



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2024, 10 a.m.

Brackett Field Airport

1615 McKinley Avenue

La Verne, CA 91750-5846

(909) 593-1395

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Ryan Antoon
Vice-Chair Forouzan Golshani
Secretary Dennis Lord
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Jeff Mort

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Monique Earl
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
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. Don Garcia, Resident of El Monte
Mr. David P. Lunt, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Dave Kolstad, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. James Miller, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. Gil Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Sky N., San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Bruce Busch, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. Robert Head, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Forouzan Golshani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Minutes for the November 29, 2023, meeting

Secretary Dennis Lord requested corrections to the minutes under Agenda Item C. The corrected minutes for November 29, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Secretary Lord and seconded by Vice-Chair Forouzan Golshani.

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

Chair Antoon announced that an award will be presented to Commissioner Christina Pascucci for serving as the 2023, Aviation Commission Chair.

Mr. Morgan provided to the Commission a brief overview of Brackett Field Airport and a summary of the hangar occupancy quarterly report for all five County airports.

Expense and Revenue Report

Mr. Maselbas reported that the list of deferred airport maintenance projects is being finalized and that the Expense and Revenue Report will be presented at the next meeting.

Aircraft Operations (Takeoffs and Landings) and Fuel Sales

The overall aircraft operations for all five County airports were up 17 percent in the month of December 2023, as compared to the same month last year. Total annual aircraft operations for calendar year 2023 were down 3 percent from the prior year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were down 0.7 percent in the month of December 2023, as compared to the same month last year. Total annual fuel sales for calendar year 2023 were down 11 percent from the prior 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 was held on December 6, 2023.

The Runway/Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation Design Project for Whiteman Airport is postponed to next year. Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, the design consultant will be hosting a sustainability workshop at San Gabriel Valley Airport for the Runway/Taxiway Pavement Reconstruction Project.

Mr. Maselbas proposed to the Commission to add the rents and fees study as an agenda item for next month's meeting. The report will be shared with the Commission and posted on the Aviation Division website in the upcoming weeks.

Airport Property Management

At Brackett Field Airport, repairs were made to the lighting in the parking lot adjacent to the terminal building.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, police responded to an incident during an event held at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum on December 15, 2023. There was no impact to airport operations.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, repairs are underway for the lighting at the airport entrance sign on Avenue G and William J. Barnes Avenue.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, the County self-serve Avgas fuel dispensers are in service and Billion Air Aviation continues to provide fuels.

Public Works received one proposal for aeronautical lease development at San Gabriel Valley Airport. The new lease agreement will be finalized and submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval in the next few months.

At Whiteman Airport, repairs are underway to the Orbital Way vehicle access gate, the tower gate, and the street lighting along Airpark Way.

Contracts for fueling services at General William J. Fox Airfield and Whiteman Airport are finalized and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval at their February 27, 2024, meeting.

Public Works is anticipating the availability of unleaded aviation gasoline (UL94) at all five County airports around June 2024.

Airport Events and Activities

At Brackett Field Airport, Los Angeles County Sanitation District held their hazardous waste roundup event on December 16, 2023. Brackett Airmen's Association held

their monthly meeting on January 4, 2024. An aircraft display day event was held at the airport on January 20, 2024.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 will host an inaugural Compton Unified School District Aerial Drone Competition event on March 16, 2024. Planning is underway for the annual Air Fair to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the airport.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, airport staff provided a tour of the airport to a local elementary school on December 7, 2023. Mission Flight held their American Heritage Girl Aviation badge event on January 27, 2024. Mission Flight's Shine, Overcome, Ascend, Rejoice (SOAR) event is scheduled for mid-February 2024. The Air Fair and Auto Show is scheduled for March 3, 2024.

At Whiteman Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 held Young Eagles events on December 16, 2023, and January 27, 2024.

Airport Marketing and Public Relations

An Airport Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan is being developed for the five County airports. Public Works is reviewing the draft plan provided by the consultant and will share it with and solicit input from the Aviation Commission Subcommittee.

D. Airport Automobile Liability Insurance Required

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that airport tenants driving their automobiles on the airport premises are required to have \$300,000 combined single limit coverage for automobile liability insurance. The County of San Bernardino has the same requirement for its five general aviation airports. Mr. Maselbas also mentioned that Public Works is considering hiring a consultant to perform the task of insurance verification at the airports.

Commissioners engaged in a brief discussion regarding the information presented.

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

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that Public Works will report back to the Board of Supervisors next week regarding the November 7, 2023, Board motion. A copy of the written report will be shared with the Commission. The Federal Aviation Administration requires a Federal Aviation Regulations Part 161 study to be completed for a mandatory curfew at Whiteman Airport. Public Works discussed with the Federal Aviation Administration the details for relocating the aircraft runup areas further away from the residential areas. Additionally, following the Board motion, Public Works implemented a voluntary nighttime curfew at Whiteman Airport.

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

Chair Antoon had no update to provide regarding the Airport Stakeholder Communications and Marketing Plan. He asked if airport staff had been in contact with an individual who is interested in a filming project with the County airports. Mr. Morgan confirmed that he spoke with the individual.

G. Mission Flight Presentation on Activities at San Gabriel Valley Airport

Dr. Marc Haney shared with the Commission a brief presentation on Mission Flight, a 501(c)3 aeronautic public benefit non-profit organization, based at San Gabriel Valley Airport. A video clip for Shine, Overcome, Ascend, Rejoice (SOAR), was presented.

H. Recognition of the 114th anniversary of the 1st Air Meet in the USA

Secretary Lord shared with the Commission a brief presentation on the 114th anniversary of the 1st Air Meet in the United States of America, which occurred in Dominguez Hills, California. Secretary Lord shared photographs and informed the Commission that the 1st United States Air Meet commemorative plaque was stolen.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

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

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 10 a.m.
at Compton/Woodley Airport
901 West Alondra Boulevard
Compton, CA 90220-3528**

Chair Antoon provided a brief overview of the life of Mr. Bill Dunn, the Airport Owners and Pilots Association Vice President of Airport Advocacy, and adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m. in his memory.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Lord, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PHM:vt