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 piercecountywa.gov/ppw

THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY

January 18, 2023

A meeting of the Pierce County Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC) was held on Tuesday, January 18th, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. virtually on Zoom.

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Chair Andrew Karlsson called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Boyd, Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshall Collins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Jasmer
<i>Excused:</i>	
TFAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
<i>Present:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Propst, Airport Manager/Airport & Ferry Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Morell, Councilmember
<i>Excused:</i>	
PIERCE COUNTY STAFF	
<i>Present:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Propst, Airport Manager/Assistant Ferry Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trever Threde, Airport and 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 11 members of the public joined in person, with approximately 5 virtual members of the public participated.

II. Election of 2023 Chair and Vice Chair

John Hurlbut was nominated to be the 2023 Chair, and Andrew Karlsson was nominated to be the 2023 Vice Chair. Hurlbut and Karlsson accepted the nominations. All board members in favor. The 2023 Chair will be John Hurlbut and the 2023 Vice Chair will be Andrew Karlsson.

III. Approval of Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary – October 18, 2022

Motion John Hurlbut made motion to approve prior meeting minutes and John Boyd seconded the motion. October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes are approved.

IV. Reports

O&M Report – *Pierce County presented a PowerPoint presentation*

- **Hangar Door Replacement Status:** Rod Propst stated that we are completing plans for construction on the legal side of things. Once the legal complications finalize, Pierce County’s engineering group will validate plans; as soon as that is approved we will go to construction. Propst stated it will most likely be a few months before the construction will be started. This will be a temporary fix, lasting approximately ten years. Eventually, there will be permanent doors; the temporary fix will allow us to get the doors fixed as soon as possible. The temporary fix includes attaching the doors to the rood and attaching a cable system. Trever Threde stated that there is a legal proceeding going on right now so we cannot go into too many more details until that is completed. Eric Brown asked who would be responsible for aircrafts damaged from the current hangar doors. Threde stated that Pierce County Risk Management can process claims, and the Pierce County Airport & Ferry Division can explain that process if needed.
- **Hangar Electrical Upgrade:** Smith stated that one of the five rows getting electrical upgrades is complete with new wiring, which includes ten hangars and two storage units. Smith is working with a new contractor to complete the remaining four rows. We are hoping to start the first of February. Threde stated that the time it took to complete one row was longer than anticipated due to losing the original contractor. Threde said that he does not expect the remaining rows to take nearly as long to complete. Rod Wetherbee asked why we lost the contractor. Threde stated it was a performance issue and that they did not have enough staff. Wetherbee stated that the County should have some standards for contractors to prevent this from happening in the future.
- **Fuel Island Updates & Fuel Pricing Policy:** Smith stated that the Fuel Island has had some glitches. Smith stated that several parts have gotten new programing, and everything seems to be working now. Threde stated that the Fuel Pricing Policy has been finalized and signed by the Director of Planning and Public Works. The Policy describes how we decide the price of fuel, and who we use to compare prices with. Threde stated that we try to stay in the middle of our competitors.
- **Airport Area Overlay Signage:** Eight new signs have been installed along the edges of the Airport Overlay Zone. The goal of these signs is to help inform future residents that the area they are considering moving to is an Aviation Area.



Noise Complaints — *Smith continued with the PowerPoint presentation*

Smith stated that there have been four reported noise complaints since October 2022, most of which are downwind. One was from Sheriff activities, and another was from a student making room for someone else in the pattern. An attendee asked if it is the same party that has been complaining over the years. Propst stated that there are some people who regularly report noise.

Commission Reports – *John Hurlbut*

Craig Jasmer has filled the Airport User vacancy! We still have a Graham Community Resident position vacant. Please email pcairport@piercecounitywa.gov if you're interested.

Council Update – *Councilmember Dave Morell*

Councilmember Morell stated that there is a new chair on the Council, Councilmember Mellow. Councilmember Morell also stated that Pierce County is in the process of completing our Biennial Budget for 2024 and 2025.

