



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

April 25, 2018, meeting
Whiteman Airport
10000 Airpark Way
Pacoima, CA 91331-7393
(818) 896-5271

COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS
CHAIRMAN
DENNIS C. LORD
VICE-CHAIRMAN
PETER M. AMUNDSON
SECRETARY
CURT CASTAGNA
MEMBER
PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER
HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER
GABRIEL PEREZ
MEMBER
STEVE A. WEEKS
MEMBER
VACANT
MEMBER
VACANT
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice-Chairman Dennis Lord
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

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. Carlos Diaz, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Enrique Curioso, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Winn Williams, Port Hangar Association
Mr. Murry I. Rozansky, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

GUESTS (Cont.)

Mr. James A. Miller, Civil Air Patrol
Mrs. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Leslie Dinius, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Dick Millais, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 35
Mr. Michael Kobal, Fullerton Airport
Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Mark Sawyer, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Joey Cooke, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Bob Eicholz, Whiteman Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Clinton Simmons called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

Approval of the minutes for January 24, 2018, February 28, 2018, and March 21, 2018, were unanimously approved on a motion from Vice-Chairman Dennis Lord, seconded by Commissioner Curt Castagna.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that a temporary operating agreement was executed with Antelope Valley College at General William J. Fox Airfield.

Chairman Simmons inquired if the Antelope Valley College will be a full training facility. Mr. Wardle informed Chairman Simmons that as of now, it is for airframe and powerplant mechanics only.

As an effort to promote the recycling and reduction of waste, new signage addressing waste will be installed at the five County airports.

Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Airport staff continues to maintain the landscape on Tyler Avenue and Emery Street.

Phase I of the ramp pavement rehabilitation project is almost complete.

Beginning in July 2018, American Airports Corporation will host an Aircraft Swap Meet to compliment the Display Day event.

On March 17, 2018, a pilot had complications when landing his aircraft. No injuries or damage were reported.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., and the Civil Air Patrol meets every Thursday at 7 p.m.

Thirty hangars at the airport are vacant, and 19 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 12 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 1 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 62 percent, compared to the same month last year.

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

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that despite the bad weather, the 2018 Air Show had an approximately 10 percent increase in attendance and added that planning for the 2019 Air Show has commenced.

On March 5, 2018, the Airport Traffic Control Tower hosted the annual Runway Safety Action Team meeting.

On March 10, 2018, the Fox Airfield Pilots Association held a safety meeting and the Airport Traffic Control Tower Chief was the featured speaker.

On March 8, 2018, the Antelope Valley 99's held their annual Poker Run.

A water tanker company utilized the airport as a training site for the tanker pilots in the month of April.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

On May 19, 2018, the 99's will finalize the painting project on the airport identifiers located in front of the terminal building.

The Brackett Airmen Association holds its monthly meeting on the first Thursday of every month and Display Day on the third Sunday of every month.

On November 2, 2018 through November 4, 2018, the Academy of Model Aeronautics West Coast will host their convention at the Fairplex.

The Taste of La Verne will be held on October 16, 2018, and the Annual Open House will be held on October 20, 2018.

On March 23, 2018, there was a fire in one of the hangars; three additional hangars were affected by the fire. The investigation is ongoing.

Eighty-five percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 25 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were down 12.1 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 10.2 percent, compared to the same month last year. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 10 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Security lights throughout the hangars were repaired and replaced and weed abatement continues throughout the airport.

In the month of March, tenants were asked to report any problems pertaining to their hangar doors. A company was hired under the maintenance fund to repair all hangar doors that were not functioning properly.

On May 16, 2018, the annual fire extinguisher certification will take place.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that the Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation project is in progress.

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 35 hangars are used for non-aviation. Avgas fuel sales are up 0.4 percent, compared to the same month last year.

The annual Compton Woodley Airport Open House and the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles Air Fair will be held on May 19, 2018.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that Michael Robinson passed away on April 22, 2018.

Vice-Chairman Lord requested clarification on the completion date for the Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation Project and inquired about the contractor that repaired the roof on the Experimental Aircraft Association Hangar.

Chairman Simmons requested that tenants be trained on using a fire extinguisher. Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that he will be sharing written instructions on how to utilize a fire extinguisher.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

All four of the windsocks on the airport were replaced.

County hangar inspections continue at the airport; a total of 138 hangar inspections have been completed.

Light repairs and upgrades were done to street lights and on the airport.

Stormwater samples were collected as part of the annual stormwater monitoring plan. The results of the sampling indicated that state guidelines were met; no follow-ups were required.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that a large For Lease sign was placed on the parcel that was returned by Arc Machines as part of the lease extension agreement.

