

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
7150 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, ROOM 201
EAST FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK
APRIL 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:01p.m. Also present were Vice-Chairman Vincent Bologna, Jr., Commission Members Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, and Richard Grant.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Nocerino thanked everyone for their well-wishes during his recovery from recent surgery.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2023

Mr. Grant motioned to adopt the February minutes which was seconded by Mr. Bodenmiller. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

Chairman Nocerino stated he sent a letter to the 2 new State Senators, Monica Martinez in the 4th District and Alexis Weik in the 8th District requesting a meeting to discuss vacancies on the RAC. He said he will be seeing Senator Weik in a couple weeks and will continue to pursue new appointments to the Commission.

The Chairman said there was a ruling on the 5 parcels and that a Working Group will be formed to discuss the project. Members of the civics interested in being a part of the Working Group should give their names to Ms. Barbera. Ms. Barbera said that the Towns of Babylon, Huntington, and Oyster Bay are represented in the Working Group, and one representative from each of the civic groups.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2023

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the following:

- Total Operations increased in January and February compared to the previous year. Landings were up 26.1% in January and 13.1% in February. Touch & Go's also increased in both months. Jet landings were down 3.4% in January and 19.2% in February. Passenger volume increased both months. Total Based Aircraft fell 3.2% in January and 4.2% in February based on a recent audit by airport staff.
- Aircraft complaints totaled 24 in January and 15 in February. Complaints were reported by 4 households during each month. The bulk of all complaints could not be identified by aircraft type or by runway. Time of day for most complaints in January was unknown but the majority of February complaints related to daytime operations. Residents living west and northwest of the Airport filed most of the complaints in both months.

- January Revenue was favorable overall. Landings, Licenses, and Fuel Flowage fees were higher than anticipated. Miscellaneous Income was favorable from “Blue Bloods” and “Billions” film shoots. Rent was unfavorable due to vacant properties previously occupied by Molloy and Edgewood. January Expenses saw favorable variances in Labor, Office Supplies, and Professional Services. Janitorial Services and Airport Maintenance were unfavorable due to a December cleaning invoice and fence repairs along Route 109. February Revenue saw favorable variances overall. Miscellaneous Income was favorable due to “Billions” returning for a second film shoot. Rent was favorable due to higher concessions from the hotels. February Expenses were favorable overall including Labor Expense due to a vacant position in Operations. Insurance Expense was unfavorable due to coverage on the vacant Molloy building. Vehicle Maintenance was unfavorable due to the purchase of tires for a rescue vehicle.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager John Lauth reported on the following:

- Blood Drive at Main Terminal, 2/22:** Hosted by New York State Police and the Airport.
- Film Shoot at Modern Aviation, 3/21:** Independent film “Anora” at Hangar 81.
- Mobile ARFF Unit Training for Staff & Mutual Aid Responders:** At the end of April and will include members of mutual aid fire departments as well as Airport ARFF staff. Training is required by FAA.
- Main Terminal Boiler Replacement Project:** Project to replace 40-year-old boilers in the Main Terminal will begin May 1st.
- Internship Program:** Three students from SUNY Aviation Center were selected to work as interns for the Airport. Vaughn College will also be participating in the program.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio reported on the following:

- Alpha Taxiway Project-** Construction of a temporary taxiway on the Echo ramp is scheduled to begin April 17th and Phase 1 of construction will begin April 24th.
- Conklin Street Property Demolition-** Engineers are still developing the project plans and specifications.
- 5-Parcel Development Project-** The Environmental Assessment (EA) was approved by FAA through a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD). The FONSI/ROD was posted on the Airport’s website. The Airport is working with Stratosphere to hold a public meeting on the proposed project and to develop a schedule for the areas that are going to be developed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five (5) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Anthony C. Ceglio on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission**

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
April 11, 2023

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident, asked to know the timeline for the 5 parcels public meeting and the Working Group. Chairman Nocerino said he will work with Ms. Barbera on the list of names recommended to participate in the Working Group possibly after Memorial Day. Ms. Barbera added that the key to the Working Group is dependent upon the plans made available by Mr. Katz and helping us to understand them. The Chairman said Stratosphere may be asked to come to one or two of the Working Group meetings and give a presentation on their plans.

Ms. Nancy Cypser of the Woodland Civic Association referred to the FAA Operations numbers which show 11,000 more flights in January and February compared to the previous year. She asked to know what caused this increase and if there are more aircraft operating from the FBO hangars. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that the mild winter weather is the most likely reason. He said the FAA's number also includes other types of operations such as ground movement and aircraft flying through the Airport's airspace, not just landings. He added that there was an increase in small aircraft operations because they typically fly less in cold or bad weather.

Mr. James Keane, an Echo tenant, said he has flown more in the last 3 months than in many years. The principle issue is there has been no snow.

Ms. Cypser asked to know if there are records kept of near misses at the Airport. She said the public doesn't know how frequently near misses occur. Mr. Lauth said the Airport's ARFF personnel do a Precautionary Stand-by when an aircraft calls in with a problem. The ARFF team is on alert and focused on the aircraft with the problem. Ms. Cypser asked to know if this kind of information is available to the public. A meeting attendee said aircraft accident and incident information for the airport is available from NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) on their website.

Mr. Jeffrey Chippetine, an Echo tenant, asked to have the hydrant turned on for the wash rack on Echo ramp. Mr. Lauth replied that it would be done.

Mr. Mark Goldberg, an Echo tenant, asked to know if there are any plans to repair or replace the POV gate at Echo because it breaks a lot. Mr. Lauth said we will take a look at it. Mr. Goldberg asked about the status of the aircraft on Echo ramp and if they should be concerned about relocating. Mr. Lauth answered that information will be shared with the Tenants as it becomes available. Mr. Goldberg stated that he would hate to lose his parking spot on the ramp and asked if the pilots have a say in the Working Group. Chairman Nocerino asked if there was a pilots' association, they should request to be a member of the Working Group. Mr. Lauth said there was a pilots' association called RAPA (Republic Airport Pilot's Association).

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