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THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

October 19, 2021

A meeting of the Pierce County Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC) was held on Tuesday, October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in-person at the Civil Air Patrol Building, with the option of attending via Zoom.

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Chair Andrew Karlsson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

TFAC VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Present:</i>	Andrew Karlsson, Chair John Boyd Matthew Mackey J. Keith Kemper
<i>Excused:</i>	John Hurlbut, Vice Chair Michael Thompson Marshall Collins
TFAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Present:</i>	Rod Propst, Airport Manager/Airport & Ferry Administrator
<i>Excused:</i>	Nichole Weber, SHAC Dave Morell, Councilmember
PIERCE COUNTY STAFF	
<i>Present:</i>	Rod Propst, Airport Manager/Acting Airport & Ferry Administrator Trevor Threde, Airport & Ferry Administrator Lissa Smith, Acting KPLU Airport Manager Kim Schwannecke, Office Assistant
VISITORS	
<i>Present:</i>	Approximately 9 in-person & 10 virtual members of the public participated.

II. Approval of Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary – July 19, 2021

Motion Andrew Karlsson and Matthew Mackey approved the July 19, 2021 meeting summary.

III. Reports

- **O&M Report** – Propst and Smith presented a PowerPoint presentation

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Airport and Ferry Administrator: Rod Propst announced that Pierce County hired a new Airport and Ferry Administrator named Trever Threde. Propst will return to his role as Airport Manager/Assistant Ferry Administrator. Threde introduced himself and stated that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

General Aviation Security Assessment: Propst stated that Pierce County Airport—Thun Field (PLU) received 18 responses in the General Aviation Security Assessment. Most of the comments talked about getting better wifi, closing the gates, fixing the fences, and getting a security system. Propst stated that 18 responses are not enough to bring change to the airport rules and regulations. Propst stated that Pierce County will put together an online survey that is more user-friendly and shortened to airport-specific needs, in hopes of getting more responses.

Commercial Operating Agreement Status: Lissa Smith stated that PLU has all but two businesses with a completed Commercial Operating Agreement. Pierce County may require additional info, in which case Pierce County will follow up with the business.

Hangar Door Replacement: Smith stated that the hangar door replacement has been delayed another day, and is expected to start Monday. Smith stated that each hangar door will include four doors on two tracks, with the exception of end hangars having three tracks.

Engine Generator: Smith stated that the Engine Generator Replacement is on schedule for November. This Engine Generator will create a backup power source for runway lighting. Smith stated that the current engine generator is functioning now, but it is not reliable.

Comments/Questions: None.

- **Noise Complaints** — *Smith continued with the PowerPoint presentation*

Smith stated that there have been 4 Noise Complaints since July, all in the same area on the south end in a newer housing development. Smith reminded everyone to be mindful of altitude and power settings, try not to do circles unless training, and be mindful of the housing neighborhoods.

Rod Wetherbee asked about the status on Airport Overlay Area signage. Propst stated that Councilmember Morrell is investigating funding for that project.

- **Commission Reports** – *There were no reports from the Commission*
- **Council Update** – *There were no reports from the Council*

Dave Morrell is Excused.

IV. **Old Business** — *Smith continued with the PowerPoint presentation*

Hangar Inspections: Smith stated that all but 22 of the 198 hangars have been inspected. An attendee asked what the timeline is to respond to hangars who are not aeronautical. Propst stated that an Aircraft Hangar is for aeronautical use according to the FAA. Propst stated that

tenants who are not using their hangar for aeronautical use will be given an opportunity to become compliant in a reasonable amount of time. Propst stated that the Condo Association will be responsible for ensuring the compliance of their tenants. Otherwise, the Condo Association will not be in compliance with their land lease. Propst stated that most people want to be compliant, and we have seen a huge improvement since last year's inspections.

Mater Plan Open House: Smith stated that there will be a Thun Field Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 2nd from 6:30pm-8:30pm to go over the results of the Master Plan Open House and discuss next steps.

Karlsson made a Motion to approve old business. Motion approved by Mackey and John Boyd.

V. New Business – No new business to report.

VI. Visitors and Petitions

Fuel Island: Rod Wetherbee asked about the Fuel Island. Propst stated that the county will take the fuel concession over and become the avgas provider as of November 10th, 2021. Propst stated that the agreement with Spanaflight ends on November 10th and that there is a contract separation agreement intended to make the transition as seamless as possible. Propst stated that Pierce County intends to have tanks cleaned and upgraded to an acceptable standard with new dispensers and new signage. Propst stated that the price for fuel will not be the highest or the lowest in the area and that Pierce County intends to give a discount to volume purchasers. Wetherbee asked Propst to clarify if the agreement was terminated. Propst stated that the agreement was terminated by the county for cause.

Wetherbee stated that \$23,000 was spent by the County on a consultant to survey whether the County or a third party should run the fuel. Wetherbee stated that he has a proposal on the table, but it would require the County to close the existing pumps. Wetherbee stated that he'd like feedback and input from the board members and that he submitted his plan to the Thun Field Master Plan. If anyone would like to know more about his proposal, Wetherbee stated to email him. Propst stated that the County would be consider Wetherbee's offer and would need to hear the final details of the proposal before considering. Propst stated that this discussion can go on the Agenda for the next meeting if the commission would like.

Shawn Downs asked what Pierce County is doing to ensure the security and safety of the fuel in the interim. Downs stated that he does not see any testing going on for fuel quality and we're down to one pump. Downs asked if Pierce County is holding the current provider accountable to the agreement they signed. Propst stated that Northwest Tanks is coming out tomorrow to look at getting the north tank repaired. Propst stated that Smith cannot verify 100% that the testing is being done and she's only here 5 days a week. Propst stated that Spanaflight signed an agreement to provide safe fuel.

Wetherbee stated that they would check it daily when they were the fuel provider. Wetherbee stated that Spanaflight was caught giving bad fuel to flight schools and it seems like they've been given several chances. Wetherbee stated that he is fed up and the fuel needs to be checked daily for fuel quality. Propst stated that Pierce County terminated the agreement as

soon as they were able to, and that the alternative would be to shut off the full until November 10th. Wetherbee asked if Spanaflight is getting compensated for their termination. Propst stated that Spanaflight will be paid for exactly what the contract says in the termination.

Karlsson asked if there is an audit that can be done to ensure the testing is being done on a regular basis? Propst stated that the current contract does not specify how or what would be audited. Propst stated that the contract could have been a better written and there is an opportunity for the County to do a better job.

Karlsson asked if there are any plans for jet fuel. Propst stated that there are not any plans by the County for jet fuel. Wetherbee stated that his proposal does include jet fuel. Karlsson says it would be great to have it. Propst agreed and stated that it would cost over half a million dollars.

Downs asked if Pierce County will hire more staff to manage the Fuel Island on a daily basis. Propst stated that as of November 10th, there will not be additional airport employees. Propst stated that the new system does more than the old one and does not need to be checked as often. Propst stated that there is new leadership who is taking the department in the right direction.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM
Motion of Adjournment given by Karlsson and Mackey .

TO CONTACT THE THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION:	
regarding any items on this agenda or any other issues:	
Call:	(253) 798-2478 (Airport Administration)
Fax:	(253) 798-4695
Mail:	Thun Field Advisory Commission 9850 – 64 th Street W. University Place, WA 98467
Email:	pctfac@co.pierce.wa.us
Submit comments online:	www.piercecountywa.org/thunfield (click on “contact us”)