

Friends of Pacific City State Airport
Po Box 1101
Pacific City, OR 97135

Jul 18, 2022

State Aviation Board, Betty Stansbury, Tony Beach
% Oregon Department of Aviation
3040 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

Members of the Oregon Department of Aviation and its Board,

It's been a challenging couple of years for Oregon aviation with Zoom meetings required to connect leaders and interrupted air travel which impacted the ODA agency budget. General aviation pilots have returned to the skies in large numbers. The Friends of Pacific City State Airport (or Friends for short) is starting a new busy season at the state-owned coastal airport and would like to revisit our ODA partnership - that is, our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ODA.

Since the day our volunteers stepped forward to save the airport from closure and later sale, we've made it clear that we want to be active partners to keep this airport safe. In the spirit of the MOU, Friends formed a nonprofit organization, continues to service the restrooms, provide bicycles, helps connect the ODA to grant money for the airport, provide educational scholarship funds, provide educational meetings at the airport, organize yearly airport cleanup projects with dozens of volunteers, provide internet service with cameras and weather stations, and do mowing, weed control, tree removal, and tie down maintenance. We remain the loyal supporters and advocates for this amazing coastal airport.

We are asking that ODA honor its partnership with Friends of Pacific City State Airport and that dedicated SOAR funds be released for use at KPFC to fulfill a Board commitment. A purpose of the SOAR fund was to support state airport projects that are ineligible for federal funding. It appears that this point has been ignored in recent allocations of SOAR funds.

We are concerned about progress made on the following issues:

- First, the expenditures. In 2019, \$430,000 in SOAR funds were committed to Pacific City State Airport (KPFC hereafter) and shortly afterwards two lots were purchased at \$177,000 to ensure access to the public airport. Two years later, no further expenditures have been made of the remaining \$253,000 pledged to KPFC. Recently, the Friends group learned that 2022 SOAR projects were discussed and that nothing would be done for KPFC improvements until 2023. Our group has not received adequate information about these plans and decisions have been made without our input.
- As an example of assistance Friends can provide, a licensed professional surveyor from our group has offered his services to minimize costs of fixing the drainage system of

KPFC. In order for this cost saving to happen, Friends need to be a greater part of the planning process.

- In addition, for 2 years we have been seeking new signage for the airport to replace the decrepit and missing signs. The Friends group has repeatedly offered to install critical safety signage, and continues to await a response.

We are asking that the system of communication to ours and other volunteer organizations be improved. We believe it's in the best interest of the ODA, its Board, as well as our own to jointly work together to maintain and improve State property dedicated to aviation.

We hope this letter will be answered directly and that future Oregon Department of Aviation planning will include us.

Sincerely,

Friends of Pacific City State Airport
Board of Directors