

**Marin County Aviation Commission  
Minutes of August 4, 2016 Meeting  
7pm - Planning Chambers  
Marin Civic Center, San Rafael, CA**

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**Commissioners Present at Roll Call:** Richard Nave, Zev Rattet,  
Douglas Watt, Humphrey Ogg

**Commissioners Absent at Roll Call:** Lou Franecke, Marius Nelsen,  
Richard Beach

**Staff Present:** Dan Jensen (Airport Manager)  
Ann Hearty (Recording Secretary)

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**Chair Ogg gaveled the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.**

1. Mr. Ogg started with two announcements regarding the Liaison Committee. He asked to make the motion to dissolve any committee under Article 7, then wished to appoint an ad hoc Liaison Committee with the same commissioners and privisos as put forth on April 7, 2016, that is not a standing committee.

{Commissioner Nelsen took his place at the dais.}

He requested public comment. Public comment 1 asked who the members of the new committee were. Chair Ogg responded it was himself and Vice Chair Franecke. Public comment 2 wanted to know the purpose of the committee. Mr. Ogg read from the minutes of April 7, 2016, which stated that the purpose was to gather information from and interact with, facilitate, and present information for special public interest groups, public agencies, government agencies, as well as other commissions and outside agencies, including the press and the general public. He noted that as it is now proposed as an ad hoc committee, it does not have to report back to the Commission at each meeting.

**M/s: Rattet/Watt** to dissolve the previous Liaison Committee and approve the ad hoc Liaison Committee

**Vote:**       **Aye – Nave, Nelsen, Ogg, Rattet, Watt**  
                  **Nay – None**  
                  **Abstain - None**

**Motion Passed, 5-0**

2. Minutes of the June 2, 2016 Meeting

Chair Ogg asked if the commissioners had a chance to review the minutes. Mr. Nave asked that Item 5c be credited to himself, not Commissioner Beach. Mr. Ogg asked that the last sentence of Item 5a read "conjoint effort between FAA and proprietor of the Airport." Mr. Franecke asked Chair Ogg to distribute article 5190.6b to the Commission in his absence, which Mr. Ogg augmented with the July 2016 article from [www.ainonline.com](http://www.ainonline.com). Mr. Rattet indicated Vice Chair Franecke's submission was to refute Mr. Beach's conclusion regarding the authority on aviation safety concerns. The Chair asked for any comment from the public. Public comment 1 wanted to know if Commissioner Beach may respond to the changes proposed to 5a at the next meeting. Chair Ogg confirmed he may.

**M/s: Rattet/Watt** to approve the minutes as amended

**Vote: Aye – Nave, Nelsen, Ogg, Rattet, Watt**

**Nay – None**

**Abstain - None**

**Motion Passed, 5-0**

### 3. Airport Manager's Report and Comments

- a. Mr. Jensen said there had been no incidents or accidents since the last meeting. He indicated that the Airport sign blew over on June 23, but thankfully, the only damage was to the sign. He stated he would look into the cost of having it replaced.
- b. The Airport Manager reported that the AWOS system was installed and commissioned on July 29. He noted that the final amount of the upgrade was \$94,000. He relayed that the Pavement Management and Maintenance Plan (PMMP) was completed and cost \$75,000. He mentioned the County was still working on the crack seal project and expected the ramp area will be completed by the end of summer. He stated that the new taxiway signs were installed on July 14 and pilots are now calling out their actual exit, which is a safety improvement.

Chair Ogg asked for any comment from the public. Public comment 1 and Public comment 2 both expressed that sometimes the AWOS doesn't connect – it just rings and rings; and at other times, the volume seems low and it's hard to understand. Commissioner Nelsen agreed that the connection and recorded information was sketchy in the beginning, but it now has settled in just fine.

4. Unfinished Business

Chair Ogg asked if there was any unfinished business to address and seeing none, closed the item.

