



MARK PESTRELLA
Acting Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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MEMBER

STEVE A. WEEKS
MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

January 25, 2017, Meeting

Brackett Field Airport

1615 McKinley Avenue

La Verne, CA 91750-5846

(909) 593-1395

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman George G. Butts
Secretary Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice-Chairman Angelo R. Cardono
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, Interim Manager
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Winn Williams, Port-A-Port Hangar, SSO
Mr. Ed Sause, President, American Airports Corporation
Mr. Bob Kantor, Port-A-Port Hangar, SSO
Mr. John Finley, Brackett Field Airport Association
Mr. Dave Hopkins, Vice-President Santa Monica Airport Association
Mr. Robin Howard, Howard Association
Mr. Bob Velker, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 64
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

Mr. Jim Stewart, Long Beach Airport Association
Ms. Terri Odom, visitor
Ms. Karen Parah, visitor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butts called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes

The minutes for the November 30, 2016, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Lord, seconded by Secretary Simmons.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation will extend the ARC Machines, Inc., lease. The new lease will include a fee for the extension and a reduction of the original leasehold premises.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation (AAC) verified the information Mr. Gabe Lopez provided to the Commission regarding rental rates. As requested by Commissioner Cornwall, Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the results of the rental rates data collected by AAC showed the five County airports do not have the lowest rental rates in the region, but he confirmed they do not have the highest either.

Mr. Wardle introduced to the Commission Mr. Oscar Salazar as the new assistant manager at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Maintenance**

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission maintenance activity increased at San Gabriel Valley Airport during the past rainy days, and a faulty turbine at the fuel pit was repaired after several attempts.

The fuel truck was out of service because of a damaged circuit board. The truck was repaired after multiple attempts.

There were roof leaks reported in the terminal building during the past rains. Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that minor repairs to the roof were performed to survive the additional days of rain. Permanent repairs to the terminal building roof will be made once the rain ceases.

- **Projects**

Mr. Wardle informed that work on the apron pavement rehabilitation project has not commenced yet. AAC will notify impacted tenants through the airport newsletter and scheduled tenant meetings. Mr. Wardle also informed that tenants will be offered the option to relocate to other airports.

- **Development and Activities**

In November 2016, Avgas fuel sales were down 54 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 58 percent. In December, Avgas was down 69 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 73 percent, compared to last year.

There are 18 vacant hangars, and six hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

Airport operations were up 7 percent in November and down 69 percent in December, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association meets every third Wednesday of every month and has an Antique Aircraft Display Day the last Sunday of every month.

Mr. Wardle announced to the Commission that AAC selected a potential candidate for the Airport Manager position. The tentative start date is February 6, 2017, pending the live scan and background check.

Mr. Andrew Marino Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino informed the Commission that the damages to the main entrance gate after the accident on November 30, 2016, were repaired on December 9, 2017.

On December 14, 2016, the assistant manager attended a wildlife hazard management course on proper wildlife hazard procedures, and on January 6, 2017, the assistant manager trained airport staff on wildlife hazard. Airport staff had the opportunity to practice using bird bangs and the screamers.

Termite and pest spraying at the old administration building was completed prior to the Civil Air Patrol's moving in.

The annual elevator and fire inspection was completed in the new terminal building.

County hangar inspections will be held on March 2 through March 6, 2017.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-three 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 were down 10 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up .6 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 3.8 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

On December 8, 2016, the Whiteman Airport Association hosted its annual holiday party and collected 344 pounds of food donations for the Meet Each Need with Dignity organization.

On December 10, 2016, the annual Santa Claus fly-in took place in conjunction with the Meet Each Need with Dignity organization event. Due to the weather, Santa Claus arrived in a red Cadillac. Mr. Marino thanked Commissioner Weeks for attending the event and taking a tour of the Meet Each Need with Dignity organization.

On December 14, 2016, Whiteman Airport hosted a Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team's Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) seminar in the new building.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host its Young Eagles event on January 28, 2017.

The next Whiteman Airport Association meeting will be held on February 16, 2017.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

On January 11, 2017, a female driver lost control of her vehicle and damaged the fence line, Chairman Butt's hangar, and some items stored in the Chairman's hangar.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that the County and AAC continue to engage the services of vendors to replace the 30 panels on the sound wall.

- **Development and Activities**

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

In November 2016, Avgas fuel sales were down 4 percent, and in December, sales were up 19 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On December 16, 2016, the Compton Airport Association held its annual Holiday Party and collected toys that were delivered to the local Fire Department by Mr. Diaz and Mr. Meeks.

On January 20, 2017, a meeting was held in preparation for the upcoming Compton/Woodley Airport Open House calendared for March 11, 2017.

On January 15, 2017, an Aeronaca Champ had an incident on Runway 7. No major injuries or damages to airport property were reported.

Chairman Butts shared some positive comments regarding the friendly atmosphere at Compton/Woodley Airport since Mr. Diaz became the manager.

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

The west hangar restrooms were painted, and heaters were added to the restrooms to prevent pipes from freezing during cold weather.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the air show preparations are moving along. Informational meetings with tenants will be held prior to the air show to discuss area closures, accessibility, and passes to the air show.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the airport had some flooding and drain issues due to the heady rains and reported that repairs are completed.

Mr. Irving reported that painting of the hangar restrooms will commence once the rains have ceased.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that he is getting bids for the landscaping project of the south side of the terminal building. This project will take place after the air show.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that a gate will be installed east of the terminal building and airport traffic control tower prior to the air show to facilitate the air show traffic.

The taxiway construction continues at the airport. Mr. Irving reported to the Commission that the grading and electrical portion of the project should commence after the concrete pouring takes place.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were consistent, compared to last year. Jet-A fuel sales are up 48 percent year to date.

There are three vacant hangars, and no hangars are used for non-aviation storage purposes. Airport operations are up 32 percent over last year's operations.

- **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Amundson asked how well the air show planning is progressing, and if there will be a residual for the airport. Mr. Irving informed Commissioner Amundson that the in-placed management is working well and perceives the air show will be a success.

Chairman Butts inquired how the air show planning process is going now that the airport manager and County are attending all meetings. Mr. Irving indicated that it was a huge improvement over last year.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that, in preparation for the forecasted rains, airport staff ensured that all debris around the airport was removed and necessary fixes made. There was only one hangar that had some leaks, which will be addressed.

The Jet-A truck is still having circuit board problems and is currently inoperative.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that a 500-foot protective barrier is being installed on the north side of the airport by airport staff.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that airport staff will paint and complete some repairs to the trim board surrounding the buildings to match the work that was done to the terminal meeting.

A vendor was selected to manufacture lenses for the light fixtures in the terminal building hallway.

The airport signage replacement continues at the airport. Mr. Lonctaux provided pictures of the maintenance taking place at the airport.

- **Development and Activity**

Eighty-two 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 6 percent in November 2016, and were up 9 percent in December. Jet-A fuel sales were up 80 percent in December.

Aircraft operations were down 12 percent, year to year.

- **Miscellaneous**

Sky Aviation is negotiating a lease with American Airports Corporation for its current rented space to transition from a month-to-month to a long-term land lease.

Commissioner Simmons asked the reason why the sales went up and what is the status of the operations. Mr. Lonctaux informed that he believes it may be due to transient activity.

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

- **November and December 2016 Expense and Revenue Reports**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the November and December 2016 Expense and Revenue Reports. He explained that labor charges were not included in the reports because Fiscal Division had problems with its financial accounting system and will provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that, at the last Aviation Commission meeting, a tenant expressed a concern with the current surveillance system. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Aviation is investigating the issue and considering to possibly replacing the entire surveillance system. However, that process can turn to be a laborious process and might require engaging the services from other divisions.

San Gabriel Valley Airport Signage

The County contacted the State of California's Department of Transportation to inquire about pending changes for the signs on the freeway. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that they have placed the order, which takes about a 6-week lead time to manufacture the signs.

D. Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the County received a letter from the Federal Aviation Administration regarding its concerns with the less-than-standard threshold crossing height at Brackett Field Airport. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the County is working on a solution to address this concern.

Mr. Winn Williams addressed the Commission at a previous meeting regarding the expiration of his lease. Mr. Williams informed the Commission that he would address the questions as the public comment speakers approached the Commission.

Mr. Smith presented an informational PowerPoint, regarding the current financial state and forecast on the revenue and expenditures for American Airports Corporation.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Winn Williams, Port Hangar Association, expressed over a letter that he received from the County that indicates his lease would not be renewed. Mr. Williams expressed concern that the County and American Airports Corporation are not providing a valid reason not to renew his lease. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Wardle if he wanted the Port Hangar Association to leave the airport. Mr. Wardle stated that he fully understands the economic standing of the current lease and concurs with the County's decision not to renew the lease. As a closing remark, Mr. Williams requested from the Commission a vote on whether or not the Commission would like the Port Hangar Association to stay at Brackett Field Airport for the next meeting.

Mr. Wardle recommended to the Commission that, prior to any consideration, the Port Hangar Association be subjected to a full inspection of all hangars, as airport management is not aware of what is stored in those hangars.

Mr. Bob Kantor spoke on behalf of the Port Hangar Association and requested that the County and American Airports Association reconsider the decision that was made. Mr. Kantor stated that he is willing to pay an increase in the rental amount and any inspections requested by American Airports Corporation. Chairman Butts informed Mr. Kantor that the Commission heard about this lease coming to an end 2 months ago. Secretary Simmons informed Mr. Kantor that, in a previous meeting, it was stated by Mr. Williams that they did not want an increase in price.

Commissioner Cornwall shared that the Port Hangar Association has not allowed AAC to conduct hangar inspections and sees that as a problem.

Mr. Bob Velker, Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 64, is requesting that the Commission allow the Civil Air Patrol to place signage to indicate that Civil Air Patrol is a tenant at the airport.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, expressed his concerns to the Commission regarding the rental rates at the airport. Mr. Wardle mentioned to Mr. Lopez that this was discussed early in the meeting, and that County hangars are not the lowest, but are not the highest prices either.

Mr. Dave Hopkins, Santa Monica Airport Association Vice-President, provided a brief explanation to the Commission on the current situation that Santa Monica Airport is facing. Mr. Hopkins requested from the Commission any support the Commission can offer and a reminder that Santa Monica Airport is part of a regional airport system. In addition, Mr. Hopkins shared with the Commission information on the benefits of having the Disaster Airlift Recovery Team (DART) Program at the airports.

Commissioners interacted in a brief discussion stating the importance of having the DART Program at the County airports.

Chairman Butts expressed regard in having the DART Program at the County airports and volunteered to assist and be part of the planning along with Mr. Hopkins. Chairman Butts requested from all five airport associations to be part of this program.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 10 a.m.
at Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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