



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

Virtual Meeting
March 31, 2021, at 10 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
CHAIRMAN

GABRIEL PEREZ
VICE-CHAIRMAN

CURT CASTAGNA
SECRETARY

PETER AMUNDSON
MEMBER

RYAN ANTOON
MEMBER

FOROUZAN GOLSHANI
MEMBER

DENNIS C. LORD
MEMBER

JEFF MORT
MEMBER

CHRISTINA PASCUCCI
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Harvey Holloway
Secretary Curt Castagna
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Ryan Antoon
Commissioner Forouzan Golshani
Commissioner Dennis Lord
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice-Chairman Gabriel Perez
Commissioner Jeff Mort

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Richard Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
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. Matt Halls, Assistant Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Enrique Curioso, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Mr. James Miller, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Attending guests were able to listen live via telephone or participate by joining the meeting through the WebEx application.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Harvey Holloway called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Harvey Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

The minutes for the February 24, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Dennis Lord and seconded by Commissioner Forouzan Golshani.

B. American Airports Corporation – Contract Manager Report

Mr. Wardle provided an update on the maintenance hangar at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation held a farewell event for former airport manager Mr. Steve Irving for his years of employment services at General William J. Fox Airfield.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that Brackett Field Airport, General William J. Fox Airfield, and San Gabriel Valley Airport office space will be temporarily unavailable during upcoming renovations.

Mr. James Miller Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

The circuit board to the gate control on Airpark Way was replaced.

Regulators for the runway side marker lights were replaced and are working properly, and repairs to the runway end identifier lights are complete.

The Food Drive Event at Whiteman Airport took place on March 16, 2021. Mr. Miller provided information to the Commission on the success of the event.

Commissioner Ryan Antoon thanked everyone who assisted in this event and mentioned that he and Commissioner Pascucci would like to see this resource continue for the local community.

Mr. Miller informed the Commission that the airport continues to support the local nonprofit, Meet Each Need with Dignity by providing storage for their non-perishable food items.

Mr. Miller informed the Commission that plans for the Annual Whiteman Open House continue. The tentative date for the event is September 25, 2021.

The Civil Air Patrol holds their virtual meetings every Monday and Wednesday and the Whiteman Airport Association meetings are suspended until further notice.

The Whiteman Airport Association Display Day is held the second Sunday of the month.

Ninety-eight percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and 8 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation purposes. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 24 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 8.3 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 4.0 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 13.8 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 20.5 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that repairs to the intermittent lighting outage on the taxiway are in progress and weed abatement throughout the airport has commenced.

The Pavement Rehabilitation Project continues at the airport.

Mr. Wardle asked Mr. Lonctaux if the restaurant at Brackett Field Airport was open. Mr. Lonctaux stated that the restaurant is open and operating at 25 percent capacity.

The Brackett Airmen Association meetings are suspended until further notice. Display day is held on the third Sunday of every month and is closed to the general public.

Eighty-two percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 28 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations at the airport were up 7.94 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 20.6 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 31.6 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 7.3 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 29.4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Annual maintenance of the trees along Alondra Boulevard is complete and the maintenance yard was cleaned and reorganized.

Mr. Diaz informed the Commission that the City of Compton would like to use the airport as a Covid-19 Testing Site and a Food Drive on April 10, 2021.

Commissioner Lord provided additional information regarding the scheduled Covid-19 Testing Site and Food Drive. He also mentioned that the Experimental Aircraft Association named a student pilot as the recipient of the first \$10,000 scholarship.

An aircraft departing the airport encountered mechanical issues and returned to the airport, landing safely with no injuries or property damage.

Commissioner Simmons stated to Mr. Diaz that he would like to commence with the plans for the 2021 Annual Open House.

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

Avgas fuel sales were up 54.8 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 3.5 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 41.9 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Matthew Halls Reported on General William J. Fox Airfield Items

Tree trimming and weed abatement throughout the airport continues, and the fire hydrants and fuel island piping were re-painted.

Maintenance to the lawn area surrounding the terminal building has commenced and all fuel filters for the underground storage tanks were changed.

Plans for the October 2021 Air Show are in progress. The Air Show is tentatively scheduled for October 23rd and 24th, 2021.

Ninety-nine percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and one hangar is utilized for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations were up 4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 32 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 75 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 8 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 23 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Repairs to the Underground Storage Tank in accordance with SB 989 testing are in progress and new self-pay machines were installed at the fuel pit.

Mr. Curioso informed the Commission that sixty-two noise complaints were received in the month of February 2021 and stated that fifty-nine of those complaints were from one resident.

Commissioner Golshani asked Mr. Curioso if there are any type of aviation activities planned as part of the Marketing Fund Plan. Mr. Smith stated that the plan is to exhaust those funds and suggested hiring a consultant to recruit airport businesses.

Commissioner Castagna asked Mr. Smith if the County has an Economic Development Division and suggested that they review the Marketing Plans for all airports.

Commissioner Pascucci asked about obtaining a Public Information Officer that would specialize in representing Aviation.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Vintage Airplane and Auto Display event was held at the airport and no visitors were allowed on the ramp. All meetings at the airport are postponed until further notice.

Ninety-three percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied and 24 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations at the airport were down 6 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 4 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were up 800 percent as compared to the same month last year. Increase in Jet-A fuel was due to helicopters working on power lines.

Electricity consumption was up 5 percent and water consumption were up 16 percent as 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 copies of the February 2021 Expense and Revenue Report.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a planning consultant will assist with the Sustainability Management Plan and a task authorization was issued to conduct air quality monitoring at Whiteman Airport. He also mentioned that Public Works applied for grants under the American Rescue Plan Act to possibly fund these or other initiatives.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on various airport service contracts that are needed for the airport's insourcing process and provided an update on current airport projects.

Commissioner Simmons stated to Mr. Smith that he had concerns with the contracted security personnel that will be available after hours once County begins to operate the airports. Mr. Smith reiterated the protocols that the private security company is required to uphold.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the permit for the Air Show at Fox Airfield is in progress.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

The following speakers shared their personal experiences and expressed their support for the closure of Whiteman Airport.

Ms. Silvia Valdez, Pacoima Resident
Mr. Andres Ramirez, Pacoima Beautiful
Ms. Jenny Diaz, Pacoima Resident

Commissioner Pascucci thanked and responded to Ms. Valdez' comments.

Ms. Veronica Padilla, Pacoima Beautiful shared with the Commission her discontent with Commissioner Pascucci's response to Ms. Valdez' comment.

Mr. Justin Sterling, attendee, shared his thoughts on past public comments, Natural Hazard Disclosure, the noise surrounding the airport, and air quality management.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association commented on the need for after hours personnel at the airport, County airport hiring and qualification process, Marketing Fund, and projects on the airports.

Commissioner Antoon shared his thoughts on pollutants around the airports, stated that he is pressing for a pollution study for those that reside near airports, and spoke about his and Commissioner Pascucci's involvement with the local food drive.

III. NEXT VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Castagna, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission