

**THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
*MEETING SUMMARY*

May 21, 2019

A meeting of the Pierce County Thun Field Advisory Commission (TFAC) was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Civil Air Patrol building, Thun Field, 16915 – 103rd Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98374.

**I. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair Doug Miller called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Members introduced themselves.

TFAC VOTING MEMBERS	
Present:	Doug Miller, Chair John Hurlbut, Vice Chair Mike Thompson Marshall Collins Keith Kemper Andrew Karlsson Lyle Sindlinger
Excused:	
TFAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Present:	Nichole Weber, SHAC; Councilmember Dave Morell
Excused:	
PIERCE COUNTY STAFF	
Present:	Debi Ross, Cindy Willis
VISITORS	
Present:	Twelve members of the public signed the attendance sheet.

**II. Approval of Meeting Summaries**

Motion (Kemper/Sindlinger) passed unanimously to approve the January 15, 2019 meeting summary as amended.

**III. Visitors and Petitions**

1. Paul Stueve, Asst. Chief with Central Pierce Fire & Rescue, spoke on behalf of Chief Olson regarding the pole building. The chief wants to be engaged with this committee whether annually or otherwise. We learned about gaps in the process on the pole building, including the gap between PALS' permitting and the FAA. When we met with the FAA, we tried to meet their expectations as quickly as possible. We understand there's a Master Plan and we

want to be good neighbors to accommodate future growth. Keith Kemper said eventually we want to develop the east side which would involve a taxiway and would tie into Clover Park; who should we work with at the fire department? Either Chief Olson or the Asst. Chief would be the point of contact. Mike Thompson thanked the Asst. Chief for attending and expressing Chief Olson's thoughts. Marshall Collins asked about the FAA report; Asst. Chief Stueve said he'd be happy to provide copies of the FAA's letters. Doug Miller said he forwarded a report that said the building was intrusive, but not a hazard.

2. Rod Wetherbee, SIM, said what was done to cure the hangar roof was insufficient; they didn't remove the sheet metal or wrap it over the edge, so it will continue to leak. He provided clarification on the fuel concession: SpanaFlight had said specifically that there would be a discount; Doug Miller agreed. Rod said they haven't received any discounts yet, although the prices are the lowest in the area now; Doug said he's working on the discount and expects the problem should be fixed this week. Doug said spill kits are in and will be placed by Jay Simons; SpanaFlight purchased them. There are three kits for each end of the hangar (Row 4) in case of a spill.
3. Ed Hrivnak, with Central Pierce Fire, used to attend TFAC meetings on a regular basis; his career is winding down. He operates aircraft that require Jet A fuel. He wanted hangar space and Jet A fuel, but had to go to the Auburn Airport to find both. He's pushed for Jet A fuel for search and rescue. If we had a Jet A fuel concession, other operators would be coming here, too.

Doug Miller said he's been talking to the County about Jet A and looking into getting a truck; the cost would be almost \$400,000 for a fuel farm. The biggest issue is creating a containment area if there were a spill. Either a concrete barrier or polyethylene container is available, but they may not meet County Code. The insurance for taking a truck offsite to the Port and back with hazardous material makes it cost prohibitive. We're talking to Toby and the County Exec about how to get that done. The 5,000-gallon truck is ready if we can do it; he hopes to find a solution. Andrew Karlsson reiterated the need for jet fuel; he envisions tourist flights to Mt. Rainier. There could be a whole host of aircraft coming here for fuel; it's costly, but the County has spent money on other things which aren't as good an investment as Jet A would be. Doug Miller said emergency services need Jet A – that's the tipping point for Pierce County. Having to fly another 20 minutes to Tacoma Narrows cuts into operational capability for rescue or firefighting. Sgt. Chris Adamson said we've had three wildfires already this season. Lyle Sindlinger asked about whether the Master Plan includes Jet A fuel; it does.

#### **IV. Reports**

- Dennis Hanberg, Planning & Public Works Director, introduced Debi Ross, Interim Administrator. Many ferry issues occurred during Debi's first weeks, including a broken ferry landing, drydock company going broke, the Christine Anderson trying to leave the dock without untying, and the sprinkler system going off on the boat. We want to reboot and look at how best to set up Airport & Ferry administration. At budget time last year, we got approval to move forward with an assistant administrator position in addition to the administrator. We're ready to go into the 2020-2021 budget and will work on the capital improvement plan with Jet A at top of the list, although not immediately. Toby Rickman is working on that.

Debi Ross is a 21-year employee with Planning & Public Works; she has a master's in Public Administration, a black belt in LEAN, does strategic planning and process improvement, and knows a lot about County processes. She's enthusiastic about improvements, but also knows there are regulations to follow; she's trying to learn that balance. She's here to keep the lights on and keep things moving. She's not an airport expert, but she's learning.

