



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2007
Whiteman Airport
12653 Osborne Street
Pacoima, CA 91331-2192**

COMMISSIONERS

DENNIS C. LORD
CHAIRMAN

EVELYN JEROME ALEXANDER
VICE CHAIR

CLYDE G. BAILEY
SECRETARY

GEORGE G. BUTTS
MEMBER

ANGELO R. CARDONO
MEMBER

BOBBY E. CHASE
MEMBER

PENELOPE CORNWALL
MEMBER

ROGER L. PERSONS
MEMBER

CLINTON SIMMONS
MEMBER

ARON A. WOLF
MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE

Vice Chair Evelyn Jerome Alexander
Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Commissioner George G. Butts
Commissioner Angelo R. Cardono
Commissioner Bobby E. Chase
Commissioner Penelope Cornwall
Commissioner Roger L. Persons
Commissioner Clint Simmons

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Chairman Dennis C. Lord
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
Mrs. Miriam Gomes Oprişan, Staff Assistant, 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. Peter Albiez, Whiteman Airport Association
Mr. Marc Herman, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Bill Logan, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Nick Tucker, Whiteman Airport
Mr. Dusty Rhodes, Vista Aviation

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Butts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

1. Minutes of the Meeting of March 28, 2007

Commissioner Persons made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cornwall. The minutes were approved and adopted as written.

2. American Airports - Project Manager's Report

Mr. Andrew Marino reported on events at Compton/Woodley Airport. The north wall perimeter lighting project is near completion. The overhead fuel pipes at the fuel island will be replaced by hose reels. Hangar inspections are 92 percent complete. A fence post was replaced on the main gate. Odor removal dispensers were installed in all the restrooms at the airport.

The Helicopter Operations Subcommittee met on April 9, 2007. A working draft, stating procedures for helicopters operations, will be sent out to airport users and helicopter operators for review. Mr. Marino anticipated implementing the new procedures on June 1, for a three-month period. Following the three-month period, the Subcommittee will reconvene to evaluate the effectiveness of the new procedures and make the necessary changes for final implementation.

Commissioner Cornwall asked for an update regarding the motorcycle noise issue. Mr. Marino responded that Chairman Lord is in the process of hosting a meeting to discuss the issue. Mr. Marino also stated that no complaints were received in the past month.

Mr. Jared Fox-Tuck reported on events at Brackett Field Airport. A flight school with a four-aircraft fleet moved in to the north side of the airport on April 15. A private hangar development on the southeast corner of the airport is expected to start construction in September. The lighting project on the south side is complete. New picnic tables were purchased for the park area. All fuel meters passed the annual State recertification.

The airport is experiencing an increase in the number of complaints regarding the restrooms located in the "I" row. The restrooms have been out of service for quite some time. Mr. Fox-Tuck added that once the hangars revert to the County all the necessary repairs will be made.

The La Verne Fire Department provided extensive fire training for Brackett Field Airport staff.

The Mt. San Antonio College Flying Team is leaving on May 4, to participate in a national flying competition in Columbus, Ohio. A television commercial shoot was performed on April 20, at the airport.

Secretary Bailey asked if there is any effort being made to convert incandescent lighting to fluorescent lighting to reduce the energy use in the terminal building. Mr. Fox-Tuck responded that American Airports Corporation (AAC) has not found the appropriate lights for the terminal building, and stated that practices are in place to conserve energy.

Commissioner Simmons commented there are some hazards associated with the sockets when switching to fluorescent lights. Therefore, some consideration should be given before replacing the incandescent lights.

Mr. Steve Irving reported on events at General Wm. J. Fox Airfield. The airport has experienced windy days in the last three weeks, which spread dirt all over the airport, including the hangar facilities. Mr. Irving stated that airport staff is spending a lot of time keeping the airport clean, and the door seals have been replaced in an attempt to minimize the dirt problem. A gas line from the meter to the terminal building was replaced due to a gas leak. Experimental Aircraft Association's B-17 was at the airport on April 17 to 18.

Mr. Rafael Herrera reported on events at El Monte Airport. Fire extinguishers were inspected and recertified. The WiFi antenna, that provides wireless internet access, was replaced. The airport hosted the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Safety Seminar on April 4. Mr. Herrera thanked the San Gabriel Valley Airport Association for providing extra chairs to accommodate the public during the seminar. The San Gabriel Valley Tribune will visit the airport to do a research on the history, present status, and vitality of the airport in the San Gabriel Valley.

Mr. Jason Morgan reported on events at Whiteman Airport. Several third-party, non-aviation hangars were vacated in the past month in an effort to accommodate aviation users. County hangars will also be vacated for the same purpose. Mr. Morgan anticipated having those hangars re-inspected in 30 to 45 days. Relocation of 20 tiedowns is in progress to accommodate the development of a new Fixed Base Operator (FBO) and hangars at the airport. Amber reflective pavement markers will be installed on the north taxiways to assist pilots operating on the ground at night. The fire extinguishers will be inspected and recertified in mid May. Bushes were removed and white roses were planted at the airport entrance; the white roses were donated by the Burbank Girls Scouts.

Mr. Morgan informed the Commission that tenants from Whiteman Airport expressed interest during the last stakeholder meeting about getting involved in the Airport Master Plan (AMP) Update project.

Mr. Morgan reported that two aircraft incidents occurred in April, when a Lancair experienced an engine failure, crashed, and stopped at the end of runway 12, and on April 19, a Cessna 172 landed hard on runway 12 causing it to bounce back into the air and cartwheeled off the runway and into the infield area. No injuries were sustained.

The first planning meeting to discuss the Challenge Air Event was held on March 29, 2007. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2007, at 6 p.m., in the terminal building.

Mr. Morgan stated he will be recruiting new employees in the next few weeks.

3. County - Contract Administrator's Report

Mr. Ted Gustin provided copies of the Expense and Revenue Report for March 2007, and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that out of 1,400 Airport User Survey forms mailed out to the airport tenants, and 200 forms hand-carried to each County airport, approximately 340 forms were received back. Mr. Gustin stated the feedback received from the airport users contained good, constructive comments. He also added that in specific situations, when some issues need close attention and the hangars are properly identified, he discusses the tenants concerns directly with the airport managers in an effort to solve the problems as soon as possible. Mr. Gustin also stated that this year the Airport User Survey data is being collected in an automated system that provides an account of the responses at the end and/or during the survey process.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked who received the Airport User Survey, and what percentage of the responses was obtained last year. Mr. Gustin answered that all airport tenants received an Airport User Survey form, and 35 percent of the surveys sent out last year were returned, which was a relatively high return rate. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander asked when the Airport User Survey results will be presented. Mr. Gustin responded the results will be presented at the May meeting. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander requested a comparison between this year's and last year's results.

Commissioner Butts asked if the return rate of the survey this year has been the same for all County airports. Mr. Gustin said that, as of April 25, Whiteman Airport has the higher return rate, followed by Brackett Field Airport.

Mr. Gustin provided a copy of the letters sent to U.S. Senators and Representatives requesting support for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Federal Contract Tower Program.

Mr. Gustin informed the Commission that the position of Aviation Chief, Public Works is currently open and provided copies of the job bulletin for those who may be interested.

Mr. Richard Smith provided updates on the current projects at the County airports. The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update for Compton/Woodley Airport has been approved by the FAA. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been drafted for the design of the pavement rehabilitation project at Compton/Woodley Airport. As part of the rehabilitation project, a drainage study will be conducted for the entire airport. The ALP Update for El Monte Airport is currently being reviewed by the FAA Control Tower staff, and it is expected to be approved soon. The preliminary design for the Pavement Rehabilitation Phase III project at Fox Airfield is complete.

A request for funds for the AMP Update for Whiteman Airport has been sent to the FAA. Mr. Smith explained that once the funding commitment from the FAA is formalized, the RFQ process will be initiated to hire a consultant. The RFQ will be advertised and have a 30-day response period. Following the response period, a Selection Committee will select the consultant that will conduct the study. Mr. Smith also added that airport users and any person interested in the project will have the opportunity to be involved in the process.

4. Whiteman Airport Items

Mr. Dusty Rhodes presented drawings of his new FBO and hangar development, and explained some of the planned facilities, which will include the construction of 34 hangars, a large pilot supplies area, ramp service, a pilots' lounge, public restrooms, an avionics shop, and parking. The development is expected to be completed before April 2008.

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander inquired about the security at the entrance road at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Gustin stated that 11 additional cameras will be installed to enhance the security at the entrance of the airport. Mr. Gustin noted that speed bumps may also be installed.

Commissioner Simmons asked if the pilots' lounge in the new building will be a 24-hour operation facility. Mr. Rhodes said it will depend on the public's reception.

5. Assembly Bill No. 700

Vice Chair Jerome Alexander conducted a brief discussion regarding the Assembly Bill No. 700, and said that, if passed, would require the State Air Resources Board to complete a study of air pollution caused by jets and turbo-prop airplanes taking off and landing at the Santa Monica Airport.

Commissioner Simmons suggested drafting a letter and bringing it before the Commission for approval. Commissioner Cardono noted that the study should be conducted all 365 days of the year; otherwise it will not reflect the reality.

The Commission unanimously approved continuing this item on the agenda for the May 30, 2007, meeting.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Mr. Peter Albiez requested the Commission Meeting Calendar be posted on the Public Works' website, and inquired if there are plans to develop a new terminal building and a new restaurant at Whiteman Airport. Mr. Gustin stated the calendar will be posted on the Public Works' website, and said there are plans to develop in the future, a new terminal building and a new restaurant at the airport.

Mr. Bill Logan inquired why the goals regarding the number of transient tiedowns based aircraft and the development of low cost hangars established on the AMP for Whiteman Airport have not been met. Mr. Gustin stated that the AMP, adopted in 1990, needs to be updated; and also explained that when the AMP was developed, the aviation activity forecasts were based on very high figures that no longer describe the actual demand. Mr. Gustin also added that the FAA recommends an update of the AMP every 10 years.

Commissioner Cardono commented that Whiteman Airport needs an AMP Update, and welcomed any person interested in participating in the study.

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

**Wednesday, May 30, 2007, at 7 p.m., at
General Wm. J. Fox Airfield
4555 West Avenue G
Lancaster, CA 93536-8401
(661) 940-1709**

Commissioner Persons made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bailey. Vice Chair Jerome Alexander adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Clyde G. Bailey
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

MGO

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