

Public Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2009
7:00 PM at Flathead High School

October 2009

Citizens' Committee for the Regulation of City Airport Noise and Safety

It is the goal of this meeting to provide the citizens of Kalispell who are affected by the City Airport with a political voice. To gather information and stories of airport related problems. For more information call 752-1523.

Mission Statement

Advocating quietness and safety in central Kalispell through community regulation and control of the City Airport.

Montana Constitution – Preamble. First sentence:

“We the people of Montana, grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state.....”

Purpose

To provide citizens a political voice in decisions regarding the City Airport

Belief Statements

1. We believe that citizens of Kalispell should have a role in the regulation and control of City Airport, and that authority for the airport should remain local. Local authority will be relinquished to the federal government if the planned expansion takes place. Therefore, the expansion must not take place.
2. We believe that since the City of Kalispell is growing, and that development around the airport has taken place, there is insufficient space for emergency landings. Some pilots refer to this as insufficient "crash zones". Therefore, the aviation activity at the airport should be decreasing, not increasing.
3. We believe currently there is insufficient authority, regulation and control of the airport regarding flight paths, frequency, noise and altitude. There is no representative of the city at the airport to answer calls or complaints. (With an airport expansion, *the city would lose all control.*)
4. Citizens in central Kalispell are entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their property and it is the city's job to maintain peace and quiet. This peace and quiet extends to *noise sensitive areas* including: schools, senior apartments, historic properties, churches, and those who work at home.
5. We believe that lack of information and mis-information may lead the city to make decisions regarding the airport that are not in the best public interest or the best use of resources. For example who has told council members that the FAA regulates noise, when they don't? Who has told police officers that our noise ordinance doesn't apply to aircraft, when it does? Who is seeking to undo our noise ordinance (city code 19-10) without stating the reason, which is to relinquish airport control to the federal government? Who has told the city council that our noise ordinance (city code 19-10) won't stand up to a Supreme Court challenge, thereby *usurping the authority of the court?* We believe there should be a public investigation to the source of this mis-information.
6. We believe that with the growth of Glacier International Airport that all commercial, practice and training flights are *unnecessary* and should be regulated/zoned *out of the city*; and that the city should adopt a "minimum and emergency use" policy for the city airport to protect the citizen's peace and quiet.

7. We believe that before making irreversible decisions that the city should consider multiple options. Therefore, before turning the city airport over to the federal government, we believe the city should undertake a feasibility study to explore the potential for other uses of airport property including commercial, residential, and recreational use. This study should be undertaken and made public before any more changes are made, or resources are spent on the airport.
8. We believe that there has been an effort to subvert the public interest vis-à-vis the attempt to change the city's code 19-10 regarding noise (disturbance of the peace) and that there should be an investigation into wrong doing.
9. We believe that it is ill mannered, uncivil and socially unacceptable for pilots to disturb local residents when there is the alternative option of using Glacier International Airport. (In fact, Glacier International Airport is seeking more aircraft activity.)
10. We believe that it is unnecessary for the city to maintain an airport for the convenience of pilots from Big Fork, Lakeside or other communities.

In conclusion:

The squeaky wheel gets the grease. In the past the aviation community (many from Bigfork) have had disproportionate influence on decision-making regarding the City Airport. It is the goal of this committee to provide the citizens of Kalispell who are affected by the Airport with a political voice.

Did you know?

- That the City Airport is an "uncontrolled field" and that there is no instrumental monitoring of noise, altitude, flight paths, or who comes and goes?
- That the only safety improvements of the proposed expansion are the removal of the towers and better taxi-ing area.
- That the proposed expansion would facilitate many larger, faster and noisier planes than use the airport now?
- There is no city office at the airport with a person to answer calls and complaints?
- That the citizens (city) hold control of airport activity through zoning ground activities and that with a proposed expansion the citizens would lose all control.
- That the city investment in airport expansion pertains mostly to land acquisition and runway improvements and is not "lost" if expansion is stopped.
- That the less air traffic over residential areas, the less chance of planes crashing into houses?

Axiom for pilots:

"It is ill mannered and socially unacceptable to pass flatulence in an elevator or to urinate in a swimming pool and it is similarly socially unacceptable to spew second hand aircraft noise over passive community residents."

Unanswered Questions:

Why do the citizens of Kalispell need a larger, noisier airport in the middle of town when Glacier International Airport is a few miles away?

Personal story:

In the autumn, we like to go to Lone Pine State Park to enjoy solitude and the beauty of nature. On our recent Sunday afternoon visit we sat and listened to a helicopter making training laps – Is the activity of the helicopter more valuable than the quality of tranquility on a Sunday afternoon?

