



AVIATION AND TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

The Aviation and Transit Commission met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Tuesday, December 4, 2018. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Commission Members

Peggie Gaghen, Chair
Dan Farmer, Vice Chair
Ken Behling
Ron Spence
Mark Astle
Chuck Tooley
David Hummel, Jr.

City Staff and Guests

Kevin Ploehn, Director of Aviation & Transit
Shane Ketterling, Assistant Director of Aviation & Transit
Marita Herold, Airport Business Manager
Mike Yakawich
Zack Terakedis

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

TOUR OF NEW SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT (SRE) AND AIRPORT OPERATIONS CENTER

The Commission started with a tour of the new SRE that had recently arrived. City Councilman, Mike Yakawich, joined us for the tour only. The two new pieces of equipment are considered a multi-purpose snow removal unit, which consists of a 22-foot blade, a 20-foot broom, and are capable of simultaneously plowing and brooming contaminants off of pavement surfaces in order to improve safety for all aircraft operating on the airfield. These two new pieces of SRE replaced two

twenty-year-old snowplows, and the manufacturer has significantly improved upon the technology and design of this specialized equipment during the past 20 years. These are much safer for the driver to operate, as the operator's cab has much larger windows on all four sides for improved visibility. Additionally, the broom is located behind the operator rather than in front of the cab; therefore, snow will not blow up and limit the driver's ability to see. This new



equipment will also improve safety by reducing the number of SRE operating on the airfield and combine two functions under one operator, which will ultimately save us time, money, and improve safety. Overall, Commissioners were impressed with these new 40-foot long pieces of equipment and the group took many pictures. Staff then toured the rest of the Airport Operations

Center, showing the Commission the entire fleet of SRE, which includes high speed plows, blowers, brooms, dump trucks, loaders, and many other pieces of equipment. We also toured the equipment repair facilities and the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) bays, explaining the various pieces of specialty equipment required for the ARFF function. The tour helped the Commission to understand the size and scope of the Airport's operations.



EXHIBIT AND DISPLAY PROPOSAL

Zack Terakedis of Terakedis Fine Art provided the Commission with a display proposal for a large piece to go onto one of the larger blank walls in the baggage claim area. Mr. Terakedis provided some smaller examples of the art of Isabelle Beau de Lomenie out of Cody, Wyoming. The photographic art was of the modern cowgirl and was printed on a couple of different mediums. Mr. Terakedis pitched printing one of the images on two, 4-foot by 8-foot panels that would be placed together for the display, resulting in an 8-foot by 8-foot display. He proposed hanging the art display in the Terminal during all of 2019.

AIRPORT AND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONS REPORTS

- ▶ Mr. Ploehn advised that since the first Tuesday of next month was New Year's Day that the January meeting would be held instead on Tuesday, January 8.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn announced that after some initial discussions with NorthWestern Energy, the parking lot lights and affiliated infrastructure would be sold to the Airport so that a LED lighting change out could be pursued by the Airport. It was anticipated that the new LED lighting would significantly increase the brightness of the parking lots, helping to address some of the concerns regarding security and safety in the lots.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn told the Commission that staff has been working with Boingo Wireless, the Airport's Wi-Fi provider, on a two-year contract extension that would provide the Wi-Fi to the Terminal during the Terminal Building expansion construction project. Additionally, he also noted that the new agreement would also include a provision for free public Wi-Fi.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn advised the Commission that the local Fixed Based Operator, Edwards Jet Center (EJC), has been working with the Airport to expand their fueling capabilities. EJC is interested in placing two additional 30,000-gallon fuel tanks in the fuel farm area on the east end of the Airport. A significant part of the upgrade would also include the pumping system, which is getting rather old. This is good news, as it will help enhance the security and availability of aviation fuel at the Billings Logan International Airport going into the future.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn informed the Commission about his recent trip to United Airlines' headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. The good news was that the Summer direct service to Chicago was going to be expanded from the two Summer months of July and August, to four months, June through

September. United was going to continue to monitor this flight for additional future growth. On the negative side, Billings would not be getting a direct flight to San Francisco any time soon. He explained that San Francisco was becoming gate constrained and any new flights there would be mainline service, something Billings would probably not be able to support. The E-175 aircraft would work well for a Billings to San Francisco flight, but the pilot's union contract limits the number of E-175 or other similar aircraft that United can fly.

- ▶ Mr. Ketterling showed Commissioners the Montana Real ID "It's the Real Me" commercial currently being advertised by the Department of Justice. This informational video shows Lewis and Clark attempting to enter the Airport, a military base, and other Federal facilities, with an explanation on the new Real ID requirements that will take place in 2019.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling passed out Holiday gift bags to Commission Members, thanked them for their time and service, and wished them all a Happy Holiday!

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

None offered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

KP:mdb

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