



GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

April 25, 2012, Meeting

Whiteman Airport

12653 Osborne Street

Pacoima, CA 91331-2104

COMMISSIONERS

CLINTON SIMMONS
CHAIRMAN

DENNIS C. LORD
VICE CHAIRMAN

PETER AMUNDSON
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

HARVEY HOLLOWAY
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

VACANT
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Clinton Simmons
Vice Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Secretary Peter M. Amundson
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Harvey A. Holloway
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Dennis Hunter, Deputy Director
Mr. Richard L. Smith, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Aaron Walsh, Airport Project Coordinator

AMERICAN AIRPORTS CORPORATION - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Ed Sauce, President
Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Chris Brooks, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Cyle Woodruff, Manager, Brackett Field Airport

GUESTS

Ms. Penny Alderson, Vista Aviation
Mr. Leonard J. Alogna, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Solomon Bruck, Whiteman Airport
Mr. John Clausen, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Brian Cunneen, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Leslie Dinius, Whiteman Airport
Ms. Bettie Duff, SFV 99s
Mr. Bob Fogelman, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grabowski
Mr. Jacki Harris, Whiteman Airport
Mr. and Mrs. Don Hagopian, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Martha Hernandez, Glendale College Student
Mr. Stephen Hess, Civil Air Patrol
Ms. Marisa Iadevaia, Rocky's Restaurant
Mr. David Kolstad, Whiteman Airport Association
Ms. Jeanne Kurhafer, SFV 99s
Mr. John Michael Lee, Van Nuys Airport
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Lisa, Whiteman Airport
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Hector Lopez, Glendale College Student
Mr. Michael Main, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Richard Mend, Mend Aviation
Ms. Kimberly Monfort, Rocky's Restaurant
Mr. John Nagle, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Mike O'Bannon, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Tim Quinn, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Murray Rozansky, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40
Mr. Greg Schuh, Whiteman Airport
Mr. J. A. Smith, Whiteman Airport
Mr. David Snyder, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Brian Stover, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. John Van Diepen, A Straight Line

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of those who have sacrificed and served the nation to preserve freedom.

I. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. March 28, 2012, Minutes

The minutes were unanimously carried and approved on a motion from Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Vice Chairman Lord.

B. American Airports Corporation - Project Manager Report

Mr. Wardle made reference of the hand out disseminated to the Commission regarding the recent attempted aircraft theft at Compton/Woodley Airport and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Wardle, then, referred to the airport managers for their individual reports.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on General William J. Fox Airfield events

- **Projects**

The airport has received bid estimates from the companies interested in the installation of the new HVAC system in the terminal. Some questions about the design are still being worked out.

- **Development and Activities**

There are currently nine vacant hangars at Fox Airfield. The total operations count remained relatively flat this month, compared to the same month last year, according to Mr. Irving. Fuel sales were also flat.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Irving informed the Commission about a recent small brush fire at Apollo County Park adjacent to the airport that had made the local news. The fire was extinguished quickly and was determined to have been started as a result of a disposed cigarette. Airport operations and activities were not affected.

The City of Lancaster has based a law enforcement aircraft on the airport. The City plans to utilize it in the near future to implement an aerial surveillance program. Chairman Simmons inquired about the type of airplane the City chose for the role and was informed by Mr. Irving that it is a Cessna 172.

Mr. Irving also shared his thoughts regarding a recent meeting he had with some air show promoters. The group was interested in exploring the potential of an air show at Fox Airfield that would potentially involve hot air balloons, as well as various aircraft. Mr. Irving stated that both parties only discussed the idea on the surface and further study was needed before moving forward.

Mr. Cyle Woodruff reported on Brackett Field Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

During the month of March, various repairs were made to the airport operations vehicle, plumbing issues were resolved at the restaurant, and staff continued its weed abatement efforts.

- **Projects**

Mr. Woodruff stated he understands that the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) project is near completion. He also noted the letter of agreement between the control tower and the airport regarding the operation of the AWOS has been finalized.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Woodruff reported that all commercial space at the airport is occupied, and there is a 12 percent vacancy for the non-commercial hangar facilities. Of the occupied hangars, 16 percent was being used for non-aviation purposes.

Jet A fuel sales were down 25 percent and Avgas fuel sales were down 15 percent from the same period last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

Mr. Woodruff announced that the Brackett Airport Association meets at the terminal building the first Thursday of every month and its static aircraft display is scheduled for the third Sunday of every month.

