

**MINUTES**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**APRIL 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nocerino at 7:09 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Robert W. Bodenmiller, Richard Grant, Stella Barbera and Joan Flaumenbaum.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No new announcements.

**II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commission Chairman, Frank Nocerino, announced that an election was to be conducted for the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2014. Commission Member Vincent Bologna, Jr. nominated Frank Nocerino for Chairman. Commission Member Robert Bodenmiller seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous in favor of Chairman Nocerino. For the election of Vice Chairman, Commission Member Joan Flaumenbaum nominated Commission Member Vincent Bologna and Commission Member Richard Grant seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous in favor of Vincent Bologna.

**III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the June 2014, August 2014, October 2014, December 2014 and February 2014 meetings were adopted.

**IV. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

No changes and/or adoption of the agenda were made. Chairman Nocerino announced that he and Vice Chairman Bologna had the opportunity to meet with NYSDOT Commissioner Joan MacDonald. Commissioner Nocerino explained the Commission requested to meet with her to introduce ourselves and familiarize her with our role here at Republic Airport and the community. The Commissioner attended with her Chief Financial Officer, Ron Epstein and her Public Relations

Officer, Diane Lombardi. She expressed her appreciation to the Commission and the opportunity to discuss issues presented in the stern letters the Commission sent to her office. The Commissioner said she understood the need for the meeting and apologized for not responding sooner.

Several topics were discussed, including the concern over Talon's FBO application and what appears to be an aggressive expansion in operations without any notification to the Commission members. The Commissioner explained to us that the application is in the research process and has been since 2012 when the application was received by NYSDOT. She assured us no decision had been made as to this FBO application. All documents submitted by Talon are under review with the legal department. She had no further information about the status of the FBO.

In regard to the restaurant property, we expressed that the Commission push for a status update is coming from the community. The vacancy is a loss of revenue to this area. The Commissioner stated that this property is in the Request For Information (RFI) stage. We expressed to her that the community is looking for another restaurant to replace the old restaurant, a destination that was once a lovely place for families and special occasions. We are not looking for a nightclub. A restaurant that benefits the current environment, aviation community and surrounding area; something we can all be proud of.

Overall, Commissioners Nocerino and Bologna felt the meeting with Commissioner and her staff was successful. We were happy to see that she took the time to come down from Albany and meet with us at the Airport.

Commissioner Barbera asked what the deadline for the RFI is. Commissioner Nocerino answered, "May 30th. Anyone interested must submit their interest by that deadline.

## V. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

### A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2014

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for January and February 2014 were discussed by Shelley LaRose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of January, the FAA recorded 10,810 total operations, a decrease from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 2,257 landings which were down in categories of single engine, turbo-prop and helicopter landings. Touch and go operations decreased from the prior year with a total of 433 reported. Passenger counts were lower from the previous year. There were 498 based aircraft reported in January. No change from the last month.

Commissioner Nocerino requested that weather conditions be included on these reports.

In February 2014, the FAA recorded 13,053 total operations, a decrease from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 2,763 landings. Airport operations were down in all categories. Touch & go's were lower with 695 reported. Passenger flights to Atlantic City decreased from the previous year. There were 500 based aircraft in February showing an increase of three from the previous month.

There were six noise complaints reported in January, an increase from the previous year with two reported in daytime hours, two at night and two of the complaints reported were unknown. The majority of the complaints were from the Northwest community of the airport. Two were identified as based aircraft and 2 were transient. There was a total of six noise complaints registered in February, an increase from the previous year. They were related to jet aircraft and reported from residents Northwest of the airport. Five were identified as based aircraft and 1 transient.

Commissioner Flaumenbaum asked what was done about the based aircraft that generated a noise complaint. Mr. Arancio responded that a letter was sent to the operator and the Tower was contacted.

Commissioner Barbera inquired about nighttime flying hours. Mr. Arancio explained that nighttime hours are considered 10 p.m. – 7 a.m. A flight departing or arriving at 6:59 a.m. would be considered a nighttime flight. Most nighttime complaints are actually early morning flights.

Mr. Geiger discussed the Financial Reports for the months of January and February 2014. In January, revenue was down due to the less flying, restaurant vacancy and the Atlantic City bus charter no longer operating at the main terminal. Fuel flowage was higher. Rental income was lower in January since the concession rent check from the hotel did not come until March. Expenses were up due to employee wildlife training, attendance at the FAA Conference and uniform purchase. Vehicle and Airport Maintenance expenses were lower due to an adequate inventory of supplies and the garage door repair being done in December and not January. Overall, revenue was lower due to a decrease in flight operations, poor weather and the restaurant closure.

