

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 31, 2007**

Chairman Dennis C. Lord called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., at Brackett Field Airport, 1615 McKinley Avenue, La Verne, CA 91750-5837.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dennis C. Lord
Vice Chair Evelyn A. Jerome
Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Roger L. Persons
Commissioner Clint Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Aron A. Wolf

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. William H. Higley, Deputy Director, Administration
Mr. Ted A. Gustin, Chief, Aviation Division
Mr. Richard L. Smith, Airport Project Coordinator, Aviation Division

AMERICAN AIRPORTS - AIRPORT SERVICES DIVISION STAFF

Mr. Scott Wardle, Regional Director
Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck, Manager, Brackett Field Airport
Mr. Andrew Marino, Manager, Compton/Woodley Airport
Mr. Rafael Herrera, Manager, El Monte Airport
Mr. Steve Irving, Manager, General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
Mr. Jason Morgan, Manager, Whiteman Airport

GUESTS

Mr. Louis Bigelow, Compton Airport, EAA Chapter 96
Mr. Sheldon Bresin, Brackett Airport Association
Mr. Denny Marshall, Brackett Airport
Mrs. Alice Marshall, Brackett Airport
Mr. Gilbert Viramontes, El Monte Airport, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association

A. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Clinton Simmons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION1. Minutes of the Meeting of November 29, 2006

The minutes were approved and adopted as written. Secretary Bailey made a motion for approval, second by Vice Chair Jerome.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Scott Wardle informed the Commission that American Airports Corporation (AAC) is conducting periodic meetings with stakeholders of the airports in an effort to improve communication between airport management and airport users.

Mr. Wardle provided the Commission with a summary of hangar inspections that has been completed.

Mr. Wardle informed the Commission that AAC is negotiating with a prospective tenant to construct a full-service FBO at Brackett Field.

Vice Chair Jerome asked if Whiteman Airport is the only airport with a hangar waiting list. Mr. Wardle stated that Whiteman and Fox Airfield have shown pent-up demand for hangars, but that all the airports have waiting lists.

Mr. Wardle commented that discussions regarding replacing hangars on the north side of Compton/Woodley Airport have occurred, and options are being discussed. Commissioner Cardono commented that the existing portable hangars were brought in during a time of great need, and they have served the airport well. He agreed that it is time to transition away from the portable hangars even if there were fewer permanent hangars.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Morgan stated that his waiting lists for aircraft hangars and tiedowns are growing. He stated that he has met with all the master lessees who rent their hangars out to aircraft owners in an effort to bring them into compliance with their leases, which will free up additional hangars for aircraft storage. Mr. Morgan stated he has been working to curb unauthorized vehicle access to the airport by staffing airport personnel at the gates, as well as implementing an application process to obtain access cards. A ground-breaking ceremony was held by Specialty Aero Leasing, Inc., for its new hangar development at the airport. New tables were purchased for the pilot's lounge, and new picnic tables were purchased for the public viewing area near the terminal building. Upgrades to the self-fuel system are complete. A stakeholders meeting will occur on February 1, 2007. The semiannual taskforce meeting was held on January 11. A hangar auction will occur on February 10, 2007.

Mr. Morgan informed the Commission of an event for disabled children called, Challenge Air, that will occur in November 2007. A planning meeting for the event will occur in March 2007, and Mr. Morgan requested volunteers to participate in the meeting.

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Marino stated that he will serve Notices to Vacate to seven non-aviation hangar tenants on the south side of the airport, as demand for them is received. He reported that the County repainted the south runway to facilitate the FAA's design of an instrument-approach procedure. The County's project to rehabilitate the security lighting on the north side of the airport has begun. All restrooms and the fuel pit have been repainted. New spill kits were purchased for the fuel pit and the fuel trucks. Fire extinguishers were recertified on January 15, 2007. Additional *No Parking* signs were installed along the north wall of the airport. There was a Career Industry Expo event on January 20, 2007, where members of the community were invited to talk to aviation companies and professionals. The EAA, through its Young Eagles Program, reportedly took over 70 children on airplane rides during the event.

Mr. Marino stated he has received noise complaints regarding motorcycle activity along the north wall of the airport. Chairman Lord added that he was informed Supervisor Burke's office received eight complaints regarding the same issue, and he is sending a letter to all the tenants of the airport inviting them to be a part of the solution to solve the motorcycle noise issue.

Mr. Marino reported he is still working with the FAA to find solutions to the helicopter issues at Compton/Woodley Airport. He stated he flew alternate patterns with a member of the FAA, which generated some new ideas. Mr. Marino stated he wants to bring all interested parties together at the conclusion of the research to discuss options. Mr. Wardle added that they have deployed a traffic counter in an effort to collect operations data, and they are considering employing surveillance cameras to enforce the helicopter procedures.

Commissioner Cardono asked how many helicopter flight schools are located at Compton/Woodley. Mr. Marino stated that there is one flight school. Commissioner Cardono went on to say that he was concerned about the significant increase in helicopter operations at Compton that is derived from helicopter operators based at other airports. He stated that this increase in helicopter operations is causing problems for the airport, and the outside operators go back to their airports and leave our airport personnel to deal with the problems. He also added that the itinerant helicopters do not purchase fuel or use other services at the airport.

Commissioner Simmons remarked that there is County land in the South Bay Area that may be suitable for a heliport and suggested that it be looked into. Chairman Lord suggested that Commissioners Cardono and Simmons work with Mr. Marino and come back with recommendations.

Chairman Lord asked why the electrical outlets were removed along the north wall of Compton/Woodley Airport. Mr. Gustin responded that they were removed for safety concerns.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. Signs prohibiting overnight parking in the south parking lot have been installed. A water leak near the maintenance facility was repaired. A section of fence was repaired along Riverview Road. Repairs were made to the north vehicle access gate. CPR training was conducted at the airport. A stakeholders' meeting will be held on February 9, 2007. The City of El Monte will be conducting a hazardous waste roundup on February 24, 2007, in the terminal parking lot.

Chairman Lord stated that one of the tenants in the El Monte terminal building is having trouble with the HVAC system in his leased area. He added that air balancing in the terminal building should be looked at by a qualified firm and suggested that after-market equipment be installed to give the tenant some control over the system.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at Fox Airfield. He informed the Commission that an aircraft departed Fox Airfield and went down near the west end of the valley. The pilot was relatively unharmed and called police from his cellular telephone. In addition, a student pilot recently veered off the runway and came to a stop upside down near the taxiway. The student pilot was unharmed, but the airplane sustained significant damage.

Mr. Irving reported that a vehicle came through the fence on Barnes Avenue.

Commissioner Butts asked if there were any reflective signs at the end of 50th Street that may have prevented the vehicle from going through the fence. Mr. Irving stated that there are reflective stop signs on 50th Street at the Avenue G intersection that the driver drove through.

Mr. Irving reported that the two hangar development projects at Fox Airfield are moving forward. He stated that the recent cold weather caused water pipes to burst in several locations on the airport, and repairs are in progress. The pilot's association held its annual Christmas party in the terminal building and was reported to have been a great success.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field. The County's slurry seal project on the transient parking and adjacent ramp is complete. Twenty-five aircraft hangars reverted to the County after a 25-year lease expired. The hangar rents for the reverted hangars were adjusted to the County rate. A stakeholders' meeting was held on January 24, 2007. More picnic tables and a barbeque grill have been requested for the public viewing area near the terminal building. The 99s had their annual poker run on January 20, 2007, and they terminated the run at Brackett Airport. A vehicle struck a hangar and caused significant damage to an electrical panel that was attached to the hangar. Electrical power to the hangars was out for about one and one-half days and has now been restored. Mount San Antonio College will host the SAFECON 2007 event on February 16-18, 2007, at Brackett Airport.

Mr. Fox-Tuck announced a correction to information that was printed in the last airport newsletter that read, "aircraft that depart from runway 26R are to make a left turn toward the center of Puddingstone Lake," was corrected to read, "aircraft departing from runway 26R, are to make a left turn toward the north shoreline of the lake."

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Ted Gustin provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for December 2006.

Commissioner Simmons asked why expenses for Services by Other Divisions are higher than last year. Mr. Gustin responded that \$35,000 was for two completed hangar appraisals at Brackett and El Monte airports and about 80 percent of the background work for the appraisals at the other three airports; \$6,000 was for Programs Development Division to assist in processing a negative declaration for a development at Brackett Field; \$1,565 was for Survey Division for the new runway markings at Compton/Woodley Airport; \$11,000 for Road Maintenance Division to repair a large pavement area near one of the FBOs at El Monte Airport; and \$11,000 for Mapping and Property Management Division, involving the documentation for the easement and transfer of property to the City of Lancaster at Fox Airfield.

Commissioner Simmons also asked about expenses for computers. Mr. Gustin stated that two replacement computers were needed for new staff.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that the House Appropriations Committee was to approve the joint resolution by the House and Senate for approval of the federal budget. The measure provides \$3.5145 billion for AIP, some \$765 million more than the President requested for FY 2007.

Several months ago, the County's Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) was approached by the City of Hawthorne concerning a development within the RPZ east of the airport that would include homes and commercial uses. The ALUC felt that the project would be incompatible with the Airport Land Use Plan (ALUP). The City Council has since approved a Statement of Overriding Consideration which will allow the project to move forward, but the City will be responsible for the impact of the development.

The Department of Regional Planning's proposed 2007-08 budget includes a request for initial funding for ALUP updates for the 14 airports in the County that don't currently have one. Fox Field will be excluded, since it was just updated a couple of years ago. He explained that this will involve 33 cities, and all of them will have to buy into the plan.

Commissioner Simmons stated that the Aviation Commission used to meet with the Regional Planning Commission and suggested that those meetings resume. Mr. Gustin stated that he would contact Regional Planning staff and make the request.

Mr. Richard Smith updated the Commission on the progress of the County projects, stating that the security lighting project at Compton/Woodley Airport will cost \$40,000 less than the original estimate for a total cost of approximately \$98,000.

Mr. Smith stated that on January 16, 2007, the El Monte City Council approved the County's request to vacate a portion of the city's right-of-way along Tyler Avenue and Emery Street, which was necessary to accommodate the perimeter fence project that was completed last summer. He also expressed his appreciation to the City Engineers for their hard work and assistance throughout the process.

Mr. Smith stated that the slurry project at Fox Airfield was complete and field-accepted on the 25th of January.

Mr. Smith stated that a grant application was sent to the FAA last week for the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update.

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that aerial photographs were ordered for all the airports, citing the significant development and other changes that have occurred at the airports since the last photos were taken.

Mr. Smith also stated that he will meet with the FAA on February 5th, to discuss the airports' capital improvement plans and funding for the proposed projects.

Chairman Lord introduced a discussion regarding the development of Minimum Standards for aeronautical activities at the County airports. He

commented that developing the standards is necessary for being a more transparent organization.

Mr. Smith added that the Minimum Standards are the threshold requirements that are set for the conduct of commercial and non-commercial aeronautical activities at the County airports. Examples of these activities were full-service FBOs, aircraft maintenance, flight training, fuel service, and other specialized aviation services.

Chairman Lord appointed himself, Vice Chair Jerome, and Commissioners Butts, Cardono, and Cornwall to a subcommittee to oversee the development and implementation of Minimum Standards and rules and regulations for commercial and non-commercial aeronautical activities at the County airports.

4. Brackett Field Airport Items

There were no additional items for Brackett Field Airport.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Sheldon Bresin encouraged the Commission to involve airport users when developing Minimum Standards. He also requested that the north gate closing time be shortened. He commented that the A and B hangar rows need more area lighting. He requested that a pilot briefing room be made available at Brackett Field. He requested additional picnic tables and a barbeque grill be added to the public viewing area near the terminal building.

Mr. Gilbert Viramontes encouraged the Commission to question the activities of the County. He asked why the price of fuel at the airports is still high when the price of oil continues to drop. He also asked why the rents go up every year and stated that AAC does not need a raise every year.

Chairman Lord commented that the County price for fuel is consistently less than the average price of fuel for airports in the region. He also commented that he will continue to have discussions with Mr. Viramontes about what can be done on behalf of the tenants and what the Commission can do to ensure that the airports continue to flourish.

Secretary Bailey commented that the federal cost of living went up 3.1 percent.

Mr. Wardle commented that AAC's rent, wages for his staff, as well as health and airport liability insurance costs, are increased every year, and to categorize the annual increase in hangar rent as a "raise" to AAC, is not accurate.

Other Items: Chairman Lord introduced new Commissioners Penelope Cornwall and George Butts.

Chairman Lord presented past Chairman Simmons with an award commemorating his second term as Chairman of the Aviation Commission and for his services in 2006.

D. **THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVIATION COMMISSION WILL BE HELD ON:**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2007, at 10 a.m., at
Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 910220-3599
(310) 631-8140**

Chairman Lord adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

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