O&M Report – Debi reported that the elk are gone, the missing fence section has been replaced, and the damaged fence repaired; call her if you see the elk again. The USDA has come out with infrared at night and has seen no elk. The north gate repairs are finished; let us know if it's not working. The roof project has been in a holding pattern with the contractor as we waited for rain. This past week it rained and the leaks still need repair. We've notified the contractor, then will check again after another attempt at repair. We're withholding funds until the leaks are proven to be fixed. Rod Wetherbee (Wayne's Roofing owner) explained warranties. The specs called for a 20-year manufacturing and labor warranty. A material warranty replaces defective products, but not installation. A roof is only as good as the contractor; he needs to be bonded for 20 years. His concern is that the roofing was run to the edge of the roof with metal on top; if it leaks, it'll go underneath and be worse than before. Rod said the sheet metal was lapped the wrong direction; the bucking lap was on the upslope side. Rod recommended the County get a roof consultant and have them inspect and back-charge the contractor. Doug Miller asked about getting consultant names; Debi will find out. Rod Wetherbee said the roof needs to be installed to industry standards.

Debi said we received the FAA letter about the fire department building being a non-hazard. We're working to get extra hires for the summer (to do mowing, weed-eating, heavy lifting, painting the runway and taxiway, doing generator repair and service, replacing windows for County hangars). We're working with NW Cascade regarding the water leak; they found a small leak, but that doesn't explain why water bills are so high. Mike Thompson suggested we check whether the water meter is accurate.

Debi said we're waiting for FAA approval for the Facility Requirements chapter in the Master Plan; we expect work to be finished by early 2020, and then the document will go to the FAA for final approval on their schedule.

Debi said the Finance group sent a letter to hangar tenants requiring current Certificates of Insurance. If we haven't received yours, another letter will come out soon.

Doug Miller welcomed Debi; he appreciates her coming. Doug asked about an airshow at PLU. Debi said unfortunately there's not enough support on the field for an airshow; the Tacoma Events Commission couldn't reach an agreement, so it's not happening this year. Doug Fratoni won't attempt one here for the foreseeable future. Mike Thompson said it's better to hold off until enough planning is done; Doug agreed. He'd like an airshow here, but not done haphazardly. Doug said you can organize a fly-in just about any time; an airshow is more complex. We don't have the space and the nearby residential area limits our ability in that regard.

Doug said he's received six calls from new residents in the area about noise and traffic patterns. Dennis Hanberg said we heard the same thing last week at TIW questioning the difference in flight patterns and hours of operation for night landings for schools. It's a

good reminder to FBOs and pilots to be more considerate of the neighbors. Doug noted that later in the summer, our night hours go later waiting for dark. Rod said in 2011, someone complained weekly; we offered to take them on a flight, but they declined to go and haven't called since. Doug said he invited the complainants to come down to the airport and see how it works; they declined. Marshall wondered what's the geographic location in the south practice area. Rod said we must submit to the FAA where the training area is and can't arbitrarily deviate from it. Marshall said it's a safety issue for pilots; they want to be able to make it back to the airport. Doug said new housing is filling up with residents. John Hurlbut suggested a flyer to explain flight patterns to residents. Doug said that realtors are telling people that an airport exists, but probably not in detail.

Mike Thompson asked about commission vacancies not being filled. What is the current thought process of the Exec in filling these? Dennis said the Exec has been short-handed; Maia Espinoza is the new Director of Constituent Services, which includes managing Boards and Commissions. She's looking at the 30-38 commissions, each with different terms, criteria for members, etc.; she's taking some thoughtful time to get things up and running. Planning & Public Works has 8-9 different boards. The intent is to get positions filled and meet the objectives of the Code that established them. Dennis said we're looking at minor Code issues and may amend it; having various residential criteria for TFAC members makes filling vacancies challenging, so if we open the Code for other changes, that would also be a worthy discussion. Mike said the online roster needs updating. Rod Wetherbee suggested an overlap in commissions might provide unity between airports.

- Commission Reports  
None.

**V. New Business**

- Rod Wetherbee said the Hangar Inn is closed; Top Gun Bar & Grill will be coming in its place—they're waiting to finish plans and hope to be up and running by July 4. Rod wasn't sure what the menu will include; stay tuned.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

<b>TO CONTACT THE THUN FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION regarding any items on this agenda or any other issues:</b>	
<b>Call:</b>	(253) 798-7250 (Airport Administration)
<b>Fax:</b>	(253) 798-2740
<b>Mail:</b>	Thun Field Advisory Commission 2702 South 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 201 Tacoma, WA 98409-7322
<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")