For the month of February, income was lower for landing, license, and fuel fees. Rental income was up due to more international flights arriving. Labor expenses were lower due to three (3) vacant positions, which have recently been filled. Employee expenses were higher due to the National Fire Protection subscription. Communications were higher due to an increase charge in phone services so the airport is switching to another company. Maintenance expenses were lower. Revenue was lower overall except in the area of miscellaneous. This has been our best year so far for film shoots at the airport. John Arancio has been a big part of the success of maintaining these relationships. The television show, "Blacklist" filmed here and has returned to film again. "John Wick" starring Keanu Reeves was a recent major film production that shot at the airport.

The restaurant property is still vacant which has impacted revenues, however, the airport is saving money any way to cover the shortfall.

Commissioner Barbera mentioned that it is great that the airport has this source of income from the film industry. Commissioner Grant inquired as to how the airport advertises this service to the film industry. Mr. Geiger responded that the airport ran advertisements a few years ago, however, knowledge about locations spreads more by word-of-mouth. The scouts and people in the industry all know each other and they are now familiar with John Arancio.

Commissioner Barbara inquired if we have any promotional advertisement materials such as flyers or brochures' indicating the airport has this filming opportunity available. Mr. Geiger responded that we do have an informational brochure available. A few years ago, the Suffolk County Film Council has an event at Oheka Castle and we made brochures available. Last year, the first stop on a tour of Suffolk County film locations was Republic. We received very positive feedback from that tour.

2. RESULTS OF 2013 NOISE STATISTICS

Airport Assistant Manager, John Arancio, presented an in-depth summary of the 2013 Noise Statistics, operations and updates in a Power Point presentation.

3. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Tomorrow night, the Airport will host the Annual Airport Owner/Operator meeting in the Main Terminal Lobby. The FAA Air Traffic Control Manager will speak.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Region Helicopter Council will have a community meeting at the Marriot Hotel in Melville. Our office will attend.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Greenport School will have their annual tour of the airport.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Bethpage Federal Credit Union will host the annual Memorial Day Air Show at Jones Beach. The Blue Angels will be returning this year. There will be several civilian performers throughout the weekend. All of the aircraft performers will be based here at Republic.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, Northport School District will be bringing special needs students to the airport for a tour.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Breslau Modernization and Redevelopment Update: The SEQRA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) hearing is complete and hope to issue a final report by next month.
2. Vision Plan Update: The Vision Plan is in Albany. They are very busy with the various airport projects and we hope to hear back from them soon.
- 3 & 4. Talon Air and Northeastern FBO Application: Previously discussed.
5. Today we held a pre-bid meeting for sewer work at the south end of Runway 1/19. This needs to be done to update our current infrastructure and for future capacity needs. The runway will be closed. We are waiting to receive bids. Commissioner Flaumenbaum inquired how long will the project take? Ms. LaRose responded "Approximately 90 days."

Commissioner Barbera requested a Working Group meeting now that most of the projects are concluding and new ones are developing. Commissioner Nocerino said it was a good idea considering all that has transpired. June should be a good time as long as there is something to report.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

One (1) individual commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. The next Meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION**

April 22, 2014

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association commented that a Working group meeting would be worthwhile only after we have something to discuss. Since all the documents are still in Albany waiting for review or approval or release, there is nothing to discuss.

Ms. Norjen expressed her happiness that the Commission had a meeting the NYSDOT Commissioner and discussed the subject of PILOTS. Commissioner Nocerino concurred.

Ms. Norjen expressed the more filming we have here to increase the revenue is good. She would rather see more of this than increase jet traffic.

She stated that nighttime and operations increases in jets could change the noise model. She inquired why we did not perform an integrated noise model. Mr. Geiger responded that the integrated noise model is very expensive. The airport does track nighttime landings. Not much has changed. It is not gauged on how many aircraft are based, but how many fly. Ms. Norjen stated that the Integrated Noise Module has to be done annually and now that we have more jets based here it should be done. She stated that we have more jets here than anticipated.

In regard to the Vision Plan, Ms. Norjen pleaded not to waste the public's time and money and for NYSDOT to release the document before it is outdated. She also commented that the EIS draft was put together in 1995 and never approved because it was outdated. She fears that this situation is happening again.

Ms. Norjen requested that the approved meeting minutes be made available online on the airport's website. Commissioner Nocerino wasn't sure if that was a possibility. Ms. Norjen read from a document stating there is a new law that was passed allowing public meeting minutes be readily available online. Mr. Geiger responded that we are not a decision making body and that legislation may not pertain to this Commission. In addition, our NYSDOT IT Department staff are very busy with work and we cannot be assured it would be posted timely.

Ms. Norjen requested a copy of the Power Point presentation. Ms. LaRose handed her a printed copy. ###