- **Miscellaneous**

A vehicle pedestrian deviation (VPD) on the airport was recorded last month. Two individuals had walked through an unlocked gate on the north side of the airport and crossed the two runways, causing the VPD. They were subsequently detained and interrogated by airport operations personnel. There was no interruption to air traffic and the airport traffic control tower reported no traffic separation incidents. The gate has since been secured. Commissioner Cornwall inquired about the incident and asked Mr. Woodruff how frequently the airport perimeter is inspected. Mr. Woodruff explained that perimeter inspections are conducted multiple times a day.

Mr. Chris Brooks reported on El Monte Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

Staff continued its efforts of weed abatement and general facilities maintenance items during this month. Lights in the terminal were repaired, and new entrance mats and new toilets were added to the public restrooms.

General maintenance was performed to the airport operations vehicles. The Avgas refueling truck received some maintenance and was briefly removed from service to have the radiator replaced. While the Avgas refueling truck was out of service, additional personnel tended the fuel pit, which remained open to accommodate any aircraft fuel requests.

- **Development and Activities**

Mr. Brooks reported that 93 percent of the non-commercial hangar facilities are occupied and 25 percent of the occupied hangars were being used for non-aviation purposes.

Operations were slightly up last month. Jet A fuel sales increased 37 percent, compared to the same month last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

An Air Fair is planned for September 22 and 23, 2012, at the airport.

The San Gabriel Valley Airport Association purchased and installed a wall size aeronautical chart in the pilot's lounge/terminal. The chart covers the entire United States. Commissioner Chase commended Mr. Brooks and the El Monte airport staff for their weed abatement program. He also complimented the addition of the wall chart in the pilots lounge.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on Compton/Woodley Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

Staff replaced the overhead lights at the fuel pit and a single security light at the Wilmington entrance gate.

- **Projects**

Mr. Herrera noted that the hangar lighting special project, which included replacing all light fixtures on the south-side aircraft hangars and on the south side was completed; and the County had recently wrapped up a project that replaced the four stair cases between the three larger commercial hangars.

- **Development and Activities**

Airport hangar occupancy was reported at being at almost full capacity (99 percent occupied). Nineteen percent of the airport's non-commercial hangars were being used for non-aviation purposes. Commissioner Cardono asked Mr. Herrera whether or not a non-aviation tenant would have to vacate the hangar when an aviation tenant desires to rent the same hangar. Mr. Herrera assured him that it is the policy and stated that aviation tenants have the priority over non-aviation tenants. Commissioner Cornwall asked about the type of non-aviation use being permitted in the hangars and was informed by Mr. Herrera that the majority of non-aviation hangar use is for vehicle storage.

Mr. Herrera reported that Avgas sales were up 17 percent at Compton/Woodley Airport this month, as compared to the same time last year.

- **Meetings and Events**

The Experimental Aircraft Association is planning to hold its Young Eagles national flying day on May 19th at the airport.

- **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Herrera offered to answer further questions about the recent attempted aircraft theft incident that took place on the airport. Mr. Herrera stated that the suspect was apprehended at gunpoint before the airplane was able to depart. Mr. Wardle also stated that there was video from an airport security camera of the suspect walking across the ramp but most of the incident unfolded outside of the security cameras' frame.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on Whiteman Airport events

- **Management and Maintenance**

Mr. Marino reported that airport staff completed several projects. Among them was the addition of a containment tray for the waste oil recycling facility. He also oversaw the installation of an additional security camera at the fuel pit. Fraudulent credit card transactions at fuel pit were being reported, so it is expected that adding the camera will provide additional

security. Five obstruction lights were replaced on the fence near the D-Row hangars.

The airport also hired two new employees, and both have pilot licenses.

- **Projects**

Airport staff installed a water valve cover and re-graded a portion of the roadway shoulder on Airpark Way.

Mr. Marino reported that the County's ramp project was proceeding on schedule and Taxiway A would remain closed until the project is completed. Mr. Marino also stated that the County's ramp slurry and pavement repair project on the northeastern portion of the airport will start in the coming months, and he expects to relocate several aircraft for this project as well.

- **Development and Activities**

Total airport operations for the month were down 5.3 percent. Avgas fuel sales declined 8 percent, but Jet A fuel sales rose 31 percent for this reporting period. Hangar vacancies also rose and there are now 41 vacant hangars. Mr. Marino claimed that 3 percent of the hangars were being used for non-aviation storage.

- **Meetings and Events**

San Fernando Valley 99s is scheduled to hold its event at Whiteman Airport next week.

A Runway Safety Action Team meeting is scheduled to occur at the airport on May 16th.

C. **County Contract Administrator's Report – Mr. Richard Smith**

- **Expense and Revenue Report for September 2012**

Mr. Smith provided the Commission with copies of the revenue and expense report and offered to answer any questions. Chairman Simmons inquired about the Operational Services expenses, which increased last month. Mr. Smith reported that the expenses were for weed abatement and painting projects at Fox Airfield and El Monte Airport.

- **Airport Security System Upgrades**

A meeting with the contractor for the gate access control system project at Brackett Field Airport is scheduled for May 8, 2012.

- **Underground Storage Tank sites at the Airport**

Reports will be prepared by the County Geotechnical personnel to request closure of the remediation site at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Smith explained that there are three additional sites at Brackett Field, El Monte Airport, and Fox Airfield that have been open for many years. Aviation Division hopes that the Brackett site will only require a short monitoring period before the application to close the site can be submitted. The site at El Monte Airport has been open approximately 15 to 20 years, but it is expected to follow a similar process for closure as Brackett Field. The contamination site at Fox Airfield dates back to the 1990s and has the potential need for a vapor extraction process before it can be completely mitigated. A work plan is being developed by the Geotechnical Division personnel for all three sites and will cost approximately \$10,000. Chairman Simmons expressed his concern that the airport should not pay for contamination caused by adjacent facilities or entities unrelated to the airports.

- **Helipad at Brackett Field Airport**

Design work has begun for the helipad on the north side at Brackett Field Airport. The project was already incorporated into the 5-year Airport Capital Improvement Plan, but Federal Aviation Administration funding for the project has only recently become available.

- **Whiteman Airport Projects**

The project involving enhancements to the airport entrance at Airpark Way and Osborne Street has been completed. However, Aviation Division will honor the Internal Services Department's request that a portion of their fence line at the airport entrance be raised to 9 feet due to a history of theft from their property.

Aviation Division will go to the Board on May 15th to request permission to accept matching grant funding from the State for the upcoming slurry seal project.

- **Restaurant at Whiteman Airport**

Mr. Smith updated the Commission regarding the status of the restaurant facility improvements and lease issues. He reported that the County and American Airports Corporation are finalizing the solicitation for bids document that would be put out describing the airport restaurant model and available opportunity. Mr. Smith emphasized that the overall goal for the process was to be as fair and impartial as possible. The plan itself includes a broad-based selection panel to review bidder responses to the solicitation. Consistent with Mr. Smith's request to have community member involvement, both the Chamber of Commerce and Neighborhood

Council were contacted to request their participation in the selection process. Presently, Aviation Division anticipates a 35-day closure for facility improvements and plans to screen any bids received during that down time. Commissioner Wolf shared his experience visiting another airport restaurant that has become a major attraction and would be a good example for a business model.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Sixteen members of the public provided their comments during Open Forum.

Ms. Leslie Dinius shared with the Commission her opinion on the status of the restaurant facility, as well as her experience with ground contamination and clean-up.

Mr. Brian Stover of the Civil Air Patrol addressed the Commission regarding the Airport Master Plan and CAP's involvement at Whiteman Airport.

The following 14 speakers provided comment specifically regarding their support of the restaurant facility at Whiteman Airport:

Mr. Bill Logan
Ms. Kimberly Monfort
Mr. Michael Main
Mrs. Shellie Hagopian
Mr. Don Hagopian
Mr. Murray Rozansky
Mr. Solomon Bruck
Mrs. Ruth Logan
Mr. John Michael Lee
Ms. Marisa Iadevaia
Mr. Barry Marshall
Mr. Richard Mend
Mr. David Kolstad
Ms. Jacki Harris

Chairman Simmons added that he received an e-mail from the restaurant owner yesterday in relation to the request for proposals process to operate the restaurant. He reiterated to the Commission that the owner will have the same opportunity to respond to the solicitation for bids when the restaurant building is remodeled as anyone else.

III. OTHER ITEMS

None.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, May 30, 2012, 7 p.m.
El Monte Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670
(626) 488-6129**

Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clinton Simmons, Chairman
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission