

EAA 206 Minutes from February 18, 2021

President Tom McMahon opened the Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM. The Zoom meeting was hosted by John Estep. 18 members were present on Zoom.

Motion by Gary Klingele and second by Chris Coffin to approve the January meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried. The treasurer reported that the account balance stayed the same as in January. John Estep moved to accept the report and Chris Coffin seconded. The motion carried.

Stu Copeland reported that he had picked up the new airport map from Rob Peterson to put up in the airport information kiosk. There was discussion about film or protective glass to keep maps and pictures from fading so badly. A suggestion was made to check with the park service or the Yakima Arboretum to see how they keep various displays from fading.

Tom turned the meeting over to Rob Peterson to present on the Yakima Airport.

Rob shared a PowerPoint about the airport. Passenger ridership was down 50-60% due to Covid-19. Aircraft operations were down 6%, cargo was down 19%, and fuel sales were down 2%. Currently passenger numbers are up from the worst point of 2020 to 4,000 to 6,000 per month.

The airport has made about \$1.4 million in capital improvements to the runway. After concerns about slick runways due to anti-icing compounds, measures were taken to reduce the slipperiness of the surface. \$950,000 was spent on the new aircraft rescue and fire apparatus, the 2020 Oshkosh Striker. The airport layout plan presented many months ago at an open house is being reviewed by the FAA and then it will go to the city. McCormick Air Center has had eight t-hangars built with an option to develop eight more

Items for 2021 and beyond include overlay, apron lighting improvements, improved drainage, and improved tiedown configuration on the east general aviation apron at a cost of about \$2.6 million. There is some exploration for a new location for the compass rose calibration spot. In the near future is an extension of Taxiway Charlie to the west out of discretionary funds.

There are two Washington State House and Senate bills with potential positive impacts for aviation. Pilots can track and possibly support HB 1030/SB 5031 with community aviation revitalization loans. HB 1290/SB 5329 would distribute a small percent of aviation fuel taxes to the state aeronautics account to help fund projects.

In the 2021/22 timeframe will be an airline passenger survey to learn where besides Seattle people would like to see as a destination from Yakima. This might be used in attempting to get another flight out of Yakima.

Rob then asked for questions. Tammy asked if we could get copies of the airport plans. Gary Klingele asked about a VOR check site. Chris Coffin asked about a grass strip that would probably get a lot of use by Cub Crafters and their customers as well as others. Rob mentioned some issues that have to be solved to get FAA's approval. It would help with the tower's number of aircraft operations and possibly result in more fuel sales. It wouldn't help with grants. The EAA and WPA can help with the issue of the grass strip by supporting the legislative bills for the WSDOT grant programs. Rob was asked if he could make the airport layout plan and the legislative bill information available and he said he would.

President Tom McMahon reported that the wiring on his motor-glider is nearly complete with Steve Sundquist's help. He also reported that his daughter, Tammy Lewis and grandson Andrew Lewis are in the process of buying Ola's airplane. Scott Bach is about ready to cover his Pitt's wings. Brian Thompson's Stinson is nearing being recovered. Phil Cianciolo has gotten back to work on his RV-7's wings. Stu Copeland mentioned that there are a couple of ADs that apply to Piper Cherokee's and similar aircraft models' wing spars. Some new engine, Liquid Piston, was mentioned by Dennis Klingele of having the ability to use different fuels.

Stu Copeland moved to close the meeting. Gary Klingele seconded the motion. The motion was approved.