



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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STEVE A. WEEKS
MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

April 26, 2017, Meeting
Whiteman Airport
10000 Airpark Way
Pacoima, CA 91331-7393
(818) 896-5271

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman George G. Butts
Secretary Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Gabriel Perez
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner 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. Carlos Diaz, Manager Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Jack Harris, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Leanne Powers, KEMT – San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. Tim Quinn, Civil Air Patrol
Ms. Ruth Logan, Explorers 99s
Ms. Leslie Dinius, Whiteman Airport Association

GUESTS (Cont.)

Mr. Benjamin Bundt, KEMT
Mr. Richard Millais, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Woody McCauley, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Charles Ducat, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

The minutes for the February 22, 2017, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Amundson, seconded by Commissioner Weeks.

The minutes for the March 22, 2017, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Holloway, seconded by Commissioner Amundson.

Chairman Butts introduced Commissioner Castagna as the new member of the Aviation Commission to the Commission and the public representing Supervisor Janice Hahn, Supervisorial District 4.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle provided an update on the leasing and development of the museum hangar at General William J. Fox Airfield. The Antelope Valley College and American Airports Corporation (AAC) continued to discuss the terms of the agreement and look forward to developing a new lease.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, AAC will submit a request of interest for a potential hangar rehabilitation redevelopment located at the south end of the airport.

Mr. Wardle informed the Los Angeles County Aviation Commission that he is finalizing changes to the AMIHC Holding Corporation lease amendment before submittal to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

At Brackett Field Airport, a new tenant will take over the old Nostalgia Airways, Inc., building. Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that AAC is negotiating the terms of the agreement.

Plans for the marketing fund were submitted to the Aviation Division on April 1, 2017. The marketing fund plan for Brackett Field Airport was approved; as for the other airports, stakeholders will revisit their marketing plans.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that AAC submitted its recommendation for the annual rental rates adjustment for 2017. Mr. Wardle provided a summary of the recommendation to increase the surcharge for non-aviation hangars and slightly adjust rates at Whiteman Airport and General William J. Fox Airfield.

AAC and Mr. Smith discussed the water conservation efforts taking place at the airports. To better gauge the County airports' water conservation efforts, AAC will provide a report that will highlight the status.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that AAC remains committed to energy conservation solutions at the airports, and Whiteman Airport is in the process of transitioning into LED lighting.

Mr. Wardle provided and discussed an informational flyer regarding the QT Pods. AAC is considering QT Pods as the replacement for the outdated stations that are located at the self-serve islands at the five airports.

Commissioner Weeks inquired about the cost and budget amount for these QT Pods. Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that AAC does not have a firm price now, but once they have additional information on the cost, AAC will have a meeting with the County to discuss the details.

Commissioner Castagna asked Mr. Wardle if AAC is negotiating with the fuel supplier to provide these QT pod units as part of their contract. Mr. Wardle informed Commissioner Castagna that, at this point, he does not want to weaken his negotiating position.

Commissioner Castagna revisited the QT Pods. He asked if this would be a capital or budgeted cost; and, if so, would it be logical to negotiate the QT Pods as part of the contract with the fuel supplier, as this would better benefit the airport users.

Mr. Wardle shared with the Commission that Public Works' Fleet Division informed AAC that all 10 exempt County vehicles at the airport had to be smog-checked.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that the runway lighting system was fixed, and repainting of the maintenance building is almost complete with minor touch ups still pending.

The airfield signage project was delayed due to a sign that caught on fire. Mr. Lonctaux reported to the Commission that the sign was replaced, and they are back on schedule with the airfield signage project.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that it cost AAC \$7,000 to repair and smog check the 1999 fuel truck at the airport.

- **Projects**

Mr. Lonctaux reported to the Commission that the design consultant visited the airport to survey and do engineering work as part of the Apron Ramp Pavement Design project.

The crack-seal project will commence on May 8, 2017.

- **Development and Activities**

Eighty percent of the aircraft hangars are occupied, and 23 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales were up 1 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 0.008 percent, compared to the same month last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 8 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Brackett Airmen Association holds its monthly meeting on the 1st Thursday of every month and Display Day on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

The City of La Verne is interested in hosting its Taste of La Verne – Wine and Festival event at the airport on October 21, 2017.

The Port Hangar Association hangar inspections are complete, and minor discrepancies were discovered.

Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Maintenance**

On March 30, 2017, the underground storage tank was removed, and soil testing results are pending.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that 12 kids enjoyed a tour at the airport.

Staff regouted the pilots' restrooms and will continue with the terminal restrooms.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that the new telephone system in the terminal building will improve customer service.

In March, an old broken lawn mower was stolen from the maintenance yard, and the damaged fence will cost \$600 to repair.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that recent trimming of the hedge on Riverview had an unpleasant outcome, and landscape activities were reassigned to another employee.

Mr. Curioso provided the Commission a sample of the patch intended to be distributed during events and to airport visitors.

- **Development and Activities**

In March, there were 33 vacant units, 26 percent is used for non-aviation purposes.

In March, Avgas fuel sales were down 41 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 72 percent, compared to last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Civil Air Patrol meets every Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., and the San Gabriel Valley Remote Control Association meets every Tuesday.

Commissioner Castagna asked the reason for the removal of the underground storage tank and if the removal caused an operational impact. Mr. Wardle stated that rust particles were evident in the tank, and it is the reason why the tank was removed from service approximately 2 years ago.

Commissioner Lord asked Mr. Curioso if he knew the reason for the increase in tower operations and the decrease in fuel sales. Mr. Wardle informed Commissioner Lord that having a second fuel provider has decreased AAC's fuel sales, but overall sales at the airport have increased.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, the City of Compton utilized the terminal building as a polling location.

On May 17, 2017, fire extinguishers will be recertified, and a make-up date will be scheduled later.

The tractor battery was replaced and is now back in service.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that a fencing contractor installed five new bollards.

The palm trees that damaged the northeast block wall will be removed. The residents adjacent to the palm trees agreed with the removal, and the repairs will resume soon.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 35 percent of the hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are down 12.5 percent, year to date.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that Mr. Bob Scott's aircraft, the banner-towing operator, is out of service; this was attributed to the decrease in fuel sales.

- **Meetings and Events**

On May 13, 2017, the Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum will host its annual youth air fair from 10 to 4 p.m.

Commissioners Simmons and Lord engaged in a brief discussion regarding old vehicles that were improperly parked in hangar aisles. Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that his staff will monitor the vehicles in question.

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

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the hangar restrooms painting project has commenced.

The United States Forest Service will test the Precision Container Aerial Delivery System. They will drop cardboard boxes filled with a fire retardant from a C-130 aircraft onto the testing grid.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that an Infiniti commercial was filmed in front of the terminal building.

The 99s held their poker run at the airport and was well attended.

Mr. Irving summarized this year's air show to the Commission, and concluded that air show attendance was lower than previous years due to the weather. After the air show, the airport had several incidents that were attributed to the winds.

Commissioner Weeks complimented the air show efforts and parking process, but he was concerned for the time it took to exit the VIP area and worried that this would discourage attendees from returning next year. Commissioner Weeks stated that there was only one exit and a lack of volunteers directing traffic. Mr. Irving stated to the Commission that he and the Air Show Board are aware of the parking situation and assured the Commission that efforts to improve the exiting process will continue to be addressed.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the C-17 aircraft had mechanical problems due to miscalculations by the pilot, and the Edwards Air Force Base's tow crew broke the landing gear by exceeding the aircraft's turn radius.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were consistent, compared to last year. Jet-A fuel sales are down 20 percent, year to date.

There are three vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Airport operations were consistent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Fox Airport Association will host its pancake breakfast event on May 13, 2017, at 8 a.m.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

The pressure regulator in the restrooms located at CC-hangar row and the wooden beams that support the door tracks to the T-hangar row were replaced.

Airport staff replaced all the wind socks on the field.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he is working with a company to replace all the lighting at the airport with LED lighting. Upgrading to LED lighting will make the airport eligible for a rebate through the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power's Commercial Lighting Incentive Program. It will also save money on electricity and equipment.

The County is installing two electric car charging stations on the north side of the parking lot.

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that he is working with a contractor to obtain a quote for a build out to facilitate a snack bar.

Commissioner Weeks asked Mr. Marino if the snack bar build out was to accommodate a prospective tenant. Mr. Marino informed Commissioner Weeks that this was not for a specific tenant. The build out is generic and can accommodate anyone of the interested parties.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-one percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 15 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Avgas fuel sales are down 1.3 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are down 2.6 percent, year to date.

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

- **Meetings and Events**

On Monday, April 10, 2017, students from two preschools were given a tour at the airport.

The Whiteman Airport Association held its monthly meeting on April 20, 2017. The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2017.

The next Antique Aircraft Display Day will be held on May 14, 2017.

On May 19, 2017, Whiteman Airport will host a booth at the 12th Annual Van Nuys Career Expo.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event on May 27, 2017.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that Mr. Ralph Truglio was featured on an Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's article that highlighted his 60 years of flight training.

Commission Castagna inquired about a restroom hangar that has been closed in the HH hangars at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Smith stated that he would investigate and contact the developer to make the repairs.

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

March 2017 Expense and Revenue Report

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the March 2017 Expense and Revenue Report.

Assembly Bill 483

AB 483 was introduced by Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra intended to address air pollution possibly generated at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Smith informed the

Commission that letters were sent from several aviation organizations that opposed the bill. Assemblyman Bocanegra agreed to pull the bill opting for airport/community round-table meetings. A meeting with Assemblyman Bocanegra will be held in the upcoming weeks.

Rental Rate Recommendation

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with a copy of the rental rates recommendation AAC submitted and briefly summarized the recommended increases. Rental rates will be addressed at the May 31, 2017, Aviation Commission meeting.

Commissioner Castagna asked if each airport is self-sustaining and suggested appraisals or surveys be considered as part of the justification rate increases.

Mr. Wardle stated that AAC had sampled rates of surrounding storage businesses, and AAC is requesting gradual increases in the non-aviation hangar rates be based on the outside market.

Compton/Woodley Airport Rehabilitation and San Gabriel Valley Airport Apron Pavement Rehabilitation, Phase 2, Projects

Public Works' Construction Division will go to the Board of Supervisors' for approval to advertise both projects on May 16, 2017. After the Board's approval, the projects will be advertised.

General Wm. J. Fox Airfield Exit Taxiway for Runway 06 Project

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the Exit Taxiway for Runway 06 project is complete and added that a million-dollar claim was filed regarding this project.

Freeway Signage

Mr. Smith stated that the signs with the name change were placed on the 10 and 210 freeways.

D. Recognition Awards – Presented by Commissioner Weeks

Commissioner Weeks presented the first Recognition Award to Ms. Ruth Logan and highlighted her accomplishments.

Ms. Ruth Logan gracefully accepted the award and thanked all present.

E. Whiteman Airport Items

None.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Charles Ducat, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40, informed the Commission on activities that the Experimental Aircraft Association is involved in and expressed his gratitude to the County and the Commission for allowing the various associations to utilize the old terminal building.

Chairman Butts commented that Commissioner Lord and Mr. Steve Irving were fellow Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter presidents.

Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association, thanked the Commission for allowing the use of the old terminal building. Mr. Hagopian mentioned to the Commission that he met with Mr. Marino to discuss posting event-advertising signs on the outside of the airport gates the community to participate in airport events.

Mr. Ed Anhalt, Civil Air Patrol Squadron 35, thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Marino for assisting in a smooth transition into the old terminal building. Mr. Anhalt provided a summary to the Commission listing improvements that took place at the old terminal building.

Mr. James Miller, Civil Air Patrol, informed the Commission on the various events that Civil Air Patrol is involved in. Mr. Miller added that moving into the old terminal building was a positive turn for his squadron, and he thanked the Commission and Aviation Division staff.

Ms. Leslie Dinius, Whiteman Airport tenant, expressed her concern regarding the surrounding trees not receiving adequate water. Also, Ms. Dinius was concerned that the trash bins on the airport are always full. Mr. Wardle stated that illegal trash-dumping is a concern at all airports and pad-locking the trash bins is an option but may create other problems.

III. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at 7 p.m.
at San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670
(626) 448-6129**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Butts, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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