

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nocerino at 7:03 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Robert W. Bodenmiller, Joan Flaumenbaum, Richard Grant and Stella Barbera.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No new announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the August 2014 meeting were adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes or adoptions were made.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2014

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for July and August 2014 were discussed by Ms. Shelley LaRose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of July, the FAA recorded 19,179 total operations, a decrease from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,829 landings, an increase in all categories except turbo prop. Touch & Go operations reported were up in all categories except Multi-engine aircraft and helicopters with a total of 1,254 reported. Passenger counts were

down compared to this time last year. There were 505 based aircraft reported for the month of July. In August 2014, the FAA recorded 20,243 total operations, a decrease from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported a total of 4,580 landings, a decrease in all categories except for Jet and Helicopter. Passenger counts to Atlantic City were higher this month. Based aircraft reported in August was 507, which was up by two (2) single engine aircraft from July 2014.

Commissioner Barbera inquired how the FAA determines their operation numbers. Mr. Geiger explained that any communication the controllers have with pilots or aircraft within the controllers airspace, it is recorded as an operation.

There were a total of 29 noise complaints registered in July, an increase from the previous year. Complaints reported were: 14 during the day, nine at night and six listed as unknown. 17 of the complaints were caused by jet aircraft events. The majority of the calls came from the northwest quadrant of the airport. 8 were from based aircraft and 15 transient. 10 households called in the complaints in July with two of the households registering 19 of the complaints. On a separate note, the phone lines were down from July 21 to 25 due to a vendor switchover issue. There were a total of 41 noise complaints registered in August, an increase from the year prior. 29 of the complaints were during the day, two at night and ten unknown. The majority of the complaints registered were caused by jet aircraft reported by residents residing in the northwest quadrant of the airport. Three were a result of based aircraft and 29 were from transient aircraft. 12 households called to register complaints; 2 households called in 27 of the 41 complaints.

Mr. Geiger discussed the Financial Reports for the months of July and August 2014. In July, landing fees were higher than anticipated. Licensing fees were higher due to Commercial Operating Fees and terminal use fees paid. Fuel flow was lower and rental income was higher due to a CPI Adjustments for the Hotels and other tenants. Labor expenses were lower due to vacant positions and related benefits. Employee expenses were lower due to postponement of training.

Insurance costs were lower due to a premium that was paid in June instead of July. Vehicle and Airport maintenance was lower due to postponement of repairing heat pumps and purchasing supplies.

In August, revenue was lower in the category of landing fees and fuel. Licensing and rental income were higher due to Commercial Operating Permit fees collected and Consumer Price Index adjustment. Tie down fees were lower than forecasted. Employee expenses were lower due to postponement of ordering uniforms. Vehicle maintenance was higher due to a purchase of diesel fuel.

Overall revenue was higher due to increase in several income sources. Commissioner Nocerino asked if there were any movie shoots at the airport recently. Mr. Geiger responded that John Arancio has had many inquiries this summer and Madame Secretary did film at the SheltAir hangar recently.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Over Labor Day Weekend, the American Airpower Museum held a "Flight of Aces" event with flight experiences to benefit the Collins Foundation. The museum also honored Fairchild & Grumman workers who contributed to the war efforts with events that weekend. Commissioner Nocerino added that he was driving down New Highway that weekend and the traffic was quite heavy.

On October 1st and 2nd, Aerospace Education Corporation (AEC) held its 5th Bi-Annual Career Fair. Approximately 2,100 middle school and high school students attended. It is a good event which exposes the students to a variety of careers available in the aviation industry. This event is held every two (2) years at Republic Airport.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Breslau Modernization and Redevelopment Update: SEQRA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA). The FAA has decided to investigate why their operation numbers are higher than the numbers recorded by the airport's Operations Department. Everyone is waiting on the analysis to see the difference in numbers. This is delaying the final outcome.
2. Talon Air FBO Application: This FBO application is still in process. Fuel tanks are installed and are empty. This is one of the criteria required to qualify as an FBO. Mr. Nocerino added that no new updates have been received from NYSDOT Commissioner's office. This also applies to Northeastern's FBO Application and the restaurant property.
3. Northeastern FBO Application: Northeastern's single source was approved by OSC. NYSDOT is evaluating the FBO application.

Commissioner Nocerino added that the Commission is still waiting on a response to their inquiry regarding possible hotel accommodations and code compliance at Talon.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three (3) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Michael Geiger on behalf of
Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission**

Public Comments

October 14, 2014

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association stated she noticed the fuel tanks were vertical and inquired if they were connected yet. Mr. Geiger explained that they are empty and non-operational.

