



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

January 21, 2015, Meeting
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395

COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
CHAIRMAN

PENELOPE CORNWALL
VICE-CHAIR

GEORGE G. BUTTS
SECRETARY

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

MARC CARREL
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD
MEMBER

PETER M. AMUNDSON
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Harvey A. Holloway
Vice-Chair Penelope Cornwall
Secretary George G. Butts
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Marc Carrel
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

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. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Ms. Valerie Hanley, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 21
Mr. Paul Hanley, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 21
Mr. Frank Stubbe, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 21
Mr. Bob Velker, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 21
Mr. Ed Sause, President, American Airports Corporation
Mr. Noah Saeedy, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 21
Mr. John Findley, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 21

GUESTS (CONT.)

Mr. Scott Stevenson, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Winn Williams, Port-A-Port Hangar Association
Mr. Bobby Chase, former Aviation Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Amundson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

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

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Wardle briefed the Commission on the status of hangars throughout the County airports. He also elaborated on the lack of potential tenants for the large hangar facility at San Gabriel Valley Airport and the possible option of leasing it to multiple tenants.

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that, as a preventive measure, all fuel-flow cables and in-line filters were replaced on all fuel trucks.

The vapor-recovery certification on the Avgas truck was completed in December 2014.

Request for Proposals for the café space at the new Whiteman Airport terminal building were sent out last month to several potential operators, but no responses were received by the January 20, 2015, deadline. Mr. Marino noted that he will continue to pursue potential operators for the space.

The Request for Qualifications for the helicopter operations area will close on February 15, 2015. Several developers have shown interest in the opportunity.

- **Projects**

During the rains in December, there was an extensive power outage that affected five hangar rows, security lighting, and the vehicle entrance gate on Airpark Way. The power outage was caused by damaged underground electrical wires. An electrical contractor made repairs and upgraded the underground electrical wiring. No future problems are anticipated.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-three percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 12 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are down 6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 29 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are up 2.7 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Whiteman Airport Association's annual holiday party was held on December 11, 2014, at 6 p.m., and over 230 pounds of food were donated to MEND, a local nonprofit community organization.

In coordination with MEND, the third annual Santa Claus Fly-In Event, which was held on Saturday, December 13, 2014, was a success.

The next Whiteman Airport Association meeting will be held on February 19, 2015, and the next Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles event will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015.

- **Miscellaneous**

On December 9, 2014, a vehicle traveling on Airpark Way crashed into the perimeter fence and damaged approximately 90 feet of fencing. A claim was filed with the individual's insurance to collect payment for the damage which was repaired by American Airports.

On December 10, 2014, during a police pursuit, a vehicle crashed into a different portion of the perimeter fence on Airpark Way. A claim was filed with the individual's insurance to collect payment for the damage which was repaired by American Airports.

Commissioner Carrel inquired about what will occur after the Request for Proposals for the café space in the new terminal building closes. Mr. Wardle explained that they will not reissue a Request for Proposals but will, however, continue to pursue an operator for the space.

Mr. Steve Irving Reported on General William J. Fox Airfield Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Irving announced that the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the second annual air show at General William J. Fox Airfield on March 21 and 22, 2015. Mr. Irving also noted that the U.S. Navy Blue Angels are scheduled to headline the 2016 air show at Fox Airfield.

- **Projects**

The runway and taxiway were closed intermittently during January to allow crews to perform crack-filling and other repairs to the asphalt.

The airport perimeter fencing project is complete, and the new gate access system became operative on January 21, 2015. New key cards are being issued to all airport tenants.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas and Jet-A fuel sales are flat, compared to last year. There are three vacant hangars at the airport, and no hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

- **Miscellaneous**

The pilot association's annual Christmas party was held on December 13, 2014, at 6 p.m., in the terminal building.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that four rotary turbine ventilators that run along Riverview Avenue were replaced to mitigate noise levels.

On December 15, 2014, Quinn Power System installed a diesel particulate filter on the generator to be in compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District requirements.

- **Projects**

The gate card access control system project is complete. The final inspection with UltraSafe is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

Phase III for the hangar lighting project will commence soon. Potential vendors are now being considered for the project.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were up 17 percent in November, and flat in December, compared to last year. Jet-A fuel sales were up 73 percent, compared to last year, and up 155 percent for the month of December, compared to the same month last year.

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

Aircraft operations at the airport were up 7 percent, compared to November 2014, and up 10 percent, compared to December 2014.

- **Meetings and Events**

On December 10, 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration hosted an informational seminar at the airport regarding winter weather. The seminar was well attended.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that new overnight signs were installed to prevent airport users from parking on the airside overnight.

- **Projects**

The gate access card system project is nearly complete. Approximately 150 new gate cards have been issued to tenants to date.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 29 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 28 percent, compared to November last year, and down 4 percent, compared to December last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

The airport association's Christmas party was held on December 19, 2014, at 6 p.m.; and guests donated toys at the entrance.

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that Mr. William Gatlin, a long-time tenant at the airport, recently passed away.

Commissioner Simmons expressed his concern about tenants parking in front of their hangars, blocking the taxi lane. Mr. Wardle explained that tenants rent the hangar and not the space in front of their hangar, and that this is a matter that they are addressing.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Woodruff informed the Commission that airport staff continues to make hangar door repairs.

The Avgas truck was out of service for a weekend in order to repair a seal that was leaking.

The north vehicle access gate has been experiencing problems with reading cards. A technician will be diagnosing and fixing the problem this week.

- **Projects**

Approval from the County was received to remove the old tile and install new carpet tiles throughout the terminal building.

Phase I of the hangar lighting project is complete, and Phase II is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-three percent of the aircraft hangars on the airport are occupied. Thirty percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were flat, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 62 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 7 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff announced that the Brackett Airport Association's Christmas Dinner was held on December 11, 2014, at 6 p.m., and thanked Commissioner Amundson for his attendance.

The San Gabriel Valley 99s meets on 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 has its Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the private hangar development project on the southeast corner of the airport is complete.

Vice-Chair Cornwall suggested that a sign directing to the airport be added at the corner of Fairplex Drive and McKinley Avenue. Mr. Smith took note and explained that it will be addressed with the City of La Verne.

C. **County Aviation Division Report – Mr. Richard Smith Reported on the Following Items**

- **Expense and Revenue Report for November and December 2014**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the expense and revenue report for November and December 2014 and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the expenditures pertaining to Public Works' Design Division and Road Division expenses reported for November and December 2014. Mr. Smith replied that the Design Division's expenditures pertain to the vehicle parking lot across the new terminal building at Whiteman Airport, and the Road Division's expenses are for the crack fills at Fox Airfield.

Vice-Chair Cornwall inquired as to why there are no expenses noted under Watershed Management Division. Mr. Smith explained that airports seldom require services from Watershed Management.

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed January 2015 as General Aviation Appreciation Month. Supervisor Michael Antonovich of the Fifth District presented it as a motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the group that started the movement for General Aviation Awareness Month is a group based on the East Coast called, Alliance for Aviation Across America.

Mr. Smith extended his compliments to American Airports Corporation for taking the initiative to be a tier-1 sponsor at the Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives Winter Conference.

- **Catalina Island**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he provided the Chief Executive Officer for the Catalina Island Conservancy with a draft sponsorship agreement.

- **Master Plan Update**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that with the Board of Supervisors' recent approval of the Master Plan update for Whiteman Airport, we can commence with all the planned improvements, including solicitation of the development of the helicopter operations area at Whiteman Airport.

- **Whiteman Airport New Parking Lot**

As a safety measure, a pedestrian crossing will be added to the new overflow parking area across Airpark Way from the new terminal building at Whiteman Airport.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport Sign**

The installation of the new sign for the San Gabriel Valley Airport has been delayed due to the high estimated cost provided to the County by the selected vendor. That vendor has been replaced and the County is awaiting new estimates for the completion of the project. A new vendor has been selected, new estimates are being addressed, and the hope is to have the sign and landscaping completed for approximately \$250,000.

- **Rio Vista Tree Removal at San Gabriel Valley**

The City of El Monte is preparing a License Agreement to allow County workers access to the Rio Vista Park, and Phase I of the tree removal project is tentatively scheduled for February 2015.

- **Taxiway Rehabilitation at Compton Airport**

C&S Companies provided the County with the preliminary design plan that was sent to the Federal Aviation Administration for review and comments. There were some concerns with the parallel taxiway not meeting the current standards.

- **Angled Taxiway Design at Fox Airfield**

The design for the angled taxiway is at 80 percent completion. Design is estimated to cost \$200,000 and construction is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million.

D. Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the new crash fire rescue truck for the airport will arrive soon, hopefully, sometime in March 2015.

Bids for the new restrooms project at the wash rack should be opened and finalized by February 27, 2015.

Chairman Holloway mentioned that this year's air show will be called the Los Angeles County Air Show presented by Lockheed Martin and powered by Toyota, the two main sponsors for this year's event. Also, a concert will be held as part of the event on the Friday night before the air show.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Bob Velker of the Civil Air Patrol spoke about their activities, plans, and ideas for improvement, and their need for Internet access at the airport.

Vice-Chair Cornwall asked if there is Wi-Fi available in the terminal building. Mr. Smith noted that Wi-Fi is available at all terminal buildings at the County-owned airports, but that Civil Air Patrol is requesting to piggyback on the airport's phone system and Internet service.

Mrs. Valerie Hanley of the Civil Air Patrol reiterated their request to the Commission for designated space to accommodate their activities at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Colonel John Findley of the Civil Air Patrol spoke about the Civil Air Patrol and its history at the County-owned airports. He also discussed their accomplishments and the services they provide to the local community and surrounding areas. Colonel Findley requested from the Commission assistance with fiber optics and Internet access in order to fulfill their missions.

Vice-Chair Cornwall and Commissioner Simmons asked if Colonel John Findley has a written plan or formal written proposal for the items they are requesting. He replied that as of this moment, they do not have anything in writing, but they will work on one.

Mr. Frank Stubble of the Civil Air Patrol spoke about their impact on local youth. He elaborated on the teachings they provide to their cadets and the benefits they offer the community in general.

Mr. Winn Williams from Port-A-Port Hangar Association stated that they have a 15 – year lease, with an option for five additional years. Mr. Williams noted that their lease will expire in 3 years and that he would like a definitive answer on whether or not they will be able to renew the lease. Mr. Smith informed him that when it is closer to the expiration of their lease, the County will evaluate, based on hangar capacity and vacancy rates at the airport at that time, whether or permit

any portable hangars. Mr. Smith noted that it is too early for the County to make a commitment to enter into a new lease agreement.

Commissioners elaborated that it is too early to give a definitive answer because conditions may change at the airport. Commissioner Simmons suggested that Mr. Williams pick up his conversation with the County about entering into a new lease when it is closer to the date of expiration of their current lease.

Former Commissioner Bobby Chase informed the Commission about the discussions that are taking place in regard to drones. He elaborated that some years back, U.S. Congress passed a law that the Federal Aviation Administration will make no rule pertaining to the flight of model airplanes for recreational purposes. He noted that he will continue to stay abreast of issues related to drones that may impact the County-owned airports and apprise the Commission of any relevant updates.

IV. OTHER

Mr. Smith presented a County scroll to former Commissioner Bobby Chase for his service and dedication to the County-owned airports and presented a gavel plaque to former Chairman Amundson for his services as Chairman of the Commission during the course of the prior year.

V. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 10 a.m.
at Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140**

A motion by Secretary Butts to adjourn the meeting in memory of Mr. William Gatlin was seconded by Commissioner Lord. Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

CD:

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