

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nocerino at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members, Joan Flaumenbaum, Robert Bodenmiller and Richard Grant.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Nocerino mentioned that there was a Newsday article today that talks about the Environmental Assessment. He told the audience that the RAC recently received the Environmental Assessment for the five parcel development and just started their review. He advised that he would take questions but would not be giving responses until they have had time to review the material. He asked for questions to be submitted to him for his meeting with Commissioner Driscoll. Frank mentioned that he spoke to Senator John Brooks who is new to the area and he was here today for a tour with the Assemblywoman.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Due to lack of quorum, the May and June minutes were not adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2017

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for May and June 2017 were discussed by Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager. In the month of May, the FAA reported 17,582 total operations compared to 17,292 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,169 landings, an increase in single engine piston aircraft. Touch and go operations for May

were lower than last year with 1,717 reported. Passenger numbers were lower with 988 being reported, a decrease of 53 from the previous year. There were 477 based aircraft in May, an increase from the year before.

In June 2017, the FAA recorded 20,160 total operations, a decrease from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 7,029 landings. Touch & go's were lower with 2,190 reported. Passenger numbers increased by 23 from the previous year. There were 474 based aircraft in June.

There were 92 noise complaints registered in May; 45 during the day, 39 during the night and 8 unknown. The complaints were predominantly caused by jet aircraft. Most of the complaints were from arrivals on runway 14. These events were mostly reported by residents residing in the northwest sector of the airport, 20 complaints were from based aircraft, 63 were from transient aircraft, and 9 were unknown.

There was a total of 14 noise complaints registered in June; 8 during the day and 6 at night. Most of the registered complaints were attributed to jet aircraft. Eleven of the complaints were from the northwest. Five were based aircraft, 7 transient and 2 were unknown.

Mr. Gary Barnable discussed the Financial Reports for the months of May and June 2017. For May, revenue was higher than budget. There was a deficit in Miscellaneous Income, there were no tv/movie shoots in May. Expenses were lower than budget, majority of the savings came from labor expense due to vacant positions in Operations, Maintenance, Accounting and lower than forecasted temporary/summer help. Airport Maintenance was over budget due to emergency repairs of our older ARFF truck and purchase of diesel fuel that was budgeted in February.

June revenue came in lower than budgeted. Other than a surplus in landing fees, all the other categories were less than projected. Miscellaneous income was lower than budget due to less than anticipated tv/movie shoots. Expenses were over budget due to a five week payroll billing cycle. Vehicle and Airport Maintenance, Office Equipment and Public

Relations were under budget. This helped to offset the overage for the labor cost.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Director, Mr. Gary Barnable stated that the United Nations General Assembly will be held in the city in September and Republic Airport will be a gateway for checking helicopters going to the city.

Airport Manager, Mr. Rick McElroy mentioned that we are serving as an overflow parking area for Air National Guards going out on duty. The Blue Angels will be at next year's Airshow. We have been contacted by Madame Secretary for filming during their upcoming season. Louis CK will be visiting the airport as a possible site for filming his new movie. NBC contacted us about doing stunt filming. This was not the right venue but they will keep the airport on the radar for future opportunities with NBC.

Commissioner Nocerino told the audience that when he spoke with Newsday he did not have all the information on hand. He has two letters, one from ESD stating that none of the proposed activities will serve to expand the existing footprint of the airport and involve the introduction of commercial air service. The next letter from the Assistant Commissioner states that as previously noted, the RFP does not and will not result in scheduled commercial air service at the airport.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: NYSDOT had discussions with FAA about an alternative approach to the project to leave the hangars in place. We are working with the FAA to explore this alternative. As part of our review, we have reached out to Nassau Flyers, The American Airpower Museum, and Sheltair who are most affected by the change.

- 2 Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: The application is still under review. No change, they have been working with main office.
- 3 RFP by ESD for long term lease of Five Development Parcels: Commissioner Nocerino addressed this at the beginning of the meeting and will take comments in the public comments section.
4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Under construction. Soil site work is ongoing. They submitted plans for drainage and structures.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nine (9) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday – October 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Gary Barnable on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission**

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
AUGUST 8, 2017

John Lisi of the Republic Airport Civic Coalition stated that the events for the development of the five parcels seem to be happening at a very fast pace and the RAC meeting happens every other month. He read comments compiled by the Civic Coalition. He asked if they raised some of these issues tonight, is there a possibility that a meeting can be scheduled before the next RAC meeting.

Chairman Nocerino stated that he may ask for a special meeting to answer some questions. He also requested a copy of the comments to be included when he meets with the Commissioner.

Ms Joan Donnison of Bay Village Civic Association asked if traffic flight patterns have changed. She notices more jets going south over Amityville.

Airport Manager, Mr. Rick McElroy responded that there has been no change.

Ms. Joan Donnison stated that if there is an increase in jet traffic from the Stratosphere project, it will be really unfortunate. She does not believe that there will be only 12 additional aircraft.

Chairman Nocerino responded that flight patterns can change due to weather.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident requested answers to questions submitted at the last meeting.

Chairman Nocerino responded that the answers will be given to her in writing.

Ms Jessica Santangelo requested the answers be attached to the minutes. She also suggested that we work with the community to develop a fifteen to thirty year plan for the airport.

Chairman Nocerino informed her about bringing her suggestions to the Working Group.

Commissioner Flaumenbaum suggested that Airport Management provide Ms. Jessica Santangelo with the procedures that we follow for transient aircraft.

Mr. Bob Rhodes, a Farmingdale resident asked about the hours of operation that are being violated.

Chairman Nocerno mentioned the voluntary curfew