November 2, 2019

LAPAHOA (Lander Area Pilots and Hangar Owners Association)

Mayor Richardson, Lander City Council, Lander Airport Board

Regarding: Board position, Lander Airport Board

Dear Mayor Richardson,

Last winter a considerable number of "users of the airport" met and began forming LAPAHOA (Lander Area Pilots and Hangar Owners Association). Our entity was formed at the time to deal with an issue of airport use for certain types of airplanes, but also recognizing the importance of an organization that represents the users of the airport and their needs and rights, the users being pilots based at or using the airport, owners of airplanes based at the airport, and owners of hangar buildings at the airport. LAPAHOA has been well received by these parties and seen by some as a highly important organization for people who are investing considerable money and time into the growth and presence of the airport, and/or using the airport for aviation purposes.

Some time ago it was concluded that since it represents such a wide constituent of airport users and investors, it would seem fitting that the LAPAHOA organization have a position on the airport board. An early consideration was to add another permanent LAPAHOA member position to the airport board. This was apparently found difficult due to various restrictions defined in board make-up. The subsequent avenue is to have a LAPAHOA member run for appointment to the airport board when an upcoming

vacancy exists, as we have at this time. It is felt that a LAPAHOA member on the board would prove a benefit to the City of Lander, as well as the airport users and investors by providing a more structured direct communication connection between the airport board, the City of Lander, and the many users.

To that end, a list follows of a few pertinent airport issues where LAPAHOA is/will be involved and where a formal LAPAHOA representative board member would considerably aid both the City of Lander and the various involved airport users:

1) The impending taxiway "improvement" project, dictated by the FAA, which will affect most airport users in various ways over the coming years, such as air ambulance access to runways, blocks of hangars losing access during construction, modification of runway access, etc, during the multiple phases of construction, and in a few cases the forced relocation or removal of hangars with the vague assurance? of any FAA funding assistance for that relocation.

2) The "Airshow/Carshow" growing in popularity and complexity with attendant increased volunteer, connections, coordination, and expertise required to make the show possible.

3) The continuation of airplane mechanics on the field, a necessity for the life and growth of the airport, and the user interactions that support that.

4) The continuation of grass (non-pavement) landing access, a growing segment of aviation both locally and nation-wide, part of increased interest in small airplanes as well as "back country" or bush flying. The Lander airport has tremendous potential here due to its proximity to mountain and desert country and due to its immediate proximity to the City of Lander itself for commercial uses. (Many of these airplanes are better equipped to land on grass than pavement).

5) A somewhat related issue--the prospective campground area and group shelter for various airport related uses and gatherings, which is being discussed at the present time and which contributes to the success and popularity of other airports that have such facilities. (Without considerable volunteer effort (including numerous LAPAHOA members) and coordinated planning and fund development this could be pretty difficult if not impossible to bring about). In which case we the airport users lose, and the City of Lander loses.

6) Increase in new resident airport users-a current example would be the Montana Antique Aircraft Association fly-in to Lander arranged and hosted here by LAPAHOA. This event was extremely well received with one of the members (owner of three airplanes) so impressed he is now looking for property here and planning to move to Lander on soon upcoming retirement.

7) Increased airport traffic due to the above also plays into the future growth/success of the Lander's new gas sales arrangement.

8) Careful knowledgeable coordinated planning to protect the hangar investment of current and future potential builders and owners. This will also serve to protect the financial interests of the City since the structures will in most cases transfer on to future owners, provided the vitality of the airport continues to grow.

9) The future vitality and success of the airport will depend on the activities, attitudes and enthusiasm of the users, and that is considerably affected by the mood and atmosphere set by the decisions and attitude of the Airport Board, Airport Manager, and City of Lander, the airport sponsor. We at LAPAHOA feel now is an important time to have an experienced individual, knowledgeable in airport as well as aviation issues as a board member representative of the users and their interests in an organized situation with the board. We think such a person and connections will provide additional help in dealing with numerous upcoming issues at the board level.

As a Board, we have considered a number of potential candidates in our membership and have selected Jeff Kimber to be our LAPAHOA candidate for the upcoming airport board position. We feel he is eminently qualified in both experience and knowledge, having literally grown up around the airport, working there for Larry Hastings in his teens as well as for his dad who was airport manager in past days, and being currently as well as historically actively involved in essentially all the above mentioned examples and others. He has faithfully attended numerous airport board meetings and has a working understanding of the board processes. He has wide knowledge and a good professional reputation useful for interacting with the engineers, contractors, etc. engaging in the upcoming construction phases. He is also invested in hangar ownership so has "skin in the game" regarding the present and future success of the airport. He has a proven track record of excellent management, motivational and leadership abilities, as well as the energy and enthusiasm to see projects through. He has shown honesty and integrity to make good choices and the forthrightness to deal with complex issues. All things considered, he is a person we are comfortable to have representing our widespread interests and investments at the airport while at the same time feel he can represent the interests of the City of Lander as an airport board member. In conclusion we nominate Jeff Kimber as candidate for the airport board position opening up in December 2019 with the support and desire that he be appointed to the position.

We believe that with perceptive management, the Lander airport has the potential to be a stand-out airport at a time when parts of aviation in general are suffering a certain amount of decline.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LAPAHOA Board, representing over 30 LAPAHOA members