

Meeting Minutes
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee
May 27, 2025
6:15 P.M.
Seaside City Hall

Call to order

Roll Call – Present: Randall Henderson, Paul Stull, Chris Binnicker, Joyce Hunt, Bruce Francis, Roy Bennett, William Walthour. Absent: Sharon Kloepfer (excused)

Guests – Mike Nealon, Jeff Gage, Michael Lewis

Approve minutes from previous meeting - Unanimous

Additions to the agenda – Added committee policy and bylaws, under Regulatory Review

Committee

Open committee position – discussed the need to fill the open position and the importance of diverse representation vs. just pilots, as per the city's ordinance.

Comments from the floor

Mike Nealon, emergency manager for Clatsop County, discussed the upcoming ODART (Oregon Disaster Readiness Team) which involves coordinating volunteer pilots to transport supplies and medical aid. The exercise will take place at multiple locations including Astoria and Seaside airports, with activities divided into two parts: paperwork and resource requests on June 7th, and actual plane landings and supply deployments on June 14th. Members expressed support, BF emphasized the importance of issuing NOTAMS to ensure pilot awareness.

Infrastructure / Improvements / Funding

City funded / airport budget – \$12-15K budgeted for various projects, see below (maintenance)

State funding – COAR recommended projects (PMP now 2026) – Obstruction removal and N. and NW perimeter fencing are still recommended priorities for COAR grant application (October).

Federal & CIP – RH and PS have had contact with FAA ADO regarding any potential future grants; will follow up but currently no funding available

Hangars – No updates

Grants / Port / Other – No updates

Maintenance / Safety / Security

Airside – North windsock still out, discussed logistics of relocating the pole closer to the taxiway for easier access while maintaining appropriate distance for aircraft. RH noted that several runway edge lights are out.

Groundskeeping – Weeds are getting bad in cracks on the taxiways/parking ramp; work plan includes wetland-safe herbicide spraying. Runway lights getting obscured by tall grass; city and volunteers will mow/weed-eat; meanwhile PS is looking into recycled rubber mats designed to go around lights and keep them visible.

Condition of gates, locks, fencing, signage – auto gate has a break due to rust, on the city's work plan to fix.

Obstructions – Tall brush removal still needed particularly off the north end for safety. In the city's work plan for this summer.

Debris – Pavements are clear of driftwood, grass areas still have some but mostly cleared away. Discussed methods for mitigating driftwood during high water events. RH suggested prioritizing hydrology study in CIP considering effects of sea level rise that are already evident.

Operations

Local – The usual. Some activity from Astoria flight school noted.

Visitors / logs – Memorial day was surprisingly slow but other times surprisingly less so

Commercial, charters, air tours, military, emergency response – nothing observed

Services / Promotion / Events

Shed, bikes and amenities are all looking good. Joyce is making sure the visitors brochures are stocked and up-to-date. Someone called the city re. Fly-camping on the airport, and the history of that was discussed, i.e. over many years the committee advocated for allowing temporary tent-camping by fly-in

visitors as is common at airports like ours. However the current environment around camping makes that problematic so it's not currently a goal of the committee. Still it remains desirable for some day if practicable as it would make the airport more attractive to some visitors.

RH noted that our cameras are now viewable from ForeFlight, which is the leading flight planning app for pilots. This is in addition to our website and weathercams.faa.gov.

EAA chapter 105 poker run is September 13 – committee agreed to host the poker run and follow the same flexible weather-based protocol as previous years. That is, plan for 3 different scenarios: lunch and put out the welcome mat, or just some snacks, or us and a pizza; we'll watch the weather and choose one close to the event. RH will coordinate.

Regulatory Review

Committee Policy, Bylaws – Council has asked committees to review the city's proposed committee policy and create or update their bylaws. Discussed the committee's current functions, including safety oversight, maintenance, and participation in project definition and grant applications. BF asked about review of committee minutes by the City Council, which CB clarified is not currently part of the standard process. The group agreed to hold another meeting to further discuss policy updates and bylaws between now and the next regular meeting.

Touched on the issue of accepting donations, considering whether to form a separate nonprofit organization or how else to align current practice with city policy. Christine clarified that any funds will need to be administered by the city; will follow up with how we can make that work, permissions needed or possible, etc.

Dates

Next COAR grant application period October 2025

Next airport meeting Tuesday July 22, 2025 - at the airport

Committee member reports & good of the order

Puget Sound Antique Aircraft Club (PSAAC) will be arriving at KAST on Monday, July 14 th. EAA Chapter 1696 will be hosting them for lunch.

Adjourned, at 8:17pm.