



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

April 24, 2019, meeting
Whiteman Airport
10000 Airpark Way
Pacoima, CA 91331-7393
(818) 896-5271

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 Curt Castagna
Commissioner Ryan Antoon
Commissioner Jeff Mort
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
Commissioner Clinton Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

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. Carlos Diaz, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General William J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Enrique Curioso, Manager, San Gabriel Valley Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Ron Miller, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Dick Millais, Civil Air Patrol Squadron 35
Ms. Shellie Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Jeff Seibert, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Curt Shekore, Hangar 54

GUESTS CONTINUED

Mr. Tom Voytico, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Alex Hesbany, Fullerton Airport
Mr. John Nasce, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport tenant
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport tenant
Mr. Richard Arroyo, Whiteman Airport Guest
Ms. Ruth Arroyo, Whiteman Airport Guest
Mr. Ervin Raab, Orion Aerospace
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association/Mission Flight
Ms. Carlyn Lee, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. David Hunt, Whiteman Airport Guest
Ms. Fay Nykerk, Whiteman Airport Guest
Mr. Michael R. Williamson, Pilot Instructor
Mr. Les Slifkin, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Thomas A. Dimascio, Civil Air Patrol
Ms. Kailyn Huynh, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. James Miller, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Greg Schultz, San Gabriel Valley Airport
Ms. Alycia Herman, Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 40
Mr. Dave Hopkins, Santa Monica Airport Association
Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Gil Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Scott Stevenson, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Arman Actounian, Brackett Field Airport tenant
Mr. Jeff Strouse, Aerial Art Photography
Mr. Eddie David, Echo Delta, Inc.
Mr. Gerald Cosey, Civil Air Patrol
Ms. Jennifer Arroyo, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Joe Labrie, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dennis Lord called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Harvey Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Minutes

The minutes for the March 27, 2019, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Curt Castagna, seconded by Secretary Harvey Holloway.

B. American Airports Corporation – Contract Manager Report

Mr. Wardle updated the Commission on the lease for Cox Aviation at San Gabriel Valley Airport and provided a draft copy of a guide for airport management to use for determining the type of use of aircraft storage hangars.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Whiteman Airport Items

The air conditioning unit at the Airport Traffic Control Tower was repaired, the tires on three County vehicles were replaced, several hangar doors were recently repaired, and hangar inspections are still underway.

The Whiteman Airport Open House Committee held their meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2019.

Vice-Chairman Amundson inquired about the status of the restaurant at the airport. Mr. Wardle explained that lack of existing trade fixtures in the facility has deterred potential operators.

Ninety-five percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 9 percent are used for non-aviation purposes. Aircraft operations on the airport were up 4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were down 15 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 52 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was up 21 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was up 18 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Scott Wardle Reported on Brackett Field Airport Items

Maintenance on the rapid intervention vehicle is in progress and repairs to the hangars damaged by fire are complete.

A new tree was planted in the visitor park area. The ground cover and trash was removed from the northside of the airport.

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

Seventy-nine percent of the hangars at the airport are occupied, and 22 percent of the occupied hangars are used for non-aviation storage.

Aircraft operations at the airport were up 5 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 7 percent and Jet-A fuel sales were down 16 percent as compared to the same month last year. Electricity consumption was down 4 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Enrique Curioso Reported on San Gabriel Valley Airport Items

Combination locks were installed at all pedestrian gates, and maintenance to the hedge on Riverview Avenue continues.

Hangar inspections are 50 percent complete.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association meets 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 at the airport.

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

Ninety-eight 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 down 2 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Avgas fuel sales were up 11 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were down 88 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Electricity consumption was down 8 percent and water consumption was down 28 percent as compared to the same month last year.

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

Airport staff continues to address the weed abatement issues at the airport.

A contractor commenced with the repairs to the fuel station and hangar inspections are nearing completion.

On April 14, 2019, the Antelope Valley 99s hosted their annual Poker Run at the airport.

Mr. Irving provided information to the Commission on the upcoming Antelope Valley Fair that will be held on August 2019.

The Runway Pavement Reconstruction Project is scheduled to commence in October 2019 and the next Los Angeles County Air Show will be held on March 21 through March 22, 2020.

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

Aircraft operations on the airport were down 18 percent as compared to the same month last year. Avgas fuel sales were down 38 percent, and Jet-A fuel sales were up 60 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Gas consumption was up 26 percent and electricity consumption was down 7 percent as compared to the same month last year.

Mr. Carlos Diaz Reported on Compton/Woodley Airport Items

Airport staff repainted the observation deck and repaired the driveshaft on the mower attachment. Hangar inspections at the airport have commenced.

An informational sign was installed over the fuel pit to remind pilots to check the pattern before entering the runway for departure.

As part of the marketing plan, promotional items were ordered, and a banner was made to promote the electric charging stations at the airport.

The Experimental Aircraft Association will host their monthly Young Eagles rally at the airport on April 27, 2019.

The Annual Compton/Woodley Open House and Youth Air Fair will be held at the airport on May 18, 2019.

An auto accident on Alondra Boulevard damaged the airport's perimeter fence and a power pole. The damage was repaired.

