

**TACOMA NARROWS AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

A regular meeting of the Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission (TNAAC) was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at the Tacoma Narrows Aviation hangar, 1302 – 26th Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Chair Wiley Moore called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Commission members introduced themselves.

TNAAC VOTING MEMBERS	
Present:	Wiley Moore, Chair Kurt Grimmer, Vice Chair Bob Felker Michael Murphy Terry Lee Brian Durham Larry Fickel Brad Pattison – called in
Excused:	Al Abbott BJ Bergevin
TNAAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Present:	
Excused:	Michael Perrow, City of Gig Harbor; Derek Young, Council District 7
PIERCE COUNTY STAFF	
Present:	Dennis Hanberg, Director, Planning & Public Works Lauren Behm, Airport & Ferry Administrator Jay Simons, Operations & Maintenance Supervisor Justin Van Slyke, Operations & Maintenance Technician Cindy Willis, Office Assistant
VISITORS	
Present:	Eleven members of the public signed the attendance sheet.

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Summaries

By motion (Felker/Fickel), the meeting summary for January 9, 2018 was approved unanimously.

III. Visitors and Petitions

(Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person on non-agenda items.)

None.

The agenda order was changed. Since BJ Bergevin is not here, we will wait until he is present to hear his report on community events at the airport.

IV. Old Business and Reports (mixed)

Airport Signage – Dennis Hanberg

Dennis has been the Director of the merged Planning & Public Works Department for 14 months. We merged in hopes of creating a more effective and efficient government. Last year included a substantial organizational change. Surface Water Management and Road Ops each had some overlap in duties. Crews are now sharing equipment and expertise. Dennis meets with division managers every two weeks. The advantage of consolidation is to bring divisions together and bridge silos. Our new airport restroom was designed by a structural bridge engineer, and Road Ops built the handicapped ramp. Airport & Ferry has been a combined division for at least 15 years. It's been a challenge for Lauren Behm to learn the ferry ticketing system and two airports. She has done a great job with the leases and bringing in outstanding balances. Dennis was pleased to announce tonight that Lauren's position is permanent; she is our new Airport & Ferry Administrator. She came well prepared for the formal interview and is also working on additional education.

We want to continue to work hard on airport operations through the capital and operations budget. Boilers and roofs are a challenge. We have some carryover money into 2018 and a set of projects to complete this year. The Hub roof is leaking; we're looking at options rather than a full roof.

Signage – Handouts were distributed showing the five proposed airport signs. We want to be as comprehensive as possible from arrival on Stone Drive into the airport. We want them to be subtle, but visible. We'll have a sign at the north gate. There will be wayfinding signs to other services. Business names will be on stick-on signs to be easily changed out. Larry Fickel suggested a sign connecting to the city and those businesses. There will be three or four signs along 26th Avenue and another in the main parking lot. We're working to redesign the whole parking lot area by end of summer; the fence will be pulled back and a new entrance road to Tacoma Narrows Aviation will be installed. The awkward curb that juts out into the entrance to the parking lot will go away.

Wiley Moore said the business owners should weigh in. Jay PerryCook asked about sign mounting. Lauren said they will be mounted on metal poles, and the big sign on the corner would probably have a cement foundation. Cement looks more permanent and high class. The substrate is aluminum and not terribly expensive. The main sign will not be lit at night, but can have a reflective surface. Power along the fence goes as far as where the planes are parked, but not to the corner. Dan Neil said the initial version of the signage is great; however, ATP is mentioned three times and his business only once. Dennis said we will sort out what goes on each sign; these are just samples. Michael Murphy suggested they get 2-sided signs to be seen from each direction. Dennis said the focus this year is installing signs and working with George

Swift to change the fencing. The capital carryover is \$300,000+. We will provide a report to the EIDC in May on the capital and operating budget, and Lauren will keep you up to speed, although budget discussion won't happen in May. The airport has economic significance and we're in a good growth mode. Next week, he and Lauren are meeting with the FAA to discuss six different parcels (three outside the fence and three inside). Larry Fickel said the condition of the hangars is a big deal. Dennis said we're fixing beams for doors on existing hangars. Lauren said those beams are on t-hangars; we're not replacing doors or roof work. We're looking at a longer-term plan, including developing the west side of the airport. Smaller aircraft would eventually be moved to the west side, while the east side would be for corporate aircraft. We don't want to rebuild hangars at this point.

Jay Simons, Operations & Maintenance Supervisor, provided the O&M report. The new bathroom on the north side of the 1624 bldg. will get its final inspection on Tuesday. Once opened to the public, it will be open all the time. Someone suggested that we'll need signage. When it opens, the public restroom in the HeliTrak building will close. An extra hire employee will start in a couple weeks and will be shared between both airports and the ferry.

Justin Van Slyke, O&M Technician, reported that our industrial stormwater permit tested slightly high for turbidity (debris in water, possibly dust); we tested out of the benchmark to lower our average with Ecology. He's been doing hangar door maintenance, and the annual Fire Marshal inspection is coming up; main improvements needed are with the Hub (outdoor tent area and gas heaters). The Fire Marshal will work with Pat Nagle on those items. Airport pavement sweeping will occur at the end of the month and an advance email will be sent out. The runway will be closed between 4-6 AM. We will sweep all paved surfaces on the airport, but will go around tied-down aircraft. We have started a waitlist for our hangars with four people on the list. We have five empty hangars not yet leasable due to sagging beams. Wiley Moore said he had a conversation with a renter about some issues; timely responses from staff would be helpful. Dan Neil said the south gate opening and closing times need to be adjusted due to Daylight Saving Time.

Bonnie Malgarini, Airport Control Tower Manager, said this has been one of the busiest Marches; we were over 10,000 airport operations and overflights; that's usually a summer number. We're trying to get an extra controller and she has hope that it will happen. We need to schedule a Runway Safety annual event which is primarily focused on runway safety. We have no real problems with runway safety, so topics spill over to other items. We're looking at May 14 at 10:00 AM, location on the airport yet undecided. Around 6:00 one morning, someone cut the north fence and stole a bunch of copper from the FAA's equipment. They cut the door to the glide slope; that will cost \$4000 to replace.

Lauren Behm, Administrator, provided her report.

1. TNAAC members have been wanting to call in when they cannot attend; that doesn't work well on cell phones. Wiley has a conference phone (spider) if Jeff Stillwell has a phone jack we can use. If we could make a conference phone work, we could accommodate callers, but Lauren said she prefers not to do it as regular practice—just if there's no quorum. It's more difficult for the audience and clerk to hear for creating good minutes. Wiley said it also might encourage non-attendance and when we have a quorum, there's no need for members to call. Michael Murphy travels and wants to participate, but he respects the problems and will try to keep absences to a minimum.

2. Concerns about responsiveness – Staff has been talking about project management concepts; we’re working to use tools to plan work and manage time. We have a metric in place to hold each other accountable with a goal of 48 hours to respond to all phone calls.
3. Hub roof – We are tracking multiple pathways to fix it. Thursday, staff will look at patching leaks, as well as the overall roofing concept. We’re working with the Building Official who has good expertise and experience. Jay will invite him to walk the roof and determine whether the HVAC needs to be removed. The new Hub manager wanted to come tonight, but was too busy; they may want to build a rooftop deck to protect from leaks. That would require engineering and the Hub would pay for that project.
4. Eagle site relocation – There were questions about entrance through the southern-most gate (A). We looked at land use and road standards; it must go through the PALS process and public comment before a final decision is made.
5. The asbestos was abated in the old house and it’s ready for demo. We will notify you before that happens. The Fire Dept. will burn it as a training exercise, so it saves money in disposal costs. Environmental work is required for the ALP modification. We will keep you in the loop.
6. Dennis and I are meeting with the FAA next Monday to focus on development projects; we’re also requesting a recurring monthly meeting so we can continue our discussion of issues, like the grass landing strip and RAZ. If we can have regular conversations, it will help with our relationship and keep our issues on their radar.
7. Grass landing strip – I met with Warren Hendrickson to discuss this issue. There have been no updates from our FAA planner. Maybe we’ll just submit the form and see what their justification is for the NO. How can we get to a YES unless we know why they said NO? Larry Fickel said it’s already in the Master Plan; how can they say NO? Lauren said she believes the FAA suffers from some of our same issues—not enough staff to do the work. The airport district office has one planner that serves all 136 general aviation airports in Washington. On Monday, we’re meeting with the planner, engineer, environmental specialist, and their manager. We want to find out how to get a better response, understanding the FAA’s constraints. Michael Murphy suggested contacting Derek Kilmer. Lauren said she talked with the WAMA president, Tim Mensonides, about taking a collaborative approach from all airport managers in Washington and Oregon by putting together a letter stating our concerns as an airport manager group—not attacking, but finding ways to improve the response. Dennis said we’re frustrated with the FAA’s creating an impasse on our projects (ALP, RAZ, and at Thun with their chapter review of the Master Plan update).
8. RAZ – Lauren got a call from Brett Marlow DeSantis with the Rotary; they’re looking at moving to the next phase to include more kid-friendly surfacing and educational signage. We have had an offer from Columbia Helicopters to build a memorial in the RAZ using a binocular system to point out features on the airport and in the vicinity. The RAZ lacks color and excitement for kids; we need to get rid of the gravel. Larry Fickel suggested signage to show where things are on the airport. He’s working with Boeing for ideas—maybe photos and information of different types of aircraft to enhance the use of the RAZ.
9. On May 10 at 10:00 AM in the County/City Building, we will be conducting a workshop with the EIDC; it is open to the public and we will send a reminder email. We have invited 15 people from various sectors— business owners, fire, sheriff, CAP, and others—to speak about the value airports bring to the community, why airports are

more than just recreation, but provide economic impact, safety contributions, and innovative opportunities. There are stories we need to tell to change the perception of what an airport is. We would love for you to attend. CM Richardson has issued invitations to speakers. This is one of many conversations we hope to have with policymakers. Dennis Hanberg said there has been much more activity at our airports, resulting in some complaints and letters to the editor. Someone asked about signage for noise abatement. Lauren said there is info on the website and a pamphlet to be updated. Bonnie Malgarini said there use to be signage in the run-up area. Part of increased traffic noise is due to moving turns sooner over residential areas. Wiley asked for advice from pilots about whether more signage is needed. Are we properly marked? Jay Simons said we have an annual inspection. Someone asked if there is a standard noise abatement departure. Bonnie said there's no formal policy, so we don't have to comply, but it's neighbor friendly. Wiley suggested pilots meet and get back to Lauren.

10. Volunteer program – Lauren spoke with our Risk Management Dept. which said that if volunteers bring their own equipment, they may help at the airports, but they're not allowed to use County equipment. That probably limits people who are willing. They would weed-eat cracks, mow in the parking lot around trees, and rake leaves. We will continue to look and ask; if people are willing to bring their equipment, we'd schedule them. First, we need to gauge the interest. Wiley said if we can help, let's do it. Jay PerryCook said they have their own equipment (mowers and weed eaters) and would supply the labor—just give us a list.
11. Wiley Moore asked about the hangar rate study. He met with CM Young to help him understand the need for the study and TNAAC's proposal. Lauren talked to CM Young's assistant about what actions the Council was going to take; she was told that CM Young didn't get support from other councilmembers for a rate reduction proposal, so there is no action scheduled. She recommended the TNAAC contact CM Young's office about what could be done to get support for your proposal, additional info they need, decide if you want to continue to push the issue, and find out what is missing for CM Young to garner support. Wiley said he's not sure how much could be done. Someone from the audience said the market has spoken; TIW is at 100% occupancy of its usable hangars and there's a waiting list of four.
12. Wings & Wheels will happen this year. Doug Fratoni represents the Tacoma Events Commission. Wings & Wheels will include Saturday, June 30 from 4-9 PM with a beer garden, music, and a full airshow. The Hub will offer beer and food. Sunday, July 1 is from 11-4 with an airshow and car show. This event hasn't always paid for itself; we're hoping to gain seed money for next year. Airshows have an economic impact—people spread their money around to the surrounding areas, so there's lots of economic stimulation. Wings & Wheels usually has around 3,500 people; we want to bump it to 5,000 over two days. He listed off several planes, static displays, and military involvement expected. He wants to work with FoTNA to increase public awareness and will schedule a meeting with Lauren and anyone who wants to come. AOPA might be some help with public relations. A podcast would be good to draw attention to the event.

V. New Business

Michael Murphy said that the copper theft reminds us of the need to be vigilant; see something, say something. Brian Durham asked about airport security; has the Sheriff been approached about doing drive-bys? Lauren said not at this airport; Thun Field is doing its own airport watch

with tenants volunteering to drive around at random times. The Sheriff is taking some action there. We could approach them to see about driving through; it's worth the conversation. We recently changed the gate code, so use your cards to gain access.

VI. Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

TO CONTACT THE TACOMA NARROWS AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION	
Regarding any items on this agenda, or any other issues:	
Call:	(253) 798-7250 (Airport Administration)
Fax:	(253) 798-2740
Mail:	Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission 2702 South 42 nd Street, Suite 201 Tacoma, WA 98409-7322
Email:	pctnaac@co.pierce.wa.us
Submit comments online:	www.piercecountywa.org/tacomanarrows (click on "contact us")

TNAAC Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2018
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Tacoma Narrows Aviation hangar