

Hi All,

I have said in the past I would let everyone know when we need the full support of the aviation community on the Kalispell City Airport issue. **Now is that time.** The City Council is scheduled for a work session on the 8th of February and we need to let them know what our thoughts are. This won't be the last time we need the support....but it is an important first step.

Please pass this on to anyone you know that can help.

If some of you are not aware of the issues.....there is a group called Quiet Skies in Kalispell that is trying to close the Kalispell City Airport S27. These people are a vocal group and are gaining support by spreading false information about the usage and value of the airport. One of the concerns they are raising is "safety" to the residents and that aircraft are dangerous. They also say that Kalispell City airport is the ONLY airport that has aircraft taking off and landing over a city. I guess they have never been to Missoula, Great Falls, Helena or Billings.

The location of this airport is one of its greatest assets to us as pilots. It is great to get out of your plane and walk to the grocery store, restaurant or hotel.

Another concern of this group is that this airport is only for the LOCAL few pilots and a burden to the taxpayers of Kalispell. The fact of the matter is that this airport is an Enterprise Fund and is entirely funded by the activities, taxes and leases on the airport not the residents and is in the black.

Here is a link to the City of Kalispell's "Hot Topics" which lists all the questions raised at e first Scoping Session and the answers provided to them.....

<http://kalispell.com/downloads/airportinformation.pdf>

Also here is a link to the Kalispell City Airport Site for the history and me other facts related to the "Upgrades" to the airport..... <http://kalispellcityairport.com>

So.....what is needed? We need EVERYONE to send an email listing the values of the Kalispell City Airport to the aviation community.

citycouncil@kalispell.com

Below are some points that need to be emphasized:

Location-----Near businesses, restaurants and hotels in town

Safety-----Upgrading is a key point to improving safety (VASI, lengthening, safety zones, width)

Noise-----Realignment of the runway and traffic patterns will lessen the noise footprint

Financial-----The impact of closing or moving the airport to local businesses, The costs to the City to close the airport

Employment---Current employment from the businesses on the airport, future employment opportunities from these businesses, the employment from the construction of the improvements.

Pubic Service---Young Eagles, Emergency Medical, Mail/Fed Ex and UPS

Access-----Access to the parking areas and aircraft without prior security screening (Rafting trips, Fly-ins, Young Eagles, Gliders, Camping)

I am asking for your help in this matter because it is extremely important that the City Council hear from the Aviation Community about the value of this Asset. If any of you know the council members personally.....give them a call and talk to them.

PLEASE EMAIL TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE FEBRUARY 4th

Have a great day,

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Jim Pierce

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