V. Old Business — *Pierce County continued with the PowerPoint*

Security Gates: Threde stated that we have received the endorsement of the TFAC for closing the gates. Threde stated that the next step will be updating the equipment. Threde stated that this change will also go to the Executive's Office and then to the Council for final approval. There will not be any immediate changes, but you may see contractors coming to give quotes and update the equipment. Hurlbut asked if this change will impact both airports. Trever stated yes, the goal will be to update the gates at both airports and close the gates at both airports. Propst stated that Pierce County would also like to put cameras on the gates at both airports. Eric Brown asked if the same gate code will work at both airports. Threde stated that it will work at both airports if you are a tenant at both airports. Karlsson asked if there will be additional security patrolling the airports. Threde stated that there is a security vendor that Pierce County uses currently to patrol both properties. Wetherbee suggested a solar powered electric fence called Amarak; if someone tries to cut the fence, an alarm will go off. Smith stated she can look into that option. Michael Thompson asked if we should have Council Approval before doing anything further. Threde stated that we will not shut the gates as a policy without Council approval, but improving the equipment is overdue and we are currently working with an unreliable gate; therefore, we do not see an issue with starting to improve the gates while waiting for Council approval. Eric Brown asked why the Sheriff cannot patrol the airport. Threde stated that the cost is significant and they would likely turn it down due to staffing.

VI. New Business — *Pierce County continued with the PowerPoint presentation*

Runway Rehab and Extension Project: Propst stated that Pierce County is in the process of completing the FAA environmental assessment for the Runway Rehab and Extension Project. Propst stated that we are anticipating the project to be started in the summer of 2026. There are currently no concrete plans for timing and phasing, but airport users should plan for at least a 60-90 day shut down. Propst stated that Pierce County will provide airport users with more information as soon as we have it. Wetherbee asked if there will be any tax abatements for the businesses on the field. Wetherbee stated that 40-50 employees may be laid off due to this construction, and 3 flight schools who will not be able to operate. Propst stated that there has not been rent or tax abatement historically. Propst stated we can look into any accommodations that Tacoma Narrows Airport may be able to provide. Propst stated that we will be able to have

alternate taxi routes once certain parts are completed. Wetherbee asked if this project could happen in the winter months. Propst stated that it will not happen in the winter months due to the weather conditions. Propst stated the reason why it is being discussed now is so that airport users can know in advance and start planning. Thompson asked if there will be an economic payback to the landlocked businesses. Threde stated there is currently not a plan for an economic payback.

Thun Field Master Plan Adoption: Threde stated that the Master Plan is now complete, and he will be presenting it to Council; the Master Plan includes the Runway Rehab and Extension Project. Threde stated that this is an opportunity for anyone to make a final comment regarding the Master Plan, before it is taken to council. Threde stated that the Master Plan is available on the website. Threde stated that any additional comments can be emailed to pcairport@piercecounywa.gov.

VII. Visitors and Petitions

Karlsson asked who is responsible for the tree area by Meridian, and stated there was discussion about a Uhaul facility. Threde stated that Uhaul owns the land. An attendee stated that there are camps setting up there. Hurlbut suggested clearing out the brush and making it more open. Hurlbut asked if we can reach out to the owner; Threde stated yes. Councilmember Morell stated that Deputy Pippin has broken up the camps in the past.

John Boyd asked for an update on the AWOS. Smith stated that she’s looking at getting a new modem, but that the AWOS is working on the radio and phone.

Wetherbee stated that Safety in Motion is looking for an airplane mechanic if anyone knows someone looking for a job.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM
Motion of Adjournment given by Karlsson, Hurbult seconded.

TO CONTACT THE THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION:	
regarding any items on this agenda or any other issues:	
Call:	(253) 798-2470 (Airport Administration)
Fax:	(253) 798-4695
Mail:	Thun Field Advisory Commission 9850 – 64 th Street W. University Place, WA 98467
Email:	pcairport@piercecounywa.gov
Submit comments online:	www.piercecounywa.org/thunfield (click on “contact us”)