



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

April 30, 2014, Meeting

Whiteman Airport

10000 Airpark Way

Pacoima, CA 91331-7393

(818) 896-5271

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Peter M. Amundson
Vice Chairman Harvey A. Holloway
Secretary Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Marc Carrel
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Dennis Hunter, Deputy Director
Mr. Richard Smith, Aviation Division Chief
Mrs. Claudia Delgado, Staff Assistant

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Alvaro Escobedo, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield

GUEST

Mr. Edward Sause, President
Mr. Dick Millais, Civil Air Patrol Squadron 35
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association

GUESTS (CONT.)

Mr. Jake Claypool, Cast Security Lighting
Ms. Leslie Dinious, Whiteman Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Amundson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Amundson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the February 26, 2014, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Lord.

The minutes for the March 26, 2014, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Secretary Cornwall, seconded by Commissioner Butts.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle reported on a follow-up for Brackett Field Airport

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that, effective June 1st, Brackett Hangar, LLC is committed to American Airports Corporation to lock the gate that was not on the card system.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that some large hangars with three doors had the wheels replaced to facilitate their function.

Mr. Woodruff informed that the crash fire rescue truck will be out of service for about two weeks while the engine is rebuilt.

- **Projects**

The County's beacon tower replacement project is complete. The new beacon tower has a fence around it and removable pegs on the pole to keep trespassers from climbing it.

There is an upcoming construction meeting for the county's helicopter parking pad project on the north side of the airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-one percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied at the airport. Twenty-four percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Year to date, Jet-A fuel sales are up 50 percent, and Avgas fuel sales are flat. Aircraft operations are down 22 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff announced that the San Gabriel Valley 99s meet at the airport on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., and they have their Sunday Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

- **Miscellaneous**

On April 18th, at approximately 7:30 a.m., there was a vehicle pedestrian deviation on the airport. Two women gained access to the airside through an open gate and were spotted on the runway taking photos. Airport staff was able to detain them, and they were cited for pedestrians on a landing surface under title 19.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on General Wm. J. Fox Airfield items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that some of the dirt areas that were cleared and prepared for vehicle parking for the Air Show will need to be retreated to prevent dust from blowing off of the sites. The City of Lancaster and the Air Show group are testing the soil to determine any appropriate treatments for the affected areas.

Mr. Irving and Mr. Smith met with Civil Air Patrol to discuss accommodations for two Civil Air Patrol groups currently at Joe Walker Middle School and at Edward Air Force base to be housed at the Fox Airfield.

- **Projects**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the perimeter fence replacement project is now underway along Avenue "G".

- **Development and Activities**

Jet-A fuel sales are up 25 percent and Avgas fuel sales remain flat compared to the same month last year.

There were six hangar vacancies during the month, and none of the hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that May 19th through May 22nd the Commemorative Air Force's B-29 aircraft will be stationed at the airport.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that 90 percent of the light fixtures on the airport were replaced with energy efficient fixtures and staff are exploring options for cost-efficient towel dispensers with enhanced sensors.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) inspected the airport as part of its annual FAA Form 5010 - Airport Master Records Inspection. No deficiencies were reported.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were down 19 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 299 percent, compared to the same month last year. The increase in sales is due to Southern California Edison working on local power lines and Billionaire having an increase in jet landings.

Aircraft operations were flat, compared to the same month last year.

Ninety-seven percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 29 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that on Sunday, April 27, 2014, the San Gabriel Valley Airport hosted a successful Aircraft Display Day; and on May 29, 2014, a Federal Aviation Administration meeting will take place at the airport.

On May 31, 2014, a collection of household hazardous waste and electronic waste will take place at the airport.

- **Miscellaneous**

On Sunday April 27, 2014, at approximately 10:20 p.m., a Mooney landed on the runway gear-up. The runway was closed for two hours, and no injuries or damages to the airport were reported.

The Los Angeles County Library will utilize the airport for storage during its 12-month renovations. There is no impact to the airport anticipated, and library staff was briefed on how to access the airport.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that the Automatic Weather Observing System was repaired, and a self-closer at the Experimental Aircraft Association gate has been installed.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that pavement repair work for Runway 25L is complete.

On April 30, 2014, survey work was completed in preparation for the upcoming taxiway/runway pavement project, and tenants will be notified of future closures for this project.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 20 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported that fuel sales were down 21 percent, compared to last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Herrera announced that Luis Contreras, who worked for the El Monte Airport and Compton/Woodley Airport, will be leaving American Airports Corporation to join the California Highway Patrol.

On April 14, 2014, a Toyota commercial was filmed on the airport, and Hugh Jackman who was the main lead on the commercial, took pictures with some of the kids at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum.

Mr. Herrera reminded the Commission of the Open House event that will take place on May 3, 2014, in conjunction with the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 Young Eagles and Career Expo and Job Fair.

Commissioner Lord announced that the Experimental Aircraft Association flights on May 3, 2014 will commence at 11 a.m. and clarified that airplane rides will be for adults only.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino thanked Mr. John Rhodes, owner of the Vista Aviation facility, for accommodating the Aviation Commission meeting.

Mr. Marino reported that the ballast and lamps on stadium lights located on Hangar Row J were all replaced.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the backflow device that controls the irrigation on Airpark Way was replaced.

- **Projects**

The perimeter fence replacement and gate access system upgrade project is underway. The main vehicle access gate closed on March 26, 2014, and will remain closed through May 15, 2014. Access to the airport will be available via Airpark Way and Orbital Way until the project is complete.

Mr. Marino reported that the contractor discovered an unauthorized water line that was feeding water to the HH Row third-party hangars. The line was capped and the tenant was notified.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-one percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 6 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are down 10 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 35 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that on May 2, 2014, he will be hosting a table at Van Nuys Aviation Career Day and is looking forward to providing information to teens regarding scholarships and various programs.

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, April 17, 2014. The next meeting will be on May 15, 2014.

The next Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles event will take place on Saturday, May 24, 2014. The next antique aircraft display will be on May 11, 2014.

Secretary Cornwall inquired about the possibility of dry-scaping the entrance of the airport in the future. Mr. Wardle responded that, at this time, there are no plans to do so; but it will be noted as a suggestion when the entrance is redeveloped.

C. County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith reported on the following items

- **Expense and Revenue Report for March 2014**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the expense and revenue report and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about expenditures reported for March 2014. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the expenditure for clothing occurs occasionally or when events like the Air Show at Fox Airfield take place. Mr. Smith also provided a brief explanation on what is included under Fixed Asset expenditures.

- **Geotechnical at Compton/Woodley**

Commissioner Lord commented on the decrease in expenditures for Geotechnical Division. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that there will continue to be some related expenses since all 14 wells are pending closure and the vapor recovery equipment will need to be removed.

- **2014 Annual Leadership Conference**

An invitation to the Annual Leadership Conference was extended to the three Commission officers. Mr. Smith also noted that this year, the conference focus will be on social media.

- **Annual Customer Service Survey**

The Commission was reminded that the annual Airport Customer Service Survey began March 26, 2014, and surveys will be collected through May 31, 2014.

- **Brackett Restroom Replacement Project**

The Brackett restroom replacement project is scheduled for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2014-15, and recognized that Mr. Woodruff is doing a great job in keeping the current restroom facility operational.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport – New Sign**

The Commission was informed that the desired location for the new sign is on land that the City of El Monte has an easement for. Sketches and sample materials were sent to the City for their input and consent.

Mr. Smith added that he spoke with Caltrans, about changing the airport signs along the local freeway from El Monte Airport to San Gabriel Valley Airport.

- **Tree Obstruction at San Gabriel Valley Airport**

The Commission was informed that the latest plan will be presented to the City Council. The plan is to replace all the trees in the park since the funds are available and plans have been approved.

- **Storage Tank at San Gabriel Airport**

Mr. Wardle is trying to return one of the three fuel storage tanks to service since the turbine was recently replaced. This process is costly, but it is also be costly to remove the tank, which may be the most prudent course of action.

- **Catalina Airport – “Airport-In-the-Sky”**

The State sent a letter to the Conservancy on April 18, 2014, indicating that its recent inspection of the airport revealed that all efforts to maintain the runway have failed. Everyone, including the Conservancy, is aware that it would be a loss to close the airport.

- **Airport Layout Plans Project**

Updates for the Airport Layout Plans for the three of the County-owned airports is estimated to cost \$110,000 for Brackett Field Airport and

\$40,000 each for Compton/Woodley Airport and San Gabriel Valley Airport.

- **Brackett Field Airport – Helipads North side**

The project is underway and that the contractor has relocated a 10-inch waterline as part of the project.

- **Compton/Woodley – Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation Project**

The Board of Supervisors' approval was obtained to apply for and accept FAA and Caltrans grants. A Notice-to-Proceed letter will be issued to the design consulting firm for the design phase of the project.

- **Compton/Woodley Runway Repair**

Runway 7R-25L will be closed all day on the following dates: April 30, 2014; May 7, 2014 through May 9, 2014; and May 12, 2014 through May 14, 2014.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport – Apron Pavement Rehabilitation**

The Commission was informed that the 70-percent plans, specifications, and estimates were delivered to the County.

- **Whiteman Airport – Perimeter Fencing Replacement and Gate Access Upgrades**

Construction for the perimeter fencing replacement began on March 26, 2014. Mr. Smith provided a schedule of the gate closures as construction is anticipated to end mid-July 2014.

D. **Whiteman Airport Items**

None.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM**

Mr. Jake Claypool, owner of Cast Security Lighting and a tenant at Whiteman Airport, offered the Commission his lighting services, as well as a demonstration when it may be convenient.

Mr. Dick Millais, Civil Air Patrol, asked the Commission to consider leaving the trees and the grassy area in the public viewing area and not replacing it with new hangars when the area is redeveloped.

Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association, asked how long the Customer Service Surveys will be collected. Mr. Smith informed Mr. Hagopian that the middle of May would be the last survey collection day in order to present the Customer Service Survey report at the next Commission meeting.

Ms. Leslie Dinious, Whiteman Airport Association, informed the Commission that the County has incentives on dry-scaping. In addition, some high schools will go out to homes to assist with dry-scaping, and they could probably assist the airport with this project.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he delivered to the leasehold interest acquisition documents to Mr. John Rhodes for signatures. He added that the proposed acquisition will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their June 17, 2014 meeting. Mr. Smith also noted that the area designated in the building for a future restaurant/café will need to be properly equipped to accommodate such a use. Mr. Wardle will continue the screening process for prospective restaurant/café operators.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at 7 p.m.
San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670
(626) 448-6129**

The Chairman Amundson adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter M. Amundson, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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