



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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COMMISSIONERS

PENELOPE CORNWALL
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VICE-CHAIR

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MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

STEVE A. WEEKS
MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

March 30, 2016, Meeting
General William J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709

IN ATTENDANCE

Vice-Chair George G. Butts
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Secretary Angelo R. Cardono
Chair Penelope Cornwall

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. Pete Lonctaux, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Jared Birch, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUEST

Mr. George J. Andrews, Office of California State Assemblyman Tom Lackey

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Butts called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the February 24, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Lord.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airport Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle introduced Mr. Jared Birch as the new manager for San Gabriel Valley Airport and announced that Mr. Rafael Herrera accepted a position with the City of Torrance.

Mr. Wardle updated the Commission on the future addition of a restaurant at the San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that as part of its contract extension with the County, American Airports Corporation agreed to raise the hourly minimum wage to \$15 an hour, beginning April 1, 2016.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Mr. Wardle reported that the potential tree obstruction to navigable airspace the Federal Aviation Administration noted was properly addressed by American Airports Corporation.

- **Management and Maintenance**

The runway rehabilitation project continues at the airport, and Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that tenants have been very cooperative and understanding with the construction. In addition, Mr. Wardle expressed his appreciation to the tenants: Sully Miller Contracting Company, the County, and American Airports Corporation staff.

- **Projects**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the sign at San Gabriel Valley Airport should be complete in 30 days or sooner.

Commissioner Simmons inquired on the banner usage that will be allowed on the sign display. Mr. Wardle mentioned it would be used primarily to advertise airport events.

Commissioner Lord reminded everyone that the initial intent for the name change was to market the airport and requested a timeframe for the repairs to the entrance to the San Gabriel Valley Airport terminal building.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that Whiteman Airport administration is preparing to transition over to the new administrative offices.

- **Projects**

The weeds on the runways at the safety areas have been abated.

The terminal building project is complete, and Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he met with potential restaurant operators who are interested in operating at Whiteman Airport.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-one 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 consistent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 7.1 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are up 4.8 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The San Fernando 99s hosted the third Aviation Badge Day for the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts on Saturday, March 12, 2016.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he will host a booth at the 11th Annual Van Nuys Career Expo that will be held for high school students.

On April 9, 2016, the Aviation Explorer Post 747 will host its first annual fundraiser event at the Angeles National Golf Club, and the proceeds will go toward instrument and commercial ratings.

The Whiteman Airport Association will hold its meeting on April 21, 2016, and the Antique Aircraft Display will take place on April 10, 2016. The Experimental Aircraft Association hosted its Young Eagles event on April 23, 2016.

Mr. Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Projects**

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the back-up generator failed, and it was repaired.

The restroom project is complete, and Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the restrooms are very similar to the new restrooms at Fox Airfield except for the color.

Southern California Edison has a program to upgrade incandescent and fluorescent lighting with new lighting technology, and Brackett Field Airport is looking into the advantages that this program has to offer.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-eight percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 22 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 7.8 percent in February, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 7.7 percent in February, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 23 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission about preliminary talks of a possible joint event with the Pomona Fairplex.

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

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the 3rd annual air show was held on March 19 and 20, 2016. He said that approximately 137,000 visitors attended the air show. Mr. Irving added that the air show was a success and anticipated that the next air show is scheduled for March 25 and 26, 2017.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that on the day of the air show, a sewage line broke, but it was not related to the restroom's renovation. Mr. Irving added they were able to contain the sewage in the basement as this was a concern since all the airports' electrical power is housed in that location.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that there were damages to the airport ramps as a result of the air show. Mr. Irving reported that the asphalt on the ramps is older and was not able to withstand the traffic that took place on the day of the events.

The taxiway project will commence the second week of April 2016. Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the runway would be restricted to approximately 4,000 feet for the duration of the project.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are down 42 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 66 percent, year to date. There are 18 vacant hangars, and one-third of the hangars are used for non-aviation purposes.

- **Meetings**

On March 10, 2016, students from Columbus School Elementary toured the airport.

- **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Amundson is hopeful that the air show, with its successes, will have a budget item for maintenance upgrades were the airport benefits.

Commissioner Simmons inquired on the increase of attendees at the air show. Mr. Irving informed Commissioner Simmons that the number of attendees has increased by approximately 10,000 each year.

Mr. Irving shared with the Commission that the goal for the air show is to continue to have different performances to keep the air show new for spectators wanting to return.

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

- **February 2016 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the February 2016 expense and revenue report and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Lord requested additional information on the expenditures charged by Road Maintenance Division. Mr. Smith explained that the expenses are related to the runway repairs at the Compton/Woodley Airport.

Mr. Smith provided to the Commission a brief explanation for the net income Aviation Enterprise Fund amount on the report. He explained this was a transfer to the Aviation Capital Project (M01) Fund for the San Gabriel Valley Runway Rehabilitation Project.

- **Air Mapping Geofencing**

Mr. Smith shared information with the Commission regarding a Southern California company that specializes in air map geofencing. The company's purpose is to automate the notification requirements for drone operators within 5 miles of the airport.

Commissioner Simmons stated that this is technology in existence, and it is now being introduced to the public. He suggested the County to wait a while before participating in such program.

Commissioner Amundson asked if this would be a Countywide program. Mr. Smith clarified that it would include the County airports system; however, as of now, the County does not have any commitment in place with this company. Commissioner Amundson agreed and said he sees the program as beneficial. Commissioner Lord shared that he views this as a positive program but has his reservations about the program being so new.

Mr. Smith stated that he is comfortable with the technology and company since it is supported by the American Association of Airport Executives.

- **Google Expansion**

Google is interested in expanding its viewing capacity that would allow users to view facilities such as the interior of airports. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that viewing areas will include locations such as baggage claim. Several Commissioners commented that having such service expanded into County airports would not be a wise decision as it could compromise security.

- **2016 Customer Service Survey**

The annual Airport Customer Service Survey will begin April 1, 2016, and surveys will be collected through April 30, 2016.

- **Compton/Woodley Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the design phase for the parklet project is near completion, and the construction phase will be scheduled for next fiscal year.

- **Los Angeles County Marketing Funds**

A series of meetings will occur in April to determine the best use of funds set aside for marketing purposes. Attendees will be the Commissioners, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jason Morgan, Mr. Wardle, airport managers, and airport association leadership.

D. General William J. Fox Airfield Airport Items

Mr. Smith addressed Mr. Irving's earlier comment regarding the damaged pavement as a result of the air show activities. Mr. Smith shared with the Commission that it would be ideal to set aside air show organization funds for repairs from air show activities.

Mr. Smith and the Commission discussed several concerns experienced at this year's air show. The discussion included the lack of communication, excluding key personnel from planning meetings, and the handling of the VIPs and unfunded projects.

Commissioner Holloway expressed that the repairs to the parking lot were needed, but they were unplanned and unfunded.

Commissioner Holloway expressed that the lack of communication was a factor, and all other concerns should be addressed. He added that there were only two Advisory Board meetings that were held for this air show that were insufficient in number and timing.

Commissioner Holloway questioned why there would be an expectation to hold the air show responsible for reimbursing projects that would benefit the airport whether the air show was present or not.

Commissioner Simmons stated that he would like the air show executives to know that this is a County-owned airport and their communication must improve and to allow the County and airport staff to participate in the planning and decision making.

Commissioner Simmons continued to express his opinion that the air show must include the County in the meetings and abide by County rules.

Commissioner Weeks inquired on the appropriateness for the County to request a seat on the Board to ensure that the communication process is handled appropriately. He also stated that it is relevant that the County is represented in the Executive Committee, and that reimbursement for repairs is discussed as these repairs would also be beneficial to the air show.

Mr. Smith stated to the Commission that he will meet with the air show Director and the Executive Board to discuss and share the observations and concerns that the County encountered.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. George J. Andrews, Office of California State Assemblyman Tom Lackey, thanked the Commission and airport staff on behalf of Assemblyman Tom Lackey for the successful air show at General William J. Fox Airfield and offered future assistance on behalf of the Assembly Office.

Commissioner Lord complimented Mr. George J. Andrews on his response in assisting airport staff before the air show.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 7 p.m.
at Whiteman Airport
10000 Airpark Way
Pacoima, CA 91331-7393
(818) 896-5271**

Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Cardono, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

CD:cb

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