Its primary goals are to find solutions that will last longer than a single season, and preserve this pavement until further work can be completed. This will be a long term project, but should help the Airport better manage its aging pavement.
- K. Vacant Positions: Discussion of what options there are to increase potential applicants in these vacant positions. Airport Staff encouraged members to seek out people from these industry sectors and gauge interest in submitting an application to the County Clerk.

6. Late Addition:

- A. TSA requested staff to begin to look into some ways to mitigate overcrowding concerns in the sterile area of the terminal. To that end, airport staff has initiated discussions with County planners and architects to examine a short-term fix to get us by, while funding for a large scale expansion is still being explored.

7. Public Comment:

- A. Bruce Finn brought forward the building demolitions continued hindrance for EAA grow here at the Airport. Building 600 has served as the main building that housed multiple aviation related events, in addition to the scheduled events tied to the EAA chapter and Marquette County Flying Club. Bruce also spoke to the feeling that the County is apathetic to the needs of general aviation at the Airport and is angering many of the users for that sector. Regarding pavement plans, Bruce asked if a map of the sections in need of repair and consideration existed at the time.
- B. Mathias Munger also voiced his frustration with the County Board specifically, and how Greg Durand's bid for the mining seat on the Committee was not moved forward by the Clerk's office. Additionally, he wants to see reinvested interest in the goals of the general aviation.

8. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

- A. Intermixed with the public comments multiple Committee members spelled out their history at the Airport and their interest in solving the general aviation concerns.
- B. Brianna Bauer mentioned that there remains an issue with the Kubick front entrance. Specifically, the security requirements of that access point are causing issues for Airport and Kubick staffs. The issue will be discussed further at the next board meeting.
- C. Scott Bolster discussed the elevator issue with the tower and the need to see what options the County has to find a resolution for its disrepair. It is beginning to cause hiring concerns for the tower personnel and is also a major inconvenience for the current tower staff. The tower is currently short 1 controller and having trouble filling the vacancy.
- D. Brad Wheeler spoke that the complaints and concerns voiced at the meeting are being heard and will continue to find solutions where they exist and work to improve conditions when able.
- E. Steve Rodgers spoke to his concerns that the Committee is not sending items to the board like in the past. He hopes that this will change and that they will be receptive to the resolutions that the Committee may present.

9. Adjournment: Motion by Brianna Bauer, supported by Scott Bolster. Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm