



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

September 30, 2015, Meeting
General William J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709

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
Secretary George G. Butts
Commissioner Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner Marc Carrel
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice Chair Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Patrick V. DeChellis, 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. Pete Lonceteaux, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Alvaro Escobedo, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Doug Drake, Fox Airfield Association

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the August 26, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Carrel.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Wardle introduced to the Commission Mr. Pete Lonctaux as the new manager at Brackett Field Airport.

- **Management and Maintenance**

Routine weed abatement continues on the airport, as this is done during the dry season.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission they received the new directional sign panel replacements they ordered and will replace the old faded signs.

- **Projects**

The County and American Airports Corporation have received several quotes for renovations of the interior and exterior of the terminal building and the restrooms.

- **Development and Activities**

There are 24 vacant hangars, and 33 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purpose.

Avgas fuel sales were down 3 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 18 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 15 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

On September 29, 2015, the Runway Safety Action Team, which included representatives from the Los Angeles County Aviation Division and the Federal Aviation Administration, met and discussed various topics that included a decrease in the number of vehicle deviations at Brackett Field Airport.

The Brackett Airport Association meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. and hosts its Aircraft Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

The San Gabriel Valley 99s meets at the airport on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the upcoming Open House, scheduled for October 18, 2015, will be postponed to give Mr. Lonctaux time to familiarize with the airport operation and its tenants.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that, recently, the airport staff has received several calls regarding the noise level surrounding the airport. Mr. Wardle concluded that the noise complaints are primarily due to the Police and Fire Department activity.

Chairman Holloway shared that he has received some calls regarding complaints.

Mr. Wardle informed Chairman Holloway that American Airports Corporation is currently addressing the issue; but because the subtenants involved are leasing through a master leaseholder, the process is a bit slower.

Mr. Wardle informed Chairman Holloway that his airport management is aware of the current non-approved activities taking place in the hangar and is dealing with it accordingly. Mr. Wardle will provide an update at the next meeting.

In August, a tenant that had been reported missing by his family was found collapsed in his hangar floor and was rushed to the hospital.

Mr. Alvaro Escobedo Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Escobedo introduced to the Commission Mr. David S. Price as the new operations supervisor at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

A small tree on the south parking lot of the airport was removed, and restructuring of the canopies was also done in that same area.

- **Projects**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that 117 hangars, 32 tiedowns, and approximately 113 aircraft will be impacted during the apron pavement rehabilitation project. He further added that he has explained to tenants the extent of the impact; and in September, he held the first tenant information meeting.

Mr. Smith clarified that Mr. Escobedo has called every affected tenant but has not heard back from 20 tenants. A secondary meeting will be held, and Mr. Smith hoped the attendance will be greater.

- **Development and Activities**

The sign, trenching, and landscaping for the new airport entrance sign project have commenced; the project is expected to be completed in the next 2 weeks.

Avgas fuel sales were up 5 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 58 percent compared to last year.

Ninety-three percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 28 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Airport operations are up 12 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On September 2, 2015, the first apron rehabilitation project meeting was held.

On September 19, 2015, Civil Air Patrol held its new cadet meeting in the terminal building.

The Civil Air Patrol meets every Thursday at the airport, and the Radio Control League hosts its meetings every second Tuesday of the month.

On September 27, 2015, the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association hosted a successful Antique Display Day on the airport.

On October 3, 2015, the Chinese-American Pilots and Aircraft Owners Association will have the Clandestine Missions of ROC Air Force, and Li Wang will make a presentation about the Cold War.

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that the annual Airport Open House will be on October 31, 2015.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Escobedo informed the Commission that two airport tenants had passed away this month: Mr. Dell Henderson, on September 1, 2015; and Mr. Bud Keeso on September 29, 2015.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Marino reported to the Commission that five runway signs that had been identified as faded signs were replaced.

- **Management and Maintenance**

On September 16, 2015, the Civil Air Patrol informed Mr. Marino that there was water bubbling out of the asphalt and discovered the water main was broken. A 20-foot section of the asphalt was removed, and water had to be turned off for a few hours.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that hangar inspections have commenced, and the County inspections will take place from October 7 through October 9, 2015.

- **Projects**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the terminal building renovation will commence on October 1, 2015.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty-nine percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 10 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purpose.

Avgas fuel sales are up 4.6 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 3.9 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations are down 3.7 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On September 2, 2015, the Runway Safety Action Team meeting took place but had no issues to report this month.

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting in the airport administration building on Thursday, September 17, 2015; the next meeting will be held on October 15, 2015.

On October 26, 2015, the fourth Annual Airport Open House was held, and approximately 900 people attended. The event included classic cars, aircraft displays, food trucks, and plane rides for kids.

The Whiteman Airport Association Antique Aircraft Display will take place on October 11, 2015.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event at the airport on October 24, 2015.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Wardle provided additional information on the Request for Proposals for the Whiteman helicopter development. Mr. Wardle informed that American Airports Corporation has received proposals, and the County is reviewing them. In addition, Mr. Wardle mentioned that he would like two Commissioners participate in the selection process.

Mr. Rafael Herrera Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Herrera informed the Commission that new signage at intersection delta/alpha was installed, and hangar inspections will commence in October. Some notifications to tenants have been distributed.

- **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 purpose.

In August, Avgas fuel sales were down 26 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Miscellaneous**

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, the Experimental Aircraft Association's Plane and Model Fly-In Expo was held at the airport.

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

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the automated system on the east gate of the airfield is not functioning. The company that installed the fence and automated system determined the circuit board is not working. The part has been ordered, which will be installed when it becomes available.

Mr. Irving updated the Commission regarding the Antelope Valley College's interest in using the museum site at the airport, and he added that the college and American Airports Corporation are both interested in this prospect.

The generator was placed in the building close to the terminal building, and Mr. Irving is pleased with the progress. Commissioner Simmons inquired

about the type of fuel the generator will use. Mr. Irving informed the Commissioner that the generator runs on diesel fuel.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales are up 20 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 50 percent, year to date. There are three vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation purpose.

Aircraft operations on the airport are up 5 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Commissioner Simmons inquired about the number of items that remain in the museum. Mr. Irving provided information on the remaining items.

- **Miscellaneous**

On September 22, 2015, a Cessna 310 returned to the airport with an inoperable nose gear, and runway was closed for about an hour.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Pilots Association held its annual Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast, and the Rotary will hold its Chili Cook-off on October 31, 2015.

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

Mr. Smith introduced to the Commission Mr. Steve Weeks as the new Commissioner representing the Third District, along Commissioner Carrel. He also announced that the Aviation Division has a new Deputy Director, Mr. Pat Proano.

Mr. Pat DeChellis said Goodbye to the Commission. He thanked the Commission and expressed that it was a short time but a pleasure working with the Aviation Commission.

- **August 2015 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the August 2015 expense and revenue report and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons inquired if expenses under Road Maintenance Division included all airports. Mr. Smith replied that the expenses are for all airports.

Commissioner Simmons also inquired about future repairs to the parking lot entrance at the Whiteman terminal parking lot. Mr. Smith agreed with Commissioner Simmons' concerns and will be addressing the issue.

Commissioner Simmons asked about charges and reimbursements for work that was completed by Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division.

Chairman Holloway inquired on charges under Waterworks Division.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that this expense was for a waterline breakage that occurred at General William J. Fox Airfield, and Waterworks took care of the repairs. He also mentioned that American Airports Corporation reimbursed the County for these charges.

Mr. Smith reported that on Monday, September 26, 2015, the United States Congress passed a 6-month extension for a Federal Aviation Administration program, which includes the Airport Improvement Program, through March 31, 2015.

Mr. Smith provided an information package with regulations, rules, and other updates regarding drones, as requested by Commissioner Simmons in a previous meeting.

The County's Internal Services Department is starting a solar initiative Countywide. Two of our airports were volunteered for consideration as pilots, and, hopefully, we can have a project built at the airports inexpensively.

Mr. Smith showed to the Commission the trophy award that will be presented to Barnes Aviation on October 11, 2015, at the 75th Year Anniversary celebration.

- **San Gabriel Valley Airport**

The Billion Air lease is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors on November 3, 2015, in order to allow additional time to complete construction and implementation of the name change from El Monte Airport to San Gabriel Valley Airport. The official documentation was sent to the Federal Aviation Administration and the California Department of Transportation, so they can update their publications.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he met with City of El Monte officials, and they have a new Public Works Director who seems enthusiastic about working with the County in resolving pending issues.

The Memoranda of Understanding was renewed for the Police Department and Fire Departments at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Smith also mentioned that several noise complaints involving the Police and Fire departments' aircraft have been reported and will be addressed, as they will be our tenants for a while.

- **Whiteman Airport**

The Whiteman terminal modification will begin October 1, 2015. Mr. Smith also informed the Commission that a fence was installed along Roger Jessup Park to reduce some of the transient problems that are occurring along that area.

- **Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation at Compton/Woodley Airport**

Correspondence was received from the Federal Aviation Administration for the design phase of the runway and taxiway rehabilitation for the Modification to Standards that must be submitted to secure funding from the Federal Aviation Administration.

- **Exit Taxiway for Runway 6 at General William J. Fox Airfield**

Mr. Smith also informed the Commission that the Exit Taxiway for Runway 6 at General William J. Fox Airfield, may overlap with the annual air show. As an option, Mr. Smith suggested that the County pay the contractor any work for a week, so that the work does not interfere with the air show.

D. General William J. Fox Airfield Items

None.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Dough Drake, Fox Airfield Association, shared the success of the Pancake Breakfast held on September 26, 2015. Mr. Drake commended Mr. Steve Irving and airport staff for the work they do in making Fox Airfield a great airport.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 10 a.m.
at Whiteman Airport
12653 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2104
(818) 896-5271**

Commissioner Lord moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Amundson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. in memory of Mr. Dell Henderson and Mr. Bud Keeso.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Butts, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission