

CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

April 16, 2010

During the past several months we have continued to work with the Port Authority to get FAA funding for airport improvements involving the approach to Runway 26. As you will recall, the current approach is limited due to sight distance and often times Kenmore Airlines has to use the approach to the west which increases their costs. Several local organizations submitted letters of support to the FAA over the past week and I have attached a letter from the Chamber as well as a letter that I sent last week.

This week Glenn Cutler and I met with Karen Gustin and her staff to work through a number of details about the opening of Hurricane Ridge Road next winter. There are several federal funding requests that are pending so we do not have any final funding in place to open the road seven days a week. However, we discussed a number of related issues including how to market the road being opened additional days and how to measure if we are successful in attracting additional visitors as a result of the road opening. I believe that marketing will be critical if we are going to show visitor demand to support the continued road opening past a three year trial period. I also believe that we need to complement the road opening with other winter activities so that visitors will have other interests to keep them in our community for several days. This might include winter festivals, lighting of additional key buildings, an ice skating rink or other new attraction.

The Outdoor Adventure Expo last weekend in Victoria went well and we attracted a lot of interest in our booth that was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Our focus was marketing the many assorted outdoor activities throughout the Olympic Peninsula. We also did a lot of listening to the comments from the residents who stopped by our booth. Many of them have visited this area in the past and shared their experiences with us. Many other attendees are considering a visit and the information that we offered seemed to spark their interest. We are currently reviewing our notes from this activity and in the next week we should have some action steps identified on how we can attract additional visitors from the Victoria area.

The next week will very busy with three Council meetings over a four day period. Please call me if you have any questions about any of these meetings.

- Kent Myers



April 5, 2010

Mrs. Carol Suomi, Manager
Norwest Mountain Region
Federal Aviation Administration
Seattle Airport District Office
1601 Lind Avenues S.W. Suite 250
Renton, Washington 98057-3356

Re: William R. Fairchild International Airport

Dear Mrs. Suomi:

It is our understanding that the Port of Port Angeles has requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implement a LPV approach to Runway 26 at William R. Fairchild International Airport. I wanted to let you know that the City supports this request for a number of reasons. First of all, this approach will improve the safety of air passengers utilizing the airport. Second, the approach will reduce operational costs for commercial and general aviation user and provide an environmental benefit by reducing hydrocarbon emissions. Reduction of operational costs for the commercial carrier will help insure their financial stability which is critical to the economic development efforts of our community.

As you know, the City of Port Angeles owns Lincoln Park which is adjacent to the airport. We understand that there are certain trees that will need to be removed at the park in order to establish a safe and sustainable non-precision approach to Runway 26. I wanted to make sure that you were aware that the City and the Port have been working together for the past three years to resolve the challenges of obstructions to Lincoln Park.

At our recent meetings we have agreed that the Port needs to better define the obstruction issue so that the City can fully understand the long range impact to the park. We have also agreed that the City and the Port need to work closely together to develop a new Master Plan for Lincoln Park so that this facility can continue to be enjoyed by our local residents. This planning effort will include an extensive public involvement process that will help to establish what park amenities will be compatible to the airport in the future and how these amenities will be funded and maintained. It will also include a specific plan for tree removal needed to meet the future needs of the airport. Once this plan is developed and approved by our Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commission, and the City Council, the City and the Port will then negotiate an avigation easement at a fair value for the right to access the park and clear obstructions.

Phone: 360-417-4500 / **Fax:** 360-417-4509 / **TTY:** 360-417-4645

Website: www.cityofpa.us / **Email:** citymanager2@cityofpa.us

321 East Fifth Street - P.O. Box 1150 / Port Angeles, WA 98362-0217

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Re: William R. Fairchild International Airport

The City of Port Angeles has a strong interest in enhancing the use of Lincoln Park for our local residents. We also have a strong interest in sustaining commercial passenger service at the airport with a new approach. We believe that both of these goals can be accomplished by working together in partnership with FAA. With this in mind, we are anxious to meet with you and your staff to discuss how we can move this process forward. Please contact Doug Sandau, Airport and Marina Manager with the Port to schedule a meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kent Myers
City Manager

Cc: City Council
G. Cutler / Public Works & Utilities Director
N. West / Community & Economic Development Director



121 East Railroad Ave. Port Angeles, Washington 98362
360-452-2363

Carol Suomi
Federal Aviation Administration
Northwest Mountain Region
Seattle Airports District Office
1601 Lind Avenue, S.W., Suite 250
Renton, WA 98057-3356

Subject: Commercial Air Service to Clallam County

Dear Mrs. Suomi;

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has made substantial commitments in promoting safety as well as the commercial viability of the William R. Fairchild International Airport and our community certainly appreciates these efforts.

The Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization on the Olympic Peninsula with over 500 members. We understand the wants and needs of the business community and a viable and reliable airport is critical. The Olympic Peninsula is a region without rail service, a limited highway system and is heavily reliant upon the Washington State Ferry system and the Hood Canal Bridge. In many respects the Olympic Peninsula is quite similar to what communities living on an island must experience. Commercial passenger air service is critical to our economic vitality with connection into the national transportation system.

Since the late 1990's our community has witnessed its share of airline turnover's beginning with Harbor Air, San Juan Air, Horizon Air, return of San Juan Air, and currently for the past 6 ½ years Kenmore Air. An economic study conducted by the Washington State Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division July 2001 showed that an airline serving Clallam County provides very positive and significant economic impact to the entire area. Results of an even more recent airline market study conducted in by Mead and Hunt cautioned, "If Port Angeles were to lose airline service there are no guarantees that another airline provider would be available to take its place".

We understand that making improvements to the approach of runway 26 will significantly reduce operational costs for Kenmore Air and provide a much better customer experience when flying into William R. Fairchild International Airport. Direct access during low visibility is sited as the central issue, with our understanding that trees in Lincoln Park now inhibit the airlines ability to take full advantage of approach procedures commonly used at many commercial airports. It is generally understood locally and widely supported by the general populous that removing obstruction trees in Lincoln Park is paramount to resolving this issue, and if not corrected, easily could threaten future air service to our area. Citizen support for making these improvements is strong and it is our hope that the FAA, as it has in the past, continues to make every effort in supporting the Port of Port Angeles as it endeavors to provide a viable economic operating platform for its commercial air carriers. Our community would suffer harsh economic impacts should we lose the commercial carriers.

Respectfully,

Russell J. Veenema
Executive Director

CC: Port of Port Angeles