

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 27, 2025**

**PORT OF ASTORIA**  
**AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
KAST TERMINAL BUILDING  
1110 SE FLIGHTLINE DRIVE  
WARRENTON, OR 97146

**Call to Order**

John Raichl called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

All Present: John Raichl, Wes Toland, James Campbell, Deb Toland, Steve Dillard, Matt McGrath, Terry Ansley, Dianna Delgado, Henry Balensifer III, John Ferreira, Ken Smith.

Terry Ansley proposed hosting an aviation event at the Astoria Regional Airport on July 14<sup>th</sup>, featuring approximately 50 visiting planes and food vendors. The event aims to introduce the public, particularly young people, to aviation and provide opportunities to interact with pilots and ask questions.

**Reports**

No reports were presented.

**Election of Officers**

- Chairman: John Raichl nominated Steve Dillard as Chairman of the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC). Henry Balensifer III seconded the nomination.
- Vice-Chairman: Raichl nominated Balensifer as Vice-Chairman of the AAC. Dillard seconded the nomination.

**Review of Current Projects at the Airport and Priority Recommendation**

- Discussions with Scoular continue regarding odor issues at the Airport, with plans to lease additional land for infrastructure improvements.
- Wetland delineations are in progress. The Airport Master Plan has been finalized and approved by the Port Commission and is awaiting FAA approval.
- A Request for Bids will be issued in the spring to remove and replace tracks in A and B rows.
- Plans are in place to relocate the road in Oshkosh AeroTech's parking lot to prevent vehicles from passing through their property to reach the FBO.
- Mitigation credits are available, with plans to use 10 acres for industrial park development, supported by \$250,000 in county funding.
- The first step in the Airport development will be investment in the executive hangars.
- Raichl proposed that the AAC formally support the road relocation, hangar repairs, and A/B row improvements.

### **Best Design for FBO at Airport**

- Expansion of the FBO building is under consideration, with proposed additions including a public-facing observation deck on the second floor and a conference room, pilot lounge, and flight simulator.
- Balensifer emphasized the importance of creating a space for public engagement, such as an observation deck.
- The AAC will reconvene in March to discuss further design ideas. McGrath will provide dimensions and design details before the next meeting.

### **Landing Fees**

- The Airport is considering a graduated landing fee structure based on aircraft weight. Although initial revenue projections are only \$15,000 - \$20,000 a year, the fees would help offset long-term runway maintenance costs for wear caused by heavier aircraft.
- McGrath will provide a fee schedule and comparisons with other airports.

### **Good of the Order**

- Chairman Dillard expressed enthusiasm for future development and inquired about grant opportunities.
- McGrath noted that Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL) grants could provide up to \$50 million in funding for qualifying airports.
- Raichl commented on the following
  - A C-130 crew unexpectedly landed and required transportation for crew and medical equipment. At the time, the only available vehicle was a Prius through Coastal Shuttle. The USCG assisted in transporting 21 crew members and equipment, which was greatly appreciated.
  - At a previous location, Raichl received a hotel discount because the Airport vehicle was clearly marked, demonstrating the Airport's impact on local businesses. He suggested implementing a similar practice at Astoria Regional Airport.
  - Requested that Henry Indica from Camp Rilea attend the next AAC meeting to provide operational updates related to the Airport.
- Balensifer reported on the following:
  - Oshkosh shut down its Mexico plant due to operational challenges and lack of success.
  - Oshkosh is increasing involvement in EAA aircraft events.
- The Coast Guard inquired about hunting at the Airport as there was a belief that it had been permitted in the past. McGrath clarified that hunting has not been authorized, though a previous unauthorized incident occurred. Only controlled culling by Airport staff is allowed.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- Airport Advisory Committee – March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00 PM

### **Adjourn**

Steve Dillard adjourned the meeting at 5:06 PM.



# Port of Astoria

**APPROVED:**

Robert Stevens, Board Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

Tim Hill, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:  
Dianna Delgado  
Office Manager

March 4, 2025  
Date Approved by Commission