

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:07 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Stella Barbera, Robert W. Bodenmiller, Richard Grant and Joan Flaumenbaum.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Henry Young of Young Environmental Sciences passed away June 18, 2015. Mr. Young consulted on a variety of noise projects at Republic Airport.

On July 15, 2015, Paul Gretschel an FAA FSDO Inspector at Farmingdale and representative for the FAA at the annual airshow, passed away suddenly. He was very involved in pilot safety, well liked and admired at Republic. He will be missed.

Matthew Driscoll was appointed by Governor Cuomo as the new Commissioner of New York State Department of Transportation.

We welcome our new airport Maintenance Manager, Dennis McCormick to our team. Mr. McCormick retired from the Port Authority where he was the former Maintenance Manger at JFK Airport.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the June 2015 meeting were adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes and/or adoption of the agenda were made.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Nocerino addressed the audience on the recent Newsday article published on July 31,

2015. He expressed his pleasure of the positive reporting by Newsday about this Commission's points. Commissioner Nocerino added that Senator Venditto had a conversation with Governor Cuomo when the Governor was signing a bill on Long Island recently. The Senator expressed to the Governor the concern of his constituents including the comments about expansion and commercial service at Republic Airport. Commissioner Nocerino asked that the audience continue their efforts to express their concerns. As soon as this Commission hears of any new information about airport expansion at Republic Airport, we will immediately contact the Governor's office and his advisor, Vanessa. Candice Rudd, Newsday Reporter has been given Vanessa's phone number to validate any questions or concerns. Keep in mind, there will come a point where there will be a need for a community meeting, but not quite yet. We will inform everyone when the time is right. The Governor has not spoken to anyone in the community – not even one local politician. He is arrogant and continues to ignore us. This is a huge concern. Please continue to send your letters and emails to me and I will make sure they are forwarded accordingly. This is becoming a full-time job for a volunteer position but we are happy to do it.

Commissioner Nocerino expressed that this battle will be won on behalf of this community. If buses of people need to go to Albany, then we will go. Ms. Tina Diamond of Concerned Citizens Association of Farmingdale responded with her support. Commissioner Nocerino asked the audience to be wary of rumors. There is a lot of mis-information out there. If you hear of anything, please don't hesitate to contact the Commission, Airport Management or your civic leaders. We are all in constant communication and will be happy to set the record straight.

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2015

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for May and June, 2015 were discussed by Ms. Shelley LaRose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of May, the FAA recorded 18,611 total operations, an increase from the year before. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,488 landings, an increase of operations in all categories. Touch and go operations increased from the prior year except in the turboprop category. Passenger totals increased from the previous year. We have two (2) charter operators serving Atlantic City this year, where there was online one last year. Based aircraft inventory was lower than last year.

In June 2015, the FAA recorded 18,815 total operations, a decrease of 1,718 from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,739 landings, an increase from the previous year. Touch and go operations were higher in all categories from the previous year. Passenger counts were slightly higher than last year. There were 465 based aircraft in June, up from the previous month. Two single engine aircraft were added.

There were 10 noise complaints registered in May, a decrease from the prior year. The complaints were recorded as three daytime, two nighttime and five unknown. The majority of complaints were attributed to jet aircraft events reported by residents residing in the northwest quadrant of the airport. Three noise complaints were attributed by based aircraft, two transient and five unknown. In June, there were 16 noise complaints reported. The complaints were recorded as nine daytime, three nighttime and four unknown. The majority of the calls registered were from the northwest quadrant. Five of the noise complaints were caused by based aircraft, six transient and five unknown. Please note that noise complaint call backs are behind. Ms. LaRose-Arken commented she will be returning calls shortly.

Commissioner Barbera asked if the seven helicopter complaints were from the same helicopter. Ms. LaRose-Arken responded no and that some operators may be unfamiliar with our noise abatement procedures. We work closely with Air Traffic Control and our Operations Department to inform transient aircraft of the noise abatement program.

There has been no announcement of a replacement for Mr. Geiger at this time. In lieu of NYS representation at this meeting, Ms. LaRose-Arken discussed the Financial Reports for the months of May and June 2015. Revenue was higher in May due to increase in landings, fees and fuel flowage. Miscellaneous income was higher due to film shoots scheduled at the airport. Expenses were lower than anticipated due to savings in employee expenses and vehicle maintenance.

