



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

February 27, 2019, meeting
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528
(310) 631-8140

COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD
CHAIRMAN

PETER M. AMUNDSON
VICE-CHAIRMAN

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
SECRETARY

RYAN ANTOON
MEMBER

CURT CASTAGNA
MEMBER

JEFF MORT
MEMBER

CHRISTINA PASCUCCI
MEMBER

GABRIEL PEREZ
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

VACANT
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis Lord
Vice-Chairman Peter Amundson
Secretary Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Ryan Antoon
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Jeff Mort
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
Commissioner Gabriel Perez
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. Leonardo, Iñiguez, Assistant Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Enrique Curioso, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport

GUESTS

Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Mauricio Gonzalez, Mission Flight
Mrs. Debra Gonzalez, Mission Flight
Mr. Winn Williams, Portable Hangar Association

GUESTS (Cont.)

Mr. Dave Hopkins, Santa Monica Airport Association
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Barry Rosen, Santa Monica Airport

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dennis Lord called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Harvey Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

The minutes for the November 28, 2018, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Chairman Lord, seconded by Commissioner Castagna, and the minutes for the January 23, 2019, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Secretary Holloway.

B. American Airports Corporation – Contract Manager Report

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission on the current lease updates that are taking place at the five County airports.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that the airport manager position is open. The candidate that was interested in the position at Whiteman Airport declined.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation is working on developing a guideline for airport managers to use as a tool to define what an aviation hangar and a non-aviation hangar is.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

A problem with the electrical and the camera system occurred at the Airport Traffic Control Tower. Repairs are complete.

Stadium lighting next to the C-row hangars and the parking lot lighting by the old terminal building were repaired and trees throughout the airport were trimmed.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that a volunteer committee is interested in attracting a larger crowd to the Annual Airport Open House and is working with other airport associations to reach their goal.

On February 21, 2019, Mr. Ruben Piranian, a master leaseholder at Whiteman Airport lost his life in a fatal aircraft accident.

Ninety-four percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 9 percent are used for non-aviation purposes.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 15 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 23 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 11 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Mr. Curioso informed to the Commission that airport staff trimmed the hedge on Riverview Avenue and an ADA compliant door controller system was added to the entrance of the terminal building.

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

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association meets at the airport every third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. and the San Gabriel Valley Airport Vintage Airplane/Auto Display and Aircraft Swap Meet is held every fourth Sunday of the month.

Ninety-eight percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 28 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 18 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 1 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 13 percent and water consumption was up 36 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Commissioner Castagna asked Mr. Curioso if proper adjustments to the irrigation system were done. Mr. Curioso stated that adjustments were made.

Mr. Pete Lonctaux Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

The rapid intervention vehicle truck was repaired, and the sweeper is scheduled to be sent out for needed repairs.

Mr. Lonctaux informed the Commission that modifications to the remodeling plans of the interior of one of the Sheriff's building on the airport were made due to asbestos found in the flooring.

The Brackett Airmen Association hold their monthly meeting at the airport on the first Thursday of every month and Display Day is on the third Sunday of every month.

Seventy-nine percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and 23 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 21.1 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 18.5 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 41.2 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 5.7 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Leonardo Iñiguez Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

The tractor on the airport and the printer at the self-serve pump were repaired.

The Wilmington Gate card reader was replaced with a new system after encountering issues due to the rain.

The F-Row hangars women's restroom is having problems with the photocell. Repairs are in progress.

A contractor will be at the airport installing the new grates on Runway 25R.

Mr. Iñiguez informed the Commission that the Federal Aviation Administration would be at the airport on March 6, 2019 or March 7, 2019. Mr. Iniguez asked tenants to have hangars available for inspection.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host their monthly Young Eagles rally at the airport on March 24, 2019.

On March 1, 2019, a meeting will be held at the airport for all parties that are interested in participating in the planning of the annual Compton/Woodley Air Fair.

Chairman Lord asked Mr. Iñiguez about a new roof leak that was discovered on the Experimental Aircraft Association hangar. Mr. Iñiguez informed Chairman Lord that a vendor is scheduled to correct the problem.

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

Avgas fuel sales were down 38.8 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 12.9 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 59.9 percent as compared to the same month last year.

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

Mr. Irving reported to the Commission that airport staff prepared for the recent weather which minimized the damages on the airport.

The cold weather affected some of the landscaping at the airport. Plants affected will be replaced once the weather allows it.

Hangar inspections are in progress. Mr. Irving will be contacting tenants to schedule pending inspections.

American Airports Corporation is waiting for permits to make necessary repairs to the fuel station.

On Sunday, April 14, 2019, the Antelope Valley 99s will host their annual Poker Run at the airport. All are invited.

Mr. Irving informed the Commission that the next Los Angeles County Air Show will occur at the airport in March 2020.

Ninety-four percent of the hangars on the airport are occupied, and none of the hangars are utilized for non-aviation storage.

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 23 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 36 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 72 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 2 percent as compared to the same month last year and gas consumption was up 26 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 with copies of the January 2019 Expense and Revenue Report and welcomed Mr. Ryan Antoon as the new Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Kuehl, 3rd District.

