



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

June 28, 2017, meeting
Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846
(909) 593-1395

IN ATTENDANCE

Secretary Clinton Simmons
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Dennis C. Lord
Commissioner Steve A. Weeks

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Chairman George G. Butts
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

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 Lonceteaux, 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

GUESTS

Ms. Leanne Powers, MB Thrill Squadron
Mr. Benjamin L. Bundt, MB Thrill Squadron
Mr. Gilbert A. Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Jeff Strouse, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Clinton Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

Approval of the minutes of May 31, 2017, minutes was deferred for the next Commission meeting for lack of a quorum.

B. American Airports Corporation - Contract Manager Report

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on American Airports Corporation Items

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that a Request for Interest to develop the south hangar is now available for parties interested in formalizing their interest.

Mr. Wardle stated that the possessory interest taxes are likely to increase, and he will provide additional information when he receives it from the County of Los Angeles Assessor's office.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Wardle stated that Mr. Marino continues to explore a new website design as an option that would allow to make necessary updates. Balsa gliders were designed and ordered for distribution at airport events.

Repairs were made to the air conditioning unit at the airport traffic control tower.

The two electric vehicle stations installed in the terminal parking area are now being used by airport tenants.

- **Development and Activities**

Ninety-one percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 14 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

Avgas fuel sales are up 5 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales are up 6 percent, year to date.

Aircraft operations on the airport were up 6.5 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

On June 24, 2017, the Civil Air Patrol held its annual work center at the old terminal building.

A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety wings meeting was hosted at the airport on June 27, 2017.

The Whiteman Airport Association will hold its annual barbecue picnic on Sunday, July 9, 2017, and will not hold its meeting in July 2017.

The next Antique Aircraft Display Day will be held on July 11, 2017.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) will host its Young Eagles event on July 22, 2017.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Wardle stated that Whiteman Airport is considering the addition of a low-cost and water use turf to the airport.

Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

A touch key lock was added to the south hangar gate, and airport staff repaired the sweeper.

- **Projects**

Preparations for the Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Phase 2 continue, and tenants are being relocated.

- **Development and Activities**

There are 15 vacant hangars, and 25 percent are used for non-aviation storage purposes.

In March, Avgas fuel sales were down 25 percent, and Jet A fuel sales were down 30 percent, compared to last year.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 0.3 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Curioso continues to work with airport tenants that are forming the new EAA Chapter at the airport.

On May 26, 2017, a minor aircraft accident occurred upon landing.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

- **Management and Maintenance**

On June 19, 2017, the Automated Weather Observation System was repaired.

Promotional airport items were ordered as part of the marketing plan.

The annual underground storage tank inspection took place and minor repairs were done.

The Runway and Taxiway Rehabilitation project is scheduled to begin on mid-August.

- **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 16.9 percent, year to date.

- **Meetings and Events**

On June 24, 2017, the EAA hosted its Young Eagles event, and six pilots provided rides to 46 kids.

Commissioner Lord asked when the airport rescue and fire-fighting truck will be replaced. Mr. Wardle stated he is currently working with Public Works' Procurement Section to determine whether to replace or repair the unit.

Commissioner Lord asked for clarification on how Public Works is addressing the water conservation issue now that the drought is over. Mr. Smith commented that Public Works' direction is conservation as usual.

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

A 747-super tanker is utilizing the airport for aerial-drops testing, and it is waiting for the U. S. Forest Service to certify the super tanker.

The filtering system for the Jet A system blew a lid off due to the heat.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that a waterline in the terminal building broke; the waterline damages were repaired.

The east side electric gate malfunctioned due to the heat. Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the gate is now functioning, but he continues to work on a permanent solution.

General Wm. J. Fox Airfield sponsors little league teams in the Valley as part of the marketing fund plan.

The EAA held a Young Eagles event and provided aircraft rides to approximately 15 kids.

- **Development and Activities**

Avgas fuel sales were consistent, compared to last year. Jet A fuel sales are up 50 percent, year to date.

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

Secretary Clinton Simmons asked Mr. Irving to elaborate on what caused the blow-off of the Jet A filtering system. Mr. Irving provided details.

The Air Show Board is restructuring, and they are working with potential performers for the 2018 air show.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

Airfield lighting on the north side of Runway 26L is not working properly. Parts to repair the problem were ordered, and pilots were informed of the situation.

Airport staff is making progress on the ongoing airfield signage project.

The Brackett Field 99s will repaint the compass rose with paint that American Airports Corporation (AAC) will supply.

- **Projects**

The Apron/Ramp Pavement Design project continues.

The crack-sealing project for the transient ramp is complete.

The stadium lights were evaluated by a consultant. Based on the findings and approval from the County, the stadium lights conversion will begin on July 7, 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 and Jet A fuel sales were similar to last year. Aircraft operations at the airport were down 4.9 percent.

Mr. Lonctaux provided the Commission with a summary of a spreadsheet, which details the marketing plan the airport. He informed the Commission

that, as part of the marketing plan, he is reaching out to a local business, Glead Science, Inc., to have them operate out of the airport.

Secretary Clinton Simmons inquired on the type of marketing activities that involve education. Mr. Lonctaux briefly summarized the airport's involvement with the Mount San Antonio College and local school district.

Commissioner Weeks complimented the addition of the marketing plan at the airports and Mr. Lonctaux on the design of the marketing plan spreadsheet presented to the Commission. Commissioner Weeks also suggested that the other airports follow the same format.

- **Meetings and Events**

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 July 1, 2017, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held for the new bicycle repair station located in front of the airport entering the trail.

The City of La Verne continues to express interest in hosting its Taste of La Verne – Wine and Festival event at the airport.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that he is working with the Palm Springs Air Museum to have aircraft and flights on open house day.

Brackett Field Airport obtained a new truck that will be used to service the airport as requested by the airport traffic control tower staff.

A letter of agreement with the airport traffic control tower regarding Vicon Field Reporting was completed. Mr. Lonctaux added that the agreement includes training airport staff on how to prepare a Vicon report.

The Brackett Hangar LLC installed all LED lights outside of its facility.

A spill-plan control and countermeasure was developed by Mr. Lonctaux.

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

- **May 2017 Expense and Revenue Report**

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

Secretary Clinton Simmons inquired on the geotechnical expenses. Mr. Smith reminded the Commission that Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division provides maintenance to the airports such as removal

of the underground storage tanks and soil testing. Therefore, geotechnical expenses will continue to reflect on the expense report.

- **House Resolution 2879**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with an explanation on the U.S. House of Representatives' Resolution 2879 – Flight Act of 2017 and highlighted the key benefits of the resolution.

- **Federal Aviation Administration 6-year Reauthorization Bill**

The FAA's 6-year Reauthorization Bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Mr. Smith elaborated on the various components of the bill.

- **Pump Station at Brackett Field Airport**

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a pump station replacement is currently in the design stage.

- **Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with a summary on the Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative; he shared that commercial airlines support this reform and the reasons for their support.

Commissioner Lord requested that the Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative be added to the August agenda and to have a full briefing on the pros and cons involving this initiative.

D. Brackett Field Airport Items

None.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Benjamin Bundt, MB Thrill Squadron, expressed he is discontent with the Request for Interest (RFI) that is in place for the south hangar at the San Gabriel Valley Airport. He further explained that his business in aviation does not generate profit to accommodate what the RFI is asking.

Ms. Leanne Powers, MB Thrill Squadron, shared with the Commission her concerns with what is stated on the RFI. Secretary Clinton Simmons advised Ms. Powers to move forward and submit her proposal. Mr. Wardle added that the previous proposal Ms. Leanne Powers submitted required some changes. He advised Ms. Powers to change the date on her original proposal and resubmit. Mr. Wardle also added that the RFI was created because there were multiple parties that were interested.

Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, restated his concern with the removal of the north portable hangars and reiterated that the hangars should be returned.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, expressed his opinion as to why the north portable hangars should stay, and he provided a draft drawing of how the hangars sit and his suggested solution.

Secretary Simmons expressed to Mr. Lopez that the FAA evaluates the airport as a whole, not just a particular section as indicated on Mr. Lopez' diagram.

Mr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, stated to the Commission his concern with the removal of the north hangars.

Mr. Jon Smalldridge, Mission Aviation Fellowship, expressed to the Commission his concern with AAC's not granting him permission to utilize the south hangar for a Mission Aviation Fellowship event. Mr. Wardle informed Mr. Smalldridge that when there are events at the airport, the City of El Monte requires special permits based on the number of attendees. Mr. Wardle suggested that he uses the terminal building since Mr. Smalldridge stated that there were approximately 40 guests.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, August 30, 2017, at 7 p.m.
at Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Raymond Malory Hill at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Butts, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission