



AVIATION AND TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, January 2, 2018

The Aviation and Transit Commission met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Commission Members

Ken Behling, Chair
Dan Farmer, Vice Chair
Peggie Gaghen
Ron Spence
Mark Astle
Chuck Tooley

City Staff and Guests

Shane Ketterling, Assistant Director of Aviation & Transit
Marita Herold, Airport Business Manager
Zack Terakedis, Terakedis Fine Art
Virginia Bryan, President, Downtown ArtWalk

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public comment period was offered. No public comments were received.

TERMINAL ART DISPLAY REQUEST

Mr. Ketterling introduced City staff and guests who were present at the meeting, which consisted of the following: Marita Herold, Airport Business Manager, Zack Terakedis, who owns a Fine Art Gallery in downtown Billings, and Virginia Bryan, who is President of the ArtWalk Downtown Billings. Mr. Ketterling explained that for the past few months, Airport staff has met with Mr. Terakedis and Ms. Bryan in order to create and promote an "art in the airport" program. This concept could utilize the large walls and interior spaces of the Terminal Building to display professional art, similar to an art gallery, with the ultimate goal of improving the environment and atmosphere for our passengers. Mrs. Herold discussed the background of how art is displayed in the Airport, and that the Aviation and Transit Commission is tasked with approving the artwork. She explained that in 2013, the Airport developed a Temporary Exhibit and Display Policy, described the process of how this works, and referenced previous art displays. Marita identified that this policy was established to provide a simple process with some basic guidelines, identify role/responsibilities of the exhibitor and the Airport, and provide a mechanism to review requests. The exhibitor is not charged a fee and the Airport provides fine arts coverage for all display items while on premises. Zack and Virginia identified specific areas throughout the Terminal that would be ideal to display large pieces of art so that people could enjoy them while passing through the facility. Zack showed the Commission six pieces of professional art from his gallery, talked about the artists, how they relate to Montana, and presented a slide show of various artwork that would be ideal to display in the Terminal. Commission Members discussed the various pieces of art, and were very impressed with the concept. The group had a very lively conversation and Commissioner Astle requested a copy of the Airport's Exhibit and Display Policy, which Marita stated she would e-mail to Members the following day. The conversation concluded by agreeing to start with a small exhibit, showcase regional artists, enhance the aesthetics of the Terminal, see how well it is received, and then possibly expand upon it.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual election of officers was held, Commissioner Gaghen was elected as the new Chair, and Commissioner Farmer was re-elected as Vice Chair.

UPDATE ON TERMINAL DESIGN PROCESS

Mr. Ketterling provided the Commission with an update on the Terminal Remodel and Expansion Project. He reminded the group that our engineer for the project is Morrison-Maierle and the architect is A&E Architects. Airport staff held a one day kick off meeting on December 18, 2017, with a room full of engineers and architects, introductions were made, goals were set, a timeline was established, and discussions took place on the LeighFisher concept. Overall, the meeting was very productive and included a tour of the entire facility, with Airport staff highlighting existing challenges the group would face, improvements Airport staff would like to see, and how the new concept would work. The group is reconvening for a three day brainstorming session January 17 - 19, 2018, and the Commission will be provided an update during the February Aviation and Transit Commission Meeting.

AIRPORT AND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONS REPORTS

- ▶ Mr. Ketterling provided information on the December 13, 2017 meeting with American Airlines in Dallas, Texas. The Billings air service team met with five American Airlines network planning staff analysts and managers. American was very interactive during the presentation and is clearly interested in the Billings market. They confirmed the load factors for the Summer months, and although they were lower than average, profitability was good during the Summer. They indicated June was the strongest month so far, and October has been the lowest. Fares were a bit lower than forecasted but November appeared encouraging, and the month of December was currently booked at 85%. The Billings air service team asked about new market opportunities. American explained that Los Angeles, California has gate constraints and adding any new market requires another market to lose service. Because of this, American leans more towards Phoenix, Arizona as the next best possible opportunity for Billings. Chicago, Illinois is also a possibility, but will be dependent on the performance of Dallas. Overall, the meeting was positive and American explained that they would need to see how the first full year of Dallas service went before they would consider adding any other markets.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling provided an update to the Commission Members on Winter weather, specifically the most recent storm where the Airport received 17 inches of snow. He explained that the primary Runway 10L/28R remained open at all times, which was remarkable since the Airport was receiving approximately one inch of snow per hour at times. Although some of the airlines did experience delays, it was not due to the Airport but because of airline staffing issues, aircraft problems, or deicing equipment breakdowns. Airport snow removal crews did a fabulous job and did not encounter any equipment issues during the snow event. Unfortunately, many of the days it snowed were on holidays, including Christmas and New Year's. Mr. Ketterling explained that the Airport's crews have been performing snow removal for weeks, and they are currently battling blowing/drifted issues and would spend the next two weeks moving large piles of snow away from aircraft ramp areas. Additionally, a few of the MET Transit buses experienced difficulty with the icy and snow packed roads, including a couple of buses that got stuck in snow banks and had to be pulled out. Some of the bus routes did experience minor delays due to the road conditions, and although there were not any major accidents, a couple of minor fender benders did occur. However, these were not caused by the MET bus drivers but by other motorists.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

None offered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SK:mdb

cc: Aviation and Transit Commission
Chrono
City Administrator
Mayor
City Clerk