Secretary Amundson and Mr. Smith informed the Commission about an aircraft noise concern that a constituent in Arcadia brought forth. In addition, the County received a letter regarding this concern from the City of Arcadia. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a formal response will be provided.

A single audit was conducted on Federal programs within Los Angeles County Public Works. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the results of this audit were positive.

The Federal Aviation Administration Office of Airport Safety and Standards will conduct a land use inspection of San Gabriel Valley Airport and Compton/Woodley Airport in the month of March 2019. Commissioner Simmons shared his concern with the traffic run-up area at Compton/Woodley Airport.

Aviation Division met with the FAA in regards to the Possessory Interest Tax issue and Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a resolution is still pending.

Mr. Smith provided a summary of capital projects taking place at all five County-owned airports and a fact sheet with capital project information.

D. Status of the Part 13 Complaint by San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

Mr. Smith provided the Commission a copy of the Part 13 Complaint filed by San Gabriel Valley Airport Association and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Simmons commented on what he understands from the complaint; the complaint is about the County driving aviation tenants out of the airport to bring in non-aviation tenants who pay higher rents. Mr. Smith explained to Commissioner Simmons that the Aviation Commission has an established policy on how the County implements non-aviation storage, and he reminded the Commission that the Federal Aviation Administration will be conducting a land use inspection and will review the County's policy.

Chairman Lord expressed to the Commission that all Commissioners need to be well informed on the details to communicate back with their Supervisors regarding these matters.

Commissioner Castagna thanked Mr. Smith for adding this item on the agenda and suggested that it remain on future agendas as this provides transparency.

Dr. Haney informed the Commission that the San Gabriel Valley Association filed a formal complaint to the Board of Supervisors. He also elaborated upon his concerns about the possessory interest tax. Mr. Smith and the Commissioners held a brief discussion.

E. Presentation by USC Viterbi School of Engineering – Aviation and Security Program Development Proposal

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that the presentation by USC Viterbi School of Engineering was postponed for the next scheduled Aviation Commission meeting and briefly summarized what the program consists of.

F. Discounted rental rates for charitable nonprofit organizations

Chairman Lord announced to the Commission that information regarding this topic was included in their packet and recused himself from participating in any vote regarding this item. Mr. Smith briefed the Commission on the information that was provided to the Commission and shared with the Commission that this item has the support of Supervisor Solis, First District.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that Mission Flight has a specific request regarding discounted rental rates for charitable nonprofit organizations. Mr. Smith would like to broaden any policy that is developed to include all airports before presenting to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Commissioner Castagna asked Mr. Smith to elaborate on what was specifically asked from Mission Flight. Mr. Smith provided a brief summary on what was requested. The Commission continued with a brief discussion.

Commissioner Perez requested clarification on the documents provided to the Commission. Mr. Smith and Chairman Lord provided a brief explanation.

Mr. Mauricio Gonzalez, Mission Flight, provided the Commission with a document that summarized their activities and expenditures. Chairman Lord thanked him for the education he shares and informed him that the information provided would be taken into consideration when addressing this item.

Dr. James Haney, Mission Flight, spoke to the Commission about the handout that was provided. Chairman Lord informed Dr. Haney that a workshop addressing this item will take place and he would be welcome to participate.

Commissioner Castagna asked Mr. Smith if these letters were addressed at the FAA meeting. He also suggested having legal counsel for the County at the workshop would be helpful for all the stakeholders.

Mrs. Debra Gonzalez, Mission Flight, shared with the Commission the organization's activities and contributions. Chairman Lord thanked Mrs. Gonzalez for what they do.

Mr. Dave Hopkins, Santa Monica Airport Association, asked the Commission to support community charitable organizations.

G. Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Mr. Smith shared with the Commission that storm drains are being fabricated and are scheduled to be installed on March 11, 2019.

Commissioner Simmons paid tribute to Black History month and shared some of Compton/Woodley Airport's history. Commissioner Simmons requested

that tribute to Black History month be added as an item in future February agendas.

Commissioner Simmons requested that the County address the paved incline of the entrance to the airport.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Dr. James Haney, spoke to the Commission about a rental rate survey document that he shared with the Commission.

Mr. Winn Williams, shared with the Commission that he is in the process of vacating his hangar and is moving into his new hangar. Mr. Williams requested to rent half of a hangar.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association President, welcomed the new Commissioner and shared with the Commission his proposal to operate a 501(c)(3) museum at San Gabriel Valley Airport to attract the community. Mr. Gabe Lopez also spoke to the Commission about the hangar rent survey provided by Mr. Lopez. Chairman Lord thanked Mr. Lopez for his comments.

Mr. Barry Rosen, Santa Monica Airport, shared with the Commission that Santa Monica Airport is not exclusively in the City of Santa Monica and informed that a section of the airport is in the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Rosen suggested for the County to consider the idea of annexing the airport. Chairman Lord informed Mr. Rosen that the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County are two separate entities.

III. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 10 a.m.
at General William J. Fox Airfield
4725 William J. Barnes Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m., in memory of Mr. Ruben Piranian.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

RS:cd