5. New Business

Chair Ogg said he had spent some time at Gness reaching out to the public, facilitating dialog, and gathering more information from the tenants and users. He wanted to point out that economically, Marin was a very tough place to attract and retain mechanics. He wanted to recognize Scanlon Aviation's success under challenging conditions. He acknowledged the letter sent by Jeff Rothman of Direct Avionics and his concern that the Airport property was looking shabby. Mr. Ogg reported that the Airport Manager would have crews out next week to tidy up and that Mr. Rothman was pleased with the response. The Chair also mentioned that Robert Ragozzino's Spirit of St. Louis II has generated interest and school groups were coming out to Gness to take a look. He thanked Susan Royce and the 99s for the brochure they created, as well as printing up the Gness Field Economic Impact Analysis Report (prepared by the Marin Economic Forum) and Ken Mercer's article in the Marin IJ. He stated that all the efforts to promote the Airport were much appreciated.

Commissioner Watt asked if the particulate from the neighboring fill project had been addressed. Mr. Jensen reported that the landowner was now using water trucks to keep the particulate out of the air.

6. Aviation Commissioners Reports and Comments

Chair Ogg asked the Airport Manager to update the Commission by documenting and following up on the Commission's official goals for 2016-2018:

Goal 1 – Review and monitor the County's efforts for the proposed Gness Field runway and taxiway extension – Mr. Jensen reported that on June 2, the FAA conducted a public meeting on this subject, comments were taken by the FAA, and it is expected a decision will be received in August. Public comment asked if they will revise the working paper. Mr. Jensen reported that the FAA will be in touch.

Goal 2 – Continue to review and monitor safety considerations of aviation activities within the County of Marin – Mr. Jensen

commented that the Wildlife Hazard Assessment was completed in May and the report should be received on August 5, which will determine whether Gross will require a plan.

Goal 3 – Continue to support increased community awareness of the importance of aviation and the Gross Field Airport in approved manners as approved by the Commission – Mr. Jensen stated there was a public open house schedule for October 22. Public comment added there would be a dinner in Scanlon Aviation’s hangar on October 23.

Goal 4 – Review and monitor aviation-related business at Gross Field and the County of Marin – Mr. Jensen said the Spirit of St. Louis II was up and running, making progress. He also reported that Scanlon will be expanding their office space for flight instruction.

Goal 5 – Gather and analyze information on the current status of the terms of all new and renewable leases at Gross Field Airport to recommend and update a new leasing policy – Mr. Jensen summarized the process of going through each of the existing leases and his intent to bring a policy recommendation before the Commission for their discussion

Chair Ogg asked if there was any public comment regarding staff progress on the goals. Public comment stated that if leases become 30-day, a lot of people would leave. The Airport Manager reported there were many people on the field that had been in 30-day leases for over 20 years. Commissioner Watt asked if business leases would convert to 30-day after the first year. Mr. Jensen said these were possibilities, but just another option available to the Commission. Mr. Watt followed up if it was an option to offer a three year lease. Mr. Jensen reiterated that all options were on the table and Commissioner Rattet asked why tenants would be concerned if the Commission can recommend any option. Chair Ogg reinforced that each FAA assurance lasts 20 years and Gross is obligated to honor those commitments.

## 7. Open Time

Public comment said that in 2013, the Livermore Airport approved close to a \$6 million upgrade from the enterprise fund and stated it included new bathrooms, replacement fuel tanks,

new hangars with amenities, and 45-year leases. Public comment also suggested Marin's coming runway extension be evaluated in terms of a complete project, such as was done in Livermore. He produced a handout he asked to be forwarded to the Department of Public Works and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Ogg commented that he had a handout himself and referred again to the July 2016 article from [www.ainonline.com](http://www.ainonline.com) which outlines the appropriate use of hangars and how FAA funding may and may not be used in such matters.

8. Adjourn

**M/s Nelsen/Watt** to adjourn the meeting

**Vote: Aye –Nave, Nelsen, Ogg, Rattet, Watt**

**Nay – None**

**Abstain - None**

**Motion Passed 5-0**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.