

GFCA Response to Airport Commission Goals Document

IV. Accomplishments for GFY 2014-2015

In actuality:

- Moving the meetings AWAY from the airport in an attempt to bring more community members was/is a failure (3 or 4 attendees, max at any single meeting)
- no physical improvement in the sub-standard condition of the airport
- the Commission is currently viewed as ineffective

V. Goals and Key Initiatives FY 2015-16

Goal 1-Support the County's efforts for the proposed Gness Field runway and taxiway extension

- Monitor and Direct the efforts of contractor (Landrum & Brown) to mediate critical input to aviation forecast (i.e. settle the neighbors' concerns. NOT done at any point in EIR process)

Goal 2-Support County's efforts to improve safety

- Get the AWOS replaced, using airport reserve funds if need be
- Work with the Sheriff's department to include the airport in the County's emergency plans

Goal 3-Continue to Increase Community Awareness of Importance of the Gness Field Airport

- communicate more often and more effectively with public and airport users, specifically with regards to minutes and agendas
- encourage and accept input from public and users
- work collaboratively with outside groups to make the airport more attractive to the public (eg. develop a system of wildlife trails through the wetlands surrounding the airport)

Goal 4-Support and create additional aviation related business at Gness Field

- Complete an airport market survey to determine what repairs and improvements are needed to make Gness Field attractive to new businesses
- Improve the Commission's process for addressing new business applicants
- Commission an independent economic study to accurately define the true economic value of the airport to Marin County. Work with users, airport management and City of Novato. Use this to sell the importance of continued upkeep and improvement to the long-term continued importance of the airport.

Goal 5-Work toward an effective short- and long-term coordinated plan for completing needed projects at the airport

- Obtain from Dept. of Finance the property tax contributions from airport properties to both the general fund and Novato schools for the past 10 years.
- Use the above figures to lobby the Board of Supervisors relative to the use of County general funds to match Federal grant funds for long-term projects like the runway extension.

Note: Airport contributes over \$300,000 each year to General Fund (who knows how long it's been doing this?) PLUS over \$200,000/year coverage of non-airport County expenses (A-87 line item, mandated by Feds negotiated by Dept. of Finance). It's only proper that a portion of these funds be available for airport capital projects. This is entirely a Board decision; there is nothing in the definition of the enterprise fund that prevents the use of general funds for airport projects. This would free up almost \$900,000. currently held in reserves for a runway extension that is getting pushed further and further into the future (including cash reserves currently on hand, deferred Federal entitlement grants of \$600,000 and unknown deferred State funds), to be used as matching funds (where grants are available) or for outright payment for current and necessary maintenance projects.

From the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (NCGAS1):
purpose of enterprise funds

“...to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises — where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through users charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.”

- Prepare a report for the Board matching all current reserves and future-eligible reserves (not just cash), available grants and a timeline to complete the 5-yr list of Gness Field projects, then identify what general fund monies would be needed for runway extension.
- push for and facilitate progress on urgent airport maintenance issues such as AWOS, Runway condition, taxi lane condition
- work with DPW to identify contractor to work on five year list of projects via RFQ in accordance with FAA guidance, FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14E

- Release the chokehold on “control” of the airport. Begin working collaboratively with outside groups and other County Departments to complete several of the initiatives noted above, rather than denying input and claim there are no resources.
- Work with DPW to overcome their inclination toward inaction
 - GFCA has offered to help with several upgrades/changes: noise procedure updates, website updates, signage updates, lounge upgrades, supplemental weather information via HD streaming webcam. There seems to be a tendency to say “no” to these offers and stick with the status quo because there’s no risk. Then, for whatever reason, the followup process gets put on the back burner by the County and the improvement is stalled.