On April 27, 2018, Whiteman Airport will host a booth at the Annual Van Nuys Career Expo.

On May 5, 2018, the Aviation Explorers 747 will hold their third annual Fundraising Gala; additional information on the event was shared with the Commission.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that an event reenacting the first Contract Airmail Flight 8 will make its first stop delivering and taking US mail at Whiteman Airport on May 13, 2018.

On April 19, 2018, the Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting. The next association meeting will be held on May 17, 2018.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event on April 28, 2018.

On April 18, 2018, there was an aircraft incident on the runway. No injuries or damage were reported.

Mr. Marino congratulated Sam Maghakian, Assistant Manager, on his promotion.

Ninety-one percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 10 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

Avgas fuel sales were up 6.1 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 8.8 percent, compared to the same month last year. Aircraft operations on the airport were up 5.3 percent, compared to the same month last year.

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

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the March 2018 Expense and Revenue Report and provided an explanation about increased labor expenses.

Chairman Simmons inquired on furniture and painting expenditures. Mr. Smith summarized the expenses for the Commission.

Mr. Smith announced that the Commission will have a new Commissioner, Christina Pascucci representing Supervisor Khuehl, and introduced Bailey Massie, as a new member of the Aviation Division.

The annual Airport Customer Service Survey collection continues; the deadline to submit a survey will be extended into mid-May 2018.

Mr. Smith shared information with the Commission regarding the FAA Reauthorization Bill and other amendments. Commissioner Castagna elaborated on the amendments that are being reviewed by the House of Representatives.

D. Portable Hangar Committee

Commissioner Castagna shared with the Commission that the purpose of creating the Portable Hangar Committee was to establish guidelines to follow when having to address the removal of County owned hangars and currently, there is no need for the policy at any of the airports. Therefore, Commissioner Castagna motioned to discontinue the Portable Hangar Committee and its efforts at this time. Vice-Chairman Lord seconded the motion.

E. Whiteman Airport Items

The Department of Water and Power and Public Works had a meeting regarding the water tank project and the placement for the water tank.

Mr. Smith mentioned to the Commission that Aviation Division is part of the solar grant request that Public Works submitted for the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations designed for the public and Public Works' Fleet Division. Compton/Woodley and Brackett Field Airport are next on the list for EV charging stations.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Winn Williams shared with the Commission that the Portable Hangar Association received a notice to pay or quit. Mr. Williams stated that they have not paid the rent due for the last couple of months because they are waiting for a response from the Federal Aviation Administration. Mr. Williams requested leniency from the Commission on this matter.

Mr. Murry Rozansky, Whiteman Airport Tenant, shared with the Commission the benefits of having unleaded Avgas at the airports and suggested that the County consider the possibility of providing unleaded Avgas fuel in the future.

Mr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, shared with the Commission that he filed a Part 13 complaint with the FAA regarding the tripling of possessory interest taxes and to clarify the relationship between Public Works and American Airports Corporation. Mr. Smith stated that County Counsel is reviewing the complaint submitted by Mr. Haney.

Commissioner Castagna asked if it is possible for the Aviation Commission to be briefed by County Counsel when legal topics arise. Mr. Smith agreed with Commissioner Castagna and restated that County Counsel is currently reviewing Mr. Haney's complaint.

Mr. James Miller, Civil Air Patrol, informed the Commission about the various events that Civil Air Patrol continues to be involved in. Mr. Miller added that moving into the old terminal building at Whiteman Airport was a positive turn for the squadron, making them accessible.

Mrs. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association, reiterated her concern regarding the lack of County signage on doors and around the terminal building and would like to see the County emblem displayed throughout the terminal building.

Ms. Leslie Dinius, shared with the Commission her concern with unsafe driving and vehicles speeding on Airpark Way and is requesting that this concern be addressed. Mr. Smith will request that a study be conducted on Airpark Way. Ms. Dinius' second concern was with the illegal trash-dumping that takes place at the airport. In addition, she would like to see the airport promote recycling.

Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport, shared his concern with the lack of signage at Whiteman Airport and agreed with Ms. Dinius on the trash bin situation at the airports. Second, Mr. Smalldridge asked the Commission for a list of contact numbers for all the airport tenants. Vice-Chairman Lord suggested that the airport user group obtain this information directly from the tenants and ask the Airport Manager to add an announcement on the airports newsletter stating meeting dates and times.

Vice-Chairman Lord shared with the public, information on a program that can assist with WiFi connectivity for non-profit organizations.

III. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at 7 p.m.
at San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

RS:cd

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