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**THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
MEETING SUMMARY

July 19, 2022

A meeting of the Pierce County Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC) was held on Tuesday, July 19th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. virtually on Zoom.

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair Andrew Karlsson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

TFAC VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Present:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Karlsson, Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Mackey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Hurlbut, Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Keith Kemper
<i>Excused:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Boyd, Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshall Collins
TFAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Present:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Propst, Airport Manager/Airport & Ferry Administrator
<i>Excused:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nichole Weber, SHAC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Morell, Councilmember
PIERCE COUNTY STAFF	
<i>Present:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Propst, Airport Manager/Acting Airport & Ferry Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lissa Smith, Acting KPLU Airport Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Schwannecke, Office Assistant
VISITORS	
<i>Present:</i>	Approximately 9 members of the public joined in person, with approximately 5 virtual members of the public participated.

**II. Approval of Meeting Summary**

Meeting Summary – April 19, 2021

Michael Thompson submitted a letter from the meeting to be posted with the meeting minutes. Meeting minutes will be updated online.

Motion Keith Kemper and Andrew Karlsson made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes with the addition of the letter from Michael Thompson.

**III. Reports**

**O&M Report** – *Rod Propst presented a PowerPoint presentation*

- **New Hire and Limited Duration Hire:** Pierce County has three new people joining our team! Antaeus Coleman is an Extra Hire for PLU who will be focusing on ground maintenance for the summer months. Nick Frohlich is an Extra Hire for TIW who will be focusing on ground maintenance for the summer months. Troy Souza is our new Airport and Ferry Maintenance and Operation Technician who has a limited duration stay of two years and will be focusing on building and ground maintenance at both airports. Please stop and say hello if you see them working! Thompson asked how long we will have these extra hires. Propst stated no more than 6 months, and that they will most likely end around September if they are no longer needed. Propst stated that Lissa Smith has more work today than she did in 2019, the goal is to get her some extra help during the summer months.
- **Hangar Door Replacement Update:** Propst stated that the spacers that were put in the new hangar doors were made of wood rather than steel. The Deputy Prosecuting Attorney is involved and has hired extra help to figure out who is responsible and how to move forward. Propst stated that this is a high priority and Pierce County would like to get this issue fixed before the weather changes.
- **Re-roofing One Hangar Door:** Pierce County had to unexpectedly repair the Spanaflight roof. Pierce County is working with the insurance company to get reimbursement. Due to this financial setback, Pierce County plans to finish Row 4 this summer and Row 5 next summer, depending on the outcome of the reimbursement. Karlsson asked when the Spanaflight roof was blown off. Propst stated that it blew off in late Spring. Because Pierce County owns the building, they are responsible for paying for the repair. Thompson asked when Pierce County moved to outside insurance. Propst stated he was not sure the answer to that.
- **Hangar Electrical Upgrade:** Day Electric finished one row of hangars. Propst stated that we are waiting for the electrical inspector to come out and inspect the row so we can move on to the other rows. Day Electrical is having some staffing issues, so the project is taking longer than expected. A TNAAC attendee mentioned that they saw an inspection sticker on Row 4. Propst stated that Lissa Smith will be back in the office tomorrow to verify.
- **Fuel Island Status:** Pierce County was using Mad Construction for the Fuel Island; Mad Construction subbed the project out to Mascot. Pierce County is working with Mascot to get the appropriate dispensers and nozzles, and to fix the piping. Propst stated that we are getting new nozzles, and the filters with the water indication are the ones on back order. Smith checks the filters for water every day. Propst stated there will be more to follow. Virtual Attendee, Marshall, asked if all four nozzles are operational. Propst stated that all four nozzles should be operational, other than the issue with pulling them out which is getting fixed with Mascot. John Hurlbut stated that the new hoses are nice.

Airport and Ferry Administrator, Trever Threde, is writing up an official policy for determining the cost of fuel. Pierce County plans to be in the middle, not the highest or the lowest. Thompson asked if Pierce County can share its math for determining the cost of the fuel. Propst stated that this will be a public document. Propst stated that Smith surveys the nearby airports each week to determine the cost of fuel. Propst stated that the money made from the Fuel Island goes into the Airport Enterprise Fund, which comes back into Pierce County Airport – Thun Field (PLU). Keith Kemper asked why Pierce County switched fuel vendors from Epic to Campbell. Propst stated that Risk Management wanted Epic to provide

specific insurance and they would not do it, so we had to switch to Campbell. Eric Brown stated that PLU has the most expensive fuel within 50 miles. Propst stated that Smith typically adjusts fuel on Wednesdays. If it is appropriate, we'll change the fuel prices then.

Karlsson asked if there is any discussion on investing in Jet Fuel. Propst stated that there is no discussion at this time due to the cost to set up. Hurlbut stated it would not make sense until we extend the runway. Propst stated that we may not be able to get different airplanes, even with the new runway. Hurlbut stated that there is a Jet A truck on standby for helicopters and firefighters. Propst stated that they will typically bring their own tankers. Marshall asked if there is any grant money available for a tanker for firefighters. Propst stated that there may be grants other than the FAA AIP Grant.

**Noise Complaints** — *Propst continued with the PowerPoint presentation*

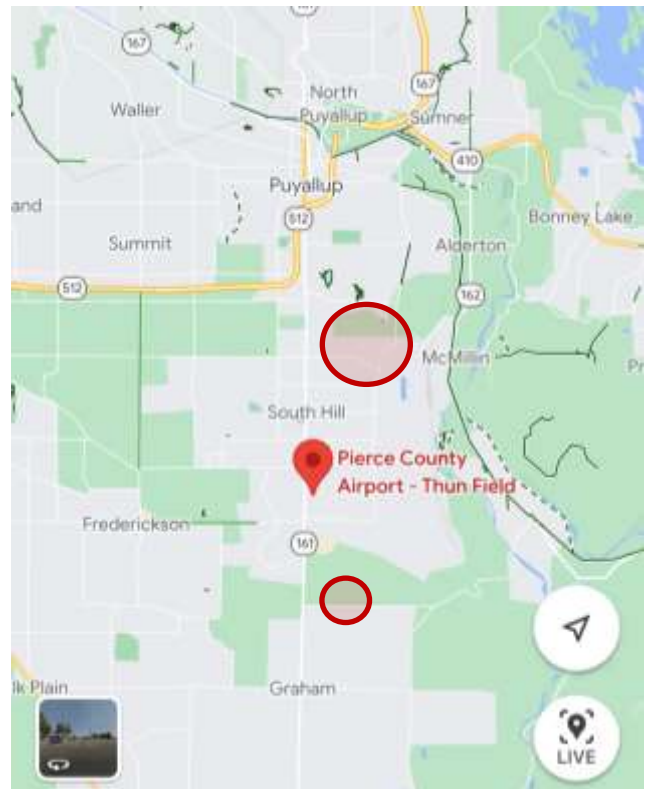
Propst stated that there were three total noise complaints since April: 107<sup>th</sup> Ave Ct E, 194<sup>th</sup> St Ct E, and 110<sup>th</sup> Ave E.

Propst stated that extending the runway will push out the noise contours. Hurlbut asked how many complaints Tacoma Narrows Airport (TIW) gets. Propst stated that they are about the same. Propst stated both airports have three busy flight schools, but PLU might be busier operationally.

**Commission Reports** – *Andrew Karlsson*

Karlsson stated that Fire and Rescue cannot let us use their fire station for these meetings.

Karlsson asked if Pierce County had any comment on Wings and Wheels. Propst stated that Threde sent a letter to the Tacoma Event Commission stating the reasons why Pierce County will not approve it. Propst stated that Pierce County is very interested in finding a new event coordinator for a future airshow. Karlsson asked if there has been discussion of an airshow at PLU. Propst stated that there has been discussion, but the parking is the limiting factor. Propst stated the open field near PLU is not PLU's property, and UHAUL is in the process of purchasing that parcel.



**Council Update** – *Councilmember Dave Morell was not present.*

**IV. Old Business** — *No Old Business to report.*

**V. New Business** — *Propst continued with the PowerPoint presentation*

**Hangar Inspections:** Hangar inspections are coming up end of July – early September. FAA regulations require that airports receiving grant funding conduct regular inspections to show that hangars/other aeronautically designated facilities on their airports have primarily an aeronautical use (see [Federal Register :: Policy on the Non-Aeronautical Use of Airport Hangars](#)).

Additionally, we'll be checking the county storage units for Fire & Life Safety compliance (fire extinguishers that are current, electrical outlets not overloaded, fire loads not excessive, etc.). PCAIRPORT emailed County Hangar Tenants to schedule inspections for County Hangars. Pierce County has asked Condo Associations to schedule the inspections for their tenants. A board member from the Condo Association will need to be present during the inspections. If a Condo hangar is not in compliance, the Condo Association will be responsible to see that all noncompliant issues are addressed. Rod Propst, Airport Manager, will be the final determinant on what does/does not pass inspection.

Thompson stated that Thun Field Flyers Condo Association has not received an email regarding Hangar Inspections from PCAIRPORT. Office Assistant, Kim Schwannecke, stated that she will resend it.

**VI. Visitors and Petitions**

An attendee asked where the Emerald Towing Signs are coming from. Propst stated that they are not coming from Pierce County, but Smith will look into it.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm  
Motion of Adjournment given by Andrew Karlsson and Keith Kemper.

<b>TO CONTACT THE THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION:</b>	
<b>regarding any items on this agenda or any other issues:</b>	
<b>Call:</b>	(253) 798-2470 (Airport Administration)
<b>Fax:</b>	(253) 798-4695
<b>Mail:</b>	Thun Field Advisory Commission 9850 – 64 <sup>th</sup> Street W. University Place, WA 98467
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:pctfac@co.pierce.wa.us">pctfac@co.pierce.wa.us</a>
<b>Submit comments online:</b>	<a href="http://www.piercecountywa.org/thunfield">www.piercecountywa.org/thunfield</a> (click on “contact us”)