Seeking Member Input

The SCPOA BOD is continually seeking to improve, protect, and enhance our member's enjoyment of the common areas. The Board is also responsible for maintaining a safe environment in the common areas. Recently, the Airport Committee recommended the addition of runway lighting to increase the level of safety of our airport. Here are some examples of how airport lighting increases safety:

- 1. Runway visibility is increased during times of non-optimal lighting conditions (overcast skies, low sun angles, early morning/late afternoon, etc.).
- 2. Lights will help mitigate the hazard presented by birds and wildlife on the runway by increasing the visibility of these hazards. There has been an increase in the number of close calls with wildlife on the runway, including a bird strike 2 months ago, which resulted in \$30k in damage to a member's aircraft.
- 3. Lights will help to warn people of an inbound aircraft. Though pedestrians should not be on the runway, the fact of the matter is many members use the runway to walk on. These pedestrians will be alerted to an inbound aircraft when the lights turn on, allowing them time to get off the runway.
- 4. Lights will make the airport more visible to MedStar and other emergency helicopters. This is especially beneficial during time-critical emergencies when every second counts.

These lights are battery operated and charged by individual solar panels, so they require no wiring. They are also pilot controlled, which means the pilot turns the lights on only when needed (via a radio signal) and the lights automatically turn off.

The installation of the lights will not permit night operations on the airport. The current Airport Operating Permit prohibits night operations, and the Board is not attempting to amend the permit.

The purchase price of the lights will be approximately \$34,000. This item was discussed in open session during the Oct 29, 2020 BOD meeting. It will be discussed again in open session during the Dec 3, 2020 BOD meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send your input to the Board via the Community Association Manager, Rick LaFrance.

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