Commissioner Pascucci asked Mr. Diaz for the information she requested regarding the marketing expenses. Mr. Diaz indicated that he would provide the information after the meeting.

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 5 percent as compared to the same month last year. Electricity consumption was down 1 percent as compared to the same month last year. Water consumption was down 56 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 March 2019 Expense and Revenue Report.

American Airports Corporation submitted to the County's Aviation Division their annual request for rental rate adjustment.

Aviation Division has communicated with the First and Fifth Districts regarding a constituent who has expressed concern about the airport traffic pattern at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Mr. Smith provided additional information on the letter received from Senator Hertzberg concerning Whiteman Airport and elaborated on the Senator's request for providing environmental data regarding the airport to the local communities.

Aviation Division is looking into a potential release of vacant airport land from Federal obligations for the possible development of a business park.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that a contractor will be conducting a rents and fees study for the County-owned airports.

D. Policy on Discounted Rent for Non-Profits Draft Review

Chairman Lord recused himself from participating in this agenda item and turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Amundson. Mr. Smith summarized the draft policy and explained the process involved in developing the policy. He also mentioned a request for comments was sent to the leaders of local non-profit aviation organizations based at the County airports. Comments from Mr. Mike Gabelman of Mission Flight, Mr. Gabe Lopez of San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, and Mr. James Miller of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) at Whiteman Airport were received and shared with the Commission.

Mr. Thomas A. Dimascio, CAP, asked the Commission to include the tangible services that CAP brings to the community when considering the discount.

Mr. Gerald Cosey, CAP, spoke to the Commission and urged that CAP's emergency activities be considered when determining the discount.

Ms. Kailyn Huynh, CAP, shared with the Commission the opportunities that she has experienced as a young member of CAP.

Mr. James Miller, CAP, spoke to the Commission about the services they provide during emergencies and at County events. He requested that the

policy have more flexibility in determining what the discount should be based on the tangible and intangible benefits provided.

Mr. Gabe Lopez, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, expressed to the Commission on his interest to open a museum at San Gabriel Valley Airport and asked for a round table session.

Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association/Mission Flight, spoke on behalf of Mr. Mike Gabelman. Dr. Haney shared with the Commission their activities at the airport, and offered comments regarding the non-profit rent policy.

Ms. Alycia Herman, Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 40, shared with the Commission their activities and respectfully requested to be considered for the discount.

Commissioner Castagna motioned to remove CAP from the draft Policy and treat them consistently with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) policy. Commissioner Holloway seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Castagna made a motion to move forward with vetting the Policy Draft for discussion with the FAA and continue with a 15 percent discount. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Jason Morgan, Assistant Chief, Aviation Division for his effort and time spent in the development of the draft policy.

E. Federal Aviation Administration Part 13 Determinations – San Gabriel Valley Airport

Mr. Smith spoke to the Commission on the content of the FAA determination regarding the possessory interest tax and the corrective actions that will take place. Commissioner Castagna and Commissioner Simmons spoke on the subject.

Dr. Haney provided comments to the Commission pertaining to the FAA Part 13 Determination.

F. 2019 Marketing Program – Update from American Airports Corporation

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission about how the Marketing Program started and the process on fund distribution. Mr. Wardle provided a copy of the marketing program plan for all five airports.

Commissioner Castagna suggested that American Airports Corporation ensure that all volunteer organizations participating in airport events are properly vetted.

Commissioner Pascucci engaged in a discussion about how to promote the airports and suggested that American Airports Corporation, if possible, hire a public relations firm to assist with promoting airport events.

Mr. Ron Miller, Whiteman Airport tenant, informed the Commission about a group of 15 tenants that are involved in promoting the airport and his knowledge of planning large events.

G. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

Chairman Lord presented Certificates of Appreciation and a gift to Mr. David Castillo and Mr. Guillermo Chavez for their immediate and courageous response to the recent aircraft accident at Compton/Woodley Airport.

H. Whiteman Airport Items

None.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Joe Labrie, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, read a letter from Mr. Mike Passwater, previous owner of a maintenance shop at San Gabriel Valley Airport.

Mr. Scott Stevenson, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, expressed concerns with the Commission on the FAA Part 13 Determination letter.

Mr. Gil Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, shared with the Commission his concerns about the previous maintenance shop at San Gabriel Airport and provided suggestions in addressing future concerns regarding traffic pattern noise.

Mr. Ron Miller, Whiteman Airport tenant, suggested to the Commission the possibility of adding vending machines at the terminal building and allowing food trucks to visit the airport.

Mr. Dave Hopkins, Santa Monica Airport Association, spoke to the Commission about electric powered aircraft and provided a hand-out to the Commission.

Dr. Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport, requested from the Commission to be added to the agenda for the next Commission meeting to discuss rates and charges.

Mr. Jeff Strouse, Aerial Sim Training, spoke to the Commission regarding a young man who would like to paint a compass rose at San Gabriel Valley Airport, his request for a security system, and the needed maintenance at his hangar.

Mr. Jon Smalldridge, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association, shared with the Commission his concern about the current rental rates and the draft Policy on Discounted Rent for Non-Profits.

III. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019, at 7 p.m.
at San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-6129**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Holloway, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

RS:cmd