



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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MEMBER

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MEMBER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2023, 10 a.m.

San Gabriel Valley Airport

4233 Santa Anita Avenue

El Monte, CA 91731-1670

(626) 448-6129

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Christina Pascucci
Vice-Chair Ryan Antoon
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Monique Earl
Commissioner Dennis Lord

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Secretary Forouzan Golshani
Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Jeff Mort
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Paul Maselbas, Assistant Deputy Director
Mr. Jason Morgan, Assistant Chief, Aviation Division
Ms. Van Tran, Staff Assistant

GUESTS

Mr. Randy Garcia, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. James Miller, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Steve Argubright, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. Joey Amaro, Amaro Helicopters
Mr. Mike Britcliffe, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. Johnny Venegas, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. Sky N., San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest
Mr. Raghu Murthy, San Gabriel Valley Airport Guest

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Ryan Antoon called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes for the October 25, 2023, meeting

The minutes for the October 25, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Dennis Lord and seconded by Commissioner Peter Amundson.

B. Los Angeles County Public Works Aviation Division – General Report

Vice-Chair Antoon introduced Commissioner Monique Earl, representing Supervisorial District 2, to the Aviation Commission.

Mr. Morgan provided to the Commission a brief overview of San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Aircraft Operations (Takeoffs and Landings) and Fuel Sales

The overall aircraft operations for all five County airports were up 18 percent in the month of October 2023, as compared to the same month last year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports in the month of October 2023, were up 20 percent from the previous month, as compared to the same month last year.

C. Los Angeles County Public Works Aviation Division – Airport Management Update

Airport Projects (including Grant Funding)

No major projects are taking place at the airports.

The annual Airport Capital Improvement Plan meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration is tentatively scheduled for next week.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, design is underway for the runway/taxiway pavement reconstruction project and planning is underway for a new modern Airport Traffic Control Tower.

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that the rents and fees study report is being finalized and will be shared with the Commission. Public Works is planning to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in February 2024 to increase the non-aeronautical hangar storage rents to match fair market value.

Airport Property Management

The La Verne Fire Department is interested in leasing some space for a small training facility at Brackett Field Airport.

On November 14, 2023, Mr. Maselbas and Commissioner Lord met with the airport users at Compton/Woodley Airport to discuss repairs and improvements. On November 19, 2023, an aircraft incident occurred. There was no impact to airport operations and no one was injured.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the County self-serve Avgas fuel dispensers are in service and Billion Air Aviation continues to provide fuels. The runway will be closed next month for several days during the nighttime hours to conduct surveys for the runway/taxiway pavement rehabilitation design project. On November 28, 2023, Public Works provided a tour of the airport to California State Assemblymember Mike Fong, who represents the 49th District.

The Request for Proposals for an aeronautical development lease at San Gabriel Valley Airport was advertised on October 11, 2023. The deadline to submit proposals is on December 6, 2023.

At Whiteman Airport, repairs are underway to the Orbital Way vehicle access gate. The Automated Weather Observing System will be repaired soon.

Proposals have been received and Public Works is finalizing the contracts for fueling services at General William J. Fox Airfield and Whiteman Airport. Public Works is planning to request the Board of Supervisors for approval of the contracts in late January 2024.

Airport Events and Activities

At Compton/Woodley Airport, the Annual Air Fair was held on October 28, 2023, and the Compton Food Drive event was held on November 11, 2023.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the Mission Flight Shine Overcome Ascend Rejoice (SOAR) event is scheduled for January 2024, and the Air Fair and Auto Show is rescheduled for March 2024.

At Whiteman Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 provided flights to 96 kids at their Young Eagles event on November 25, 2023, and their next event is scheduled for December 16, 2023.

Public Works is partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation to collect toys at the five County airports through December 4, 2023.

Airport Marketing and Public Relations

An Airport Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan is being developed. The consultant is compiling and evaluating the online surveys and feedback from the individual and group meetings with various airport tenants, businesses, users, and the aviation non-profit organizations.

D. Update from Aviation Commission Subcommittee – Neighborhood Outreach and Airport Stakeholder Engagement

Vice-Chair Antoon shared with the Commission that there will be restructuring to the Subcommittee and will discuss this further at the next meeting.

E. Update on November 7, 2023, Board motion regarding “Reimagining Whiteman Airport”

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that the November 7, 2023, Board motion focused on the Environmental Protection Agency’s endangerment findings on leaded aviation gasoline. The Board of Supervisors proposed four directives: 1) Public Works to report back within 90 days with a plan to offer unleaded fuel UL-94 at Whiteman Airport, 2) Voluntary curfew at Whiteman Airport to reduce emissions and address noise concerns, 3) Public Works to report back within 90 days on how a mandatory curfew can be implemented at Whiteman Airport, and 4) Public Health to determine if the data on blood lead levels in children living in the proximity of the airport have any statistical correlations to the airport.

Commissioners engaged in a brief discussion regarding the information presented.

F. Commission Discussion on the “Re-envisioning of Whiteman Airport – A Community-driven Process” Report – Action Item Consideration on Communication to the Board of Supervisors

Commissioner Curt Castagna shared with the Commission concerns for the impact of closing Whiteman Airport, actions that will be taken by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Board of Supervisors’ vision and goals for the airport, and the lack of transparency regarding the Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee final report. Suggestions were made to have the Board of Supervisors attend future Commission meetings in their respective districts.

Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

G. Election of Commission Officers for 2024

Vice-Chair Antoon announced the nominations for Commission Officers for 2024 as follows: Ryan Antoon, as Chair; Forouzan Golshani, as Vice-Chair; and

Dennis Lord, as Secretary. The nominations were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Amundson and seconded by Commissioner Castagna.

H. Approval of the 2024 Meeting Calendar

Vice-Chair Antoon presented the 2024 Commission Meeting Calendar. The meeting calendar was unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Lord and seconded by Chair Christina Pascucci.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Six speakers commented on the operation, maintenance, and activities at the airports.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m.
at Brackett Field Airport
1615 McKinley Avenue
La Verne, CA 91750-5846**

Chair Pascucci adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Forouzan Golshani, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PHM:vt