For the month of June, Landings, License Fees and Fuel flowage were

higher than anticipated. Revenue was lower than anticipated. We budgeted for higher miscellaneous income, but no opportunities transpired. There was savings in employee expenses due to postponement of training. Data processing, software and fence repair were postponed this month.

Expenses for June were lower across the board since it is still early in the airport's fiscal year, staff is diligent in implementing cost saving measures and the airport is adequately supplied.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Long Island Republic Airport Historical Society coordinated with the Pomeroy Foundation to fund a WWII Historic marker located on Conklin Street. This is the only WWII marker on Long Island. The unveiling was held on July 21, 2105. It was a wonderful event, attended by public officials, tenants, local historical society members, commission members and others.

Mike Geiger's retirement party was held on July 24, 2104. It was very well attended and we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend.

FAR Part 139 Inspection was held July 27-29. The inspection went very well, with minor corrections which the airport and FBO's are addressing.

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 and State issued Record of Decision (ROD). Any relevant comments that were received as part of the SEQRA process were addressed in the SEQRA ROD.

Recently the Governor announced a grant for \$24 million to fund the safety area improvements that were identified in the EIS/EA document.

This was an 8 year process that included public participation. There was a press release that also identified \$21 million. The \$21 million is comprised of 90% federal funding with the remaining 10% funded by the State. These projects include: relocation of Runway 1/19 (no lengthening), relocation of Taxiway Golf and relocation of Hangars 2 & 3.

Next Steps: FAA will issue the grant and sometime in September we anticipate the contractor will receive a Notice To Proceed to begin design on the safety projects. Design will take from 6-8 months. No construction is anticipated until next year.

2. Talon Air FBO Application: Talon is still working toward achieving FBO status.
3. Northeastern FBO Application: Northeastern completed their FBO manual. They are currently working on the Amendments to the lease agreement which would identify the criteria to enable them to achieve FBO status.
4. RFP for Operations, Management and Business Development – Governors Initiatives: This is still an open procurement. According to NYSDOT Contracts Division the proposals submitted May 4, 2015 are still under review by the Department.
5. RFI for Development of Parcel at Republic – Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC): The Governor announced in his press release on July 18, 2015 that ESDC would issue an RFI to “focus on enhancing regional economic activity” for Republic (FRG) and Stewart (SWF) airports. In August, ESDC hired Newark, Knight & Grubb to market sites at Republic Airport. The RFI has been issued and is located on ESDC website.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Six (6) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.
Next Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

The Staff at Republic Airport

PUBLIC COMMENT

REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION

August 11, 2015

Commissioners Nocerino acknowledged Chief Wizz of East Farmingdale Fire Department. He addressed the Chief and stated that a letter was sent to all officials involved in the matter on Conklin Street. He is waiting for a reply from the Long island Rail Road. Chief Wizz thanked Shelley LaRose-Arken for addressing the situation and the needs of the (Fire) Department so quickly and efficiently. Commissioner Nocerino added that as this matter progress through the process we anticipate an October start date and will keep him informed.

Commissioner Nocerino announced that once things get settled with the projects, the Working Group will be meeting again.

Mr. Gary Panino of Stratford Park Homeowners Association introduced himself. He is resident of the Startford Park Community in Melville. He thanked the Commission for addressing his concerns of the Governor's announcements of expansion and possible commercial service coming to Republic Airport. He purchased his luxury home in the over 55 community that was built a few years ago and is very concerned about the quality of life and pollution issues that would effect their new home location. He is happy to see the Commission addressing these concerns as well.

Ms. Georgiana Binder of Stratford Park Homeowners Association (HOA) introduced herself. Stratford Park is a new community located just north of Republic Airport. She submitted a petition with several pages of signatures from the community outlining their concerns of expansion at Republic Airport. She inquired if 737 aircraft will be accommodated and if the runways can support this size aircraft at this airport. Ms. LaRose-Arken responded that 737's have landed here in the past, all are private chartered aircraft, not used for commercial service. Professional sport teams, college sport teams and horses have landed Republic. Mr. Canino added that runway 14/32 is unable to be extended. Ms. LaRose-Arken replied, "Correct." Mr. Canino expressed his confidence in learning alot this evening and is happy to know that the Stratford HOA has the support of this Commission. Commissioner Nocerino thanked Mr. Canino and stated they will do whatever they can.

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association expressed her disappointment with the EIS and that Republic Airport does not have a Master Plan in place. The community has worked very

hard for many years. The Talon project is also very upsetting. When she read the RFI and that an unfamiliar firm was hired to do the real estate aspect, she asked the Commission for more information on this firm and if we have any history working with these people. Commissioner Nocerino responded, "No." He added that he will write to Albany for further information. Ms. Norjen inquired if there was any land designated as non-aviation or aviation compatible to be used for non-aviation development, Talon gobbled it up and now we are not getting the tax revenue that the citizens of this community are entitled to. Does Pen & Ink changes require approval? Ms. LaRose-Arken answered, "It depends on the project." Ms. Norjen expressed her displeasure of the talon fuel tank location and that she has not seen anything for public review or comment. Ms. LaRose-Arken explained that when a fuel tank is installed, an environmental was done. Ms. Norjen inquired if fire protection rules applied for this installation. Was the 109/110 intersection location approved for this fuel tank location. Commissioner Nocerino explained that all Hazmat and flammable requirements were approved by the State of New York. Ms. Norjen stated it was unbelievable that the location of these fuel tanks were approved at all.

Ms. Norejn mentioned that the Final EIS had over 2600 pages with less than ten (10) days to be approved. The document was never posted timely on the internet as originally stated

Ms. Norjen expressed her concern about the plume located under the airport. This plume has the possibilities of migrating southeast, just like the Grumman plume has done in Bethpage. It has been recently been acknowledged that the Grumman plume is deeper than originally thought. She further stated her concern that not enough attention is given to the plume at Republic Airport. This airport supported just as many aircraft as did the Grumman site in Bethpage. Commissioner Nocerino addressed Ms. Norjen and explained that this Commission has never heard about this topic other than through her. Ms. Norjen responded that there are eight wells and this should be investigated by the Department of Conservation (DEC). This can very easily contaminate Massapequa and seep into the Great South Bay. Mr. Brian Zitani, Superintendent of the Department of Environmental Control for the Town of Babylon explained that all findings relating to Ms. Norjen's concerns can be accessed at the DEC website which he will provide after the meeting. Commisioner Nocerino added that he will investigate further as well.

Ms. Norjen stated aircraft landing fees shuld be higher for aircraft over 60,000 lbs and be compaitble to Newark, Teterboro, LaGuardia and JFK. There should be no free ride here. Commisioner Nocerino repsonded that the landing fee is regulation and part of State Law.

Ms. Norjen asked that the agenda contain the noise complaint phone number. Commissioner Nocerino said it would not be a problem.

Ms. Alyssa Taft of Republic Airport Citizen's Advisory Task Force stated that she was in touch with Vanessa from the Governor's office. Although she has not heard from the Governor, the meeting had an impact and stopped the momentum. We understand he is trying to generate income for the State however by making these tax-free zones for business it will not help us, it will hurt us in the long run. Our fight is not done. I brought this up at the recent Town of Huntington Town Meeting. Commissioner Nocerino stated that this Commission supports her efforts and this Empires State Development (ESDC) program is taking tax revenue away from the community. After ten years these companies will be gone, leaving the unemployed behind and empty abandoned buildings in our communities. The community will be paying for their luxury and we will not stand by it. There is no piece-meal fight here. The whole package of not letting up and addressing this Governor is crucial. Don't trust what is being said by his office. Ms. Taft stood and introduced herself to the audience. She was happy to see new faces and community involvement here tonight. She is a civic leader herself and would be happy to add new communities to her email and mailing list.

Mr. Robert Bohlen inquired who owned the buildings and hangars that are to be relocated. Ms. LaRose-Arken responded that SheltAir leases Hangar 2 and NYSDOT leases Hangar 3 to the American Airpower Museum. Mr. Bohlen inquired if these buildings were left over from Seversky and Republic Aviation. Ms. LaRose-Arken responded, "Yes."

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