Ms. Norjen asked if this Commission is going to vote for Talon to become an FBO. Commissioner Nocerino explained that the Commission doesn't get to vote but the Commission does have input to findings. Ms. Norjen stated that this Commission is made of 9 individuals and according to the transfer legislation, the Republic Airport Commission is an advisory board. She recommended that the RAC hold a vote. Mr. Nocerino explained that the RAC will look into the legality of her recommendation.

Ms. Norjen said she was glad to hear the FAA is looking into the operations numbers associated with the SEQRA document. She hopes they take a good look at all the other things and realize that the document is "not up to snuff." There are 66 jets based here. She asked if they are in hangars. She asked if there is a surplus of hangars. Ms. LaRose-Arken responded that there may be one (1) hangar currently not rented. Ms. Larose-Arken also explained that although these aircraft are based here, they may not always be kept here. They are flown to destinations and parked elsewhere for long or short periods.

Ms. Norjen inquired as to where would these aircraft go. She expressed concern over the possibility that aircraft, chartered or even diverted commercial flights, could arrive from West Africa or Europe. Ms. LaRose-Arken explained that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are the controlling agency in this matter. Flights would be directed to JFK or designated airports for screening. Commissioner Nocerino added that the airport will notify CBP of our concerns and find more information regarding procedures. Ms. Norjen expressed her gratitude that the Commissioners were in agreement with her concern to be proactive. Mr. Nocerino assured her a letter to the CBP would go out immediately.

Ms. Norjen stated that several years ago she was shown a website that allowed the public to track flights from any destination. Commissioner Bologna replied that there is a program called "Flight Aware" that the public can access. Ms. Norjen asked if this would show every plane flying, to which Mr. Geiger explained that the flights available to view are those that have filed a flight plan. If you click on the image, it will display the flight number, not necessarily the tail

number.

Ms. Norjen inquired about the status of the Vision Plan. Mr. Geiger responded that the Vision Plan is still in Albany under review.

Ms. Norjen was happy to hear that this Commission had received up to date information on the Talon project. She saw how upset the Commission was that they were not kept informed and the public was not aware of any this project. Seeing this Commission write letters to inquire on behalf of the public and keeping the communications going has been good. Commissioner Nocerino responded that as the information is received the information will be passed on to the public. Ms. Norjen stated she found the whole project deceptive and unfair and was shocked to find out that this was all going on while the environmental process was taking place.

Commissioner Nocerino stated that he is working with Ron Epstein, NYSDOT, to keep apprised of all topics.

Ms. Norjen stated Kennedy neighborhoods and people living on the east end of Long Island are also complaining about the noise impact. This is not a next generation issue. Changing flights tracks and lowering airspace has an effect on everyone. Commisioner Nocerino stated we should all be thankful for what we have here at Republic Airport. This forum can be taken away at anytime.

Ms. Norjen stated we must set the weight limit. This has not been resolved and has been exceeded. We must lock this in now. This area is precious to all and is about to be destroyed if not paid attention to.

Ms. Eileen James of the Woodland Civic Association inquired as to what fees were increased. Mr. Geiger explained that the rental fee income was higher due to Consumer Price Index increase for rental properties.

Ms. James inquired to the Commissions' watchdog status. She also inquired about the distribution methods used to disseminate information communicated at these meeting to the public. Mr. Nocerino responded that agendas are mailed out two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting and all resolutions and minutes are available, once approved, upon request. Ms. Norjen suggested that the meeting minutes be made available on the website. Mr. Geiger responded that he will inquire as to Ms. Norjen's suggestion of making the minutes available on the website. In the meantime, a written request, by mail or email will be sufficient to request

copies of approved minutes. Mr. Geiger added to keep in mind, the minutes are two (2) months behind since they approved at the next meeting as long as there is a quorum.

Ms. Nancy Schliwka of Woodland Association stated she contacted Ms. LaRose-Arken a few weeks ago to request a “redline” copy of the EIS/EA when it is available. Mr. Geiger responded that when the final document is completed, it will be sent. He added he had never seen a red-lined copy but would see if it is possible.

Commissioner Barbera inquired if the airport would be affected by the President’s visit to this area on Thursday. Mr. Geiger responded that flight restrictions have been posted. It may affect air traffic west of the airport.

Ms. Norjen inquired if the FAA had procedures in place about aircraft from foreign countries that might have to divert to Republic Airport. Mr. Geiger explained that the airport worked with Customs and Border Protection on drills and exercises and will continue to do so. Ms. James asked how the airport knows where the planes and their passengers originate from. Mr. Geiger explained that their passport will document where they come from or have visited. It is part of the CBP screening process.

Commissioner Bodenmiller inquired if there was any projected economic impact to Republic Airport with the NY Islanders hockey team leaving Nassau County. Mr. Geiger responded that it is unknown. Most of the players reside on Long Island and we anticipate that they would continue to fly out of Republic.

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