



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
January 27, 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
Vice-Chairman Gabriel Perez
Secretary Curt Castagna
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Ryan Antoon
Commissioner Forouzan Golshani
Commissioner Dennis Lord
Commissioner Jeff Mort
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

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
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 10:02 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Jeff Mort led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

The minutes for the November 25, 2020, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Dennis Lord and seconded by Commissioner Clinton Simmons. Motion carried 9 to 0.

B. American Airports Corporation – Contract Manager Report

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that an automated answering system and a dedicated noise complaint line were installed at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

A Request for Interest was submitted for the maintenance hangar at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that Brackett Field Airport, General William J. Fox Airfield, and San Gabriel Valley Airport offices would be temporarily displaced during upcoming renovations.

Mr. James Miller Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

The upgrade to the spill sensors of the Underground Storage Tank monitoring system is complete.

A large tree stump at the airport fell during the rainstorm and was removed with no incidents.

Gate motors and batteries were repaired and replaced at the main entrance gate and at the Orbital entrance.

Repairs to the runway end identifier lights and the regulator for the side marker lights on the runway are taking place.

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.

Mr. Miller informed the Commission that on December 2, 2020, he participated in a virtual meeting with Los Angeles Unified School District personnel to discuss programs available at the airport for local students.

On January 5, 2021, a community food distribution was held in partnership with Meet Each Need with Dignity.

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 14 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 3 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 9.6 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 9 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was up 23 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Weed abatement continues and shrubs were trimmed throughout the airport.

Repairs to various hangars and to the airport truck are complete.

On December 19, 2020, Commissioners Clinton Simmons and Dennis Lord organized a Food Drive for the surrounding community.

The museum held two toy giveaways in the month of December 2020.

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 down 13 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 5.7 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 24.3 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Commissioner Pascucci commended the airport for the successful Food Drive event.

Commissioner Pascucci suggested that manager reports be included on the PowerPoint during future Commission meeting.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

The Pavement Rehabilitation Project continues at the airport and the Airport Traffic Control Tower resumed to regular operation hours.

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 public.

Seventy-eight percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 29 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage. Aircraft operations at the airport were down 2.6 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 17.3 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 82.7 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 3.1 percent compared to the same month last year.

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

Airport staff is utilizing the new tractor for weed maintenance and fire equipment is stationed at the airport due to continuous fires.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission of the organization called Samaritan's Purse, which utilized the airport to move personnel into the Antelope Valley to assist in the battle of Covid-19.

The annual Runway Safety Action Team meeting was held at the airport. The items which required attention were addressed except for one item that is pending.

Commissioner Jeff Mort requested a copy of the summary that resulted from the Runway Safety Action Team meeting.

Plans for the October 2021 Air Show are in progress. Mr. Irving informed the Commission, the Air Show will be renamed to Los Angeles Air Show and tentative dates are scheduled for October 23 and October 24, 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 32 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 42 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 40 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Water consumption was down 9.8 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 December 2020 Expense and Revenue Report.

Mr. Smith updated the Commission on the transition to County operations, including Aviation maintenance contracts, the County's hiring process, and the interview status for airport positions related to the insourcing. Mr. Smith elaborated on the job opportunities for current airport staff at the County, fuel concession vendor, and other contractors that will be part of the insourcing transition.

The Fuel Concession Contract and Yardi software system will not be finalized by April 1, 2021. To ensure a smooth transition to County run airports, the current contract with American Airports Corporation will be extended on a month-to-month basis.

Commissioner Simmons asked if there would be one contractor to service all the airports. Mr. Smith informed that for the first year there would be one contractor.

Chairman Holloway inquired on the number of employees working for American Airports Corporation. Mr. Wardle stated that there are forty-nine employees and Mr. Smith specified that the Board of Supervisors approved thirty-three positions and mentioned that there will be contracts in place that will supplement services to continue operations without disruptions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Ms. Alexis Olbrei, Policy Director from the office of Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, provided comment regarding support for closing Whiteman Airport on behalf of Councilwoman Rodriguez.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association provided to the Commission comments regarding his opinion of required personnel at the airport, first responders, and insourcing.

Mr. Justin Sterling, La Verne resident, shared his recommendation with the Commission on the placement of the Noise Abatement link on the Aviation website, the need for instructions when submitting a noise complaint, and a request for a multilingual website.

Mr. Charles Nelson, Pacoima Neighborhood Watch, shared with the Commission his recommendations on the Environmental Impact Report, Aviation opportunities for the Community, and other opportunities for economic development.

Secretary Castagna, asked Mr. Smith the date of the last Federal Grant received for Whiteman Airport and the grant assurance period. Mr. Smith stated the last grant received was in 2020 and the grant obligation remain in effect for 20 years.

Secretary Castagna, referred to Ms. Olbrei's comment to close Whiteman Airport. He elaborated on the values that Whiteman Airport brings to the community and the environment impacts, should the airport close.

Commissioner Simmons asked what would happen to the unused Marketing Funds. Mr. Smith explained that American Airports Corporation will return any unused funds back to the County.

Mr. Smith presented an award to Commissioner Dennis Lord for his Chairmanship of the Aviation Commission for 2019 and 2020.

III. NEXT VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Chairman Holloway adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

At 11:27 a.m., Commissioner Lord informed the Commission that Ms. Veronica Padilla was still in the cue and waiting to speak.

The Aviation Commission meeting for January 27, 2021, was reconvened on a motion from Commissioner Lord and seconded by Commissioner Christina Pascucci. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Ms. Veronica Padilla, Executive Director of Pacoima Beautiful, spoke in support of Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez' request to close Whiteman Airport and shared experiences from the community following the fatal aircraft accident in November 2020.

Commissioner Lord and Commissioner Pascucci requested contact information from Ms. Padilla. Aviation Staff will forward the contact information to the Commission.

Chairman Holloway adjourned the reconvene meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Castagna, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

RS:cmd