

Minutes of the Jan Juan Aviation Museum Board, at the San Juan Island Historical Museum, 10:30 am, February 1, 2006.

Attending: Barbara Marrett, Ray Bigler, John Geyman, Pat Mayo, Gary Franklin, Iolene Webb, Steve Simpson, and Marilyn O'Connor.

Steve Simpson gave a brief outline of what the Port Commission wants to see in the terminal.

- Establishing the Roy Franklin Aviation Collection that can be a repository for aviation history in the San Juans. The Port would like the collection to be managed by some entity other than the Port. The Museum would be good because they have programs to manage collections. The collection would provide material for renewing the displays.
- Displays in the terminal that are interesting and change occasionally, so there is on-going interest in the islands' aviation history.
- Aviation history includes all the islands' early aviator along with Roy Franklin.
- A group be established to keep the exhibit alive and not let it get shuffled into a corner after it becomes stale or irrelevant.

John Geyman and Ray Bigler outlined the progress they've made so far in gathering information that could be included in displays. John Geyman brought in a book about Roy Franklin that is just being published, and contains information Roy collected over many years. A number of artifacts are available for display, including Wally Weaver's model of a Stinson Gull Wing. Ideas that were discussed along with their presentation included:

Preserving Roy Franklin's legacy of perseverance.

Highlighting the people and planes of Friday Harbor, and the contribution of aviation to the island.

Having the exhibit be both historical and current.

The thought that a piece of the exhibit could be outdoors.

The Roy Franklin Museum is formed as a non-profit corporation, has money and has the ability to raise more.

Iolene Webb was introduced as a former island resident who does exhibition design. She lives in Anacortes and has experience with aviation displays and community history exhibits. Iolene can help with design, estimating costs and acting as a resource for display materials and for the contractors who can prepare displays at reasonable prices.

Barbara suggested the group support the idea of reproducing the Air and Space Smithsonian article about the People and Planes of Friday Harbor in large format that can be displayed in the terminal and be completed quickly. This would give the group time to design the museum displays, apply for grants and prepare the material. There was consensus that this is a good idea.

The group continued the discussion with thought given as to how the project could be started and carried through quickly. The plan that was agreed to contained the following elements.

- The Port would proceed with getting rights to use the Air and Space article for a display.
- The Port will arrange for this display using contractors recommended by Gary Franklin. Iolene will determine the correct size of enlargement, get a price, and then order it for us on foam-core mounting.
- John and Ray will make a presentation to their board and ask for \$500 to be given to the San Juan Island Historical Museum for preliminary design and cost estimating for the follow-on display. This work will be done by Iolene Webb.
- John and Ray will make a presentation to the Pilot's Association to get "buy in" and an ongoing commitment to support the Roy Franklin collection and display at the Roy Franklin Terminal.
- Agreement that a board should be formed called: San Juan Aviation Museum Board. Tentative thoughts on representatives on the boards: San Juan Historical Museum, Pilot's Association Member, Port of Friday Harbor Commissioner, Gary Franklin, (who will be leaving the Museum as its director", Roy Franklin Museum Assoc. member, civilian(s) with interest in the project.
- The costs of creating the displays and lighting will be greater than the ongoing costs of maintaining the displays. Barbara will discuss with the the Port Commission an ongoing commitment from the Port for continuing funding such as is done with the aquarium.
- Funding sources include grants from Washington State Humanities, San Juan Island Pilots Assn, the Port and perhaps the Confidence Foundation (Paul Whittier's Foundation.)
- Gary Franklin also mentioned the possibility of digitally recording an interview with one pilot a year, using equipment supplied by the Library of Congress.

The group agreed to meet again after Iolene has developed a concept and cost estimates for the display. John and Ra provided Iolene with some of the material they've collected along with a copy of the book about Roy Franklin.