



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

May 25, 2016, Meeting
San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670
(626)448-6129

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Penelope Cornwall
Vice-Chair George G. Butts
Secretary Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Peter M. Amundson

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

GUEST

Mr. Earl Levine, Santa Fe Dam RC Modelers Club

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cornwall called the meeting to order at 7 p.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 from the April 27, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Lord, seconded by Commissioner Simmons.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that because of the vacant manager position at Compton/Woodley Airport, Mr. Carlos Diaz, Assistant Manager at San Gabriel Valley Airport, will be temporarily moved to assist at Compton/Woodley Airport 5 days a week, until the vacancy is filled.

At Whiteman Airport, negotiations continue for the restaurant concession in the terminal building. Mr. Andy Hasroun and his architect have appraised the space, and American Airports Corporation is waiting for their proposal to hopefully finalize a lease-term agreement.

Mr. Wardle reported to the Commission that American Airports Corporation continues to work with the selected developer to finalize the details for the helicopter operations area at Whiteman Airport.

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

A problem with the doors in the executive-block hangars that resulted from subsidence under the tracks has been corrected, and doors are now working well.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that weed-abatement is in progress throughout the airport.

The taxiway project continues to move forward, and it is anticipated construction will be completed by late July 2016.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are down 5 percent, compared to last year. Jet-A fuel sales are consistent, year to date. There are three vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes. Airport operations are up 2 percent over last year's operations.

- **Miscellaneous**

On May 24, 2016, the runway was closed early morning for a couple of hours due to an aircraft that landed with a flat tire. No injuries or damages were reported.

Mr. Marino Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

On May 5, 2016, the precision-approach path identifier lights, control transformer, and timer were repaired. On May 23, 2016, 110 fire extinguishers were serviced and recertified.

- **Development and Activities**

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

Avgas fuel sales were up 6.9 percent, compared to April 2016.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Antique Aircraft Display was held on May 7 and 8, 2016; the next aircraft display will be held on June 4 and 5, 2016.

On May 14, 2016, the Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum held its Youth Career Expo, and the Experimental Aircraft Association provided rides to about 45 kids on the day of the event.

On Sunday, June 19, 2016, Experimental Aircraft Association will host its first food truck and community outreach at the airport.

- **Miscellaneous**

On May 7, 2016, a pilot in a Grumman Cheetah experienced mechanical difficulties during take-off, and came to rest the aircraft on the left side of the runway. Airport staff responded with the aircraft rescue and fire-fighting truck; no damages or injuries were reported.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino reported that installation of signage on the terminal building continues, as well as updating of contact information; and at the control tower, an exhaust fan was replaced.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission he had a walk-thru with Mr. Andy Hasroun and his architect to appraise the potential restaurant concession space.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-two percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and eleven percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes. Avgas fuel sales are down 4 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are consistent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are up 5.7 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On May 17, 2016, Larger-than-Life, an organization with a focus on improving the lives of children with cancer, held its event at the airport.

On May 19, 2016, the Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting with Mr. Joe Viviano, former Lockheed test pilot. Next meeting will be on June 16, 2016.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event on the airport on Saturday, May 28, 2016.

The Whiteman Airport Association's Antique Aircraft Display will be on Sunday, June 12, 2016.

Vice-Chair Butts informed Mr. Marino the restrooms by Alondra Boulevard need door closers.

Commissioner Weeks asked the name of the current business that Mr. Andy Hasroun operates. Mr. Marino answered that the current name of the business is Link and Hops.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission Brackett Field Airport continues to look into the removal of the exterior paint and repainting the terminal building. He is currently working with two contractors to see which will provide a feasible estimate.

The water fountains in the terminal building will be replaced in the upcoming weeks, and fence-patching was performed along the northwest corner, which corrected the existing holes.

- **Projects**

Mr. Lonctaux reported that Southern California Edison completed the incandescent and fluorescent lighting upgrade, and motion sensors at the former Nostalgia hangars. The next phase will be at the Mt. San Antonio College hangars.

- **Development and Activities**

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

Avgas fuel sales were down 29 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 16.3 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 20 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

An aircraft landed on Runway 26L with a collapsed nose wheel. No damages or injuries were reported.

The Open House event at Brackett Field Airport is tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2016; and Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation and the Fairplex are looking into the possibility of joining forces to combine events for the year 2017.

Mr. Lonctaux explained to the Commission what air-mapping is and the benefits it has to offer.

Noise complaints received by the airport have increased. Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission he will meet with air traffic control and tenants on the airport, and he will hold a second meeting with residents from the surrounding areas if interested.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the capability to detect drones that are being flown illegally. Mr. Lonctaux answered that he believes the only drones that can be detected at this point in time are registered drones, as it is instructed on the drone box at the time of purchase.

Mr. Jared Birch Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Maintenance**

Mr. Oscar Salazar was promoted to the Operations Supervisor position and that a new high-power base station radio was installed last week at the airport.

- **Projects**

Phase I of the apron pavement rehabilitation project continues on the airport. Mr. Birch informed the Commission the project is running smoothly, and tenants have been very cooperative and understanding of the construction. Completion of Phase I is expected by mid-July 2016.

- **Development and Activities**

Twenty-two hangars are vacant, and twenty-nine percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

American Airports Corporation's Avgas fuel sales were down 56.7 percent in March, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 73.6 percent in March, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 25.9 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

On April 29, 2016, airport staff gave a tour of the airport to approximately 40 kindergarteners and first graders on a field trip from an elementary school from the El Monte Unified School District.

On May 6, 2016, Mr. Birch attended an award banquet on behalf of American Airports Corporation through the Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers. On May 21, 2016, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano hosted a mental health event along with Metta World Peace at the airport.

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

- **April 2016 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the April 2016 Expense and Revenue Report and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Smith also informed the Commission about an upcoming Federal Aviation Administration reimbursement for the project taking place at San Gabriel

Valley Airport, and he also explained the revenue for the Noise Monitoring Reports was reflected on the Enterprise Fund Report.

- **American Association of Airport Executives Annual Conference and Exposition in Houston**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission about the American Association of Airport Executives' annual conference and exposition in Houston, Texas, where Mr. Todd L. McNamee, Director of Airports for Ventura County, was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Association.

In Houston, drones continue to be part of the conversation, as well as within the County. Various groups are contacting the airports for information, and Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Public Works is preparing their own drone program which will consist of drone uses across many Divisions including Aviation Division and has hired a private contractor to begin the pilot program.

- **Whiteman Airport**

Whiteman Airport has two rows of hangars, referred to as the "heights hangars," which are the oldest hangars at the County airports. Last month, a safety concern was brought up by one of the tenants. Public Works' Building and Safety Division investigated the concern and reported structural damage on the hangars. Mr. Smith alerted the Commission about the possible need for tenants to vacate the hangars.

- **Runway & Taxiway Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Aviation Division sent plans to the Federal Aviation Administration and Public Works' Construction Division for final review. Mr. Smith noted further that once the reviews take place, the advertisement process will begin.

- **Exit Taxiway for Runway 6**

The exit taxiway for runway 6 project is approximately 25 percent complete and is expected to be finalized by August 23, 2016.

D. 2016 Airport Customer Service Survey

Mr. Smith shared a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the 2016 Airport Customer Service Survey.

E. Annual Rental Rate Adjustment

Mr. Smith provided a summary of the annual rental rates proposal by American Airports Corporation which includes increasing the non-aviation surcharge to 65 percent, and no increase for aviation rental rates.

The motion to support the recommendation of the 2016 annual rental rates was unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Lord, seconded by Commissioner Weeks.

F. Carmen Sainz – Department of Regional Planning

Ms. Carmen Sainz informed the Commission about the services she provides to the County and made her services available to the County and the Commission.

Commissioner Simmons asked Ms. Sainz about having some input from the Commission on the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that having input from the Commission was welcome.

G. San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that during the late afternoon, it is difficult to read the letters on the new San Gabriel Valley sign. Therefore, a solid partition will replace the existing mesh to avoid the filtering of light and to allow the letters on the monument be seen.

At the Metta World Peace event hosted by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Mr. Smith informed the Commission this was an opportunity to show the airport facilities are open and available for the surrounding cities and officials.

Mr. Smith explained the need to remove 26 hangars on the north side of the airport and explained the economic impact that removal of these hangars would create and the plan to make up the difference.

Commissioner Simmons asked the amount of units that are aviation and non-aviation. Mr. Smith informed Commissioner Simmons that half of the affected hangars are aviation and the other half is non-aviation.

The apron pavement rehabilitation project is approximately 50 percent complete, and construction is on schedule. On June 22, 2016, pavement will commence and should be done by the first week in July.

The City of El Monte began Phase I of the tree replacement project, and the County's Job Order Contractor will commence Phase II on the weekend of July 4, 2016.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Levine, Santa Fe Dam RC Modelers, described what his club entails and expressed his interest in working with the airports to make sure they continue operating in compliance and in good terms.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 7 p.m.
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395**

Chair Cornwall adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Cardono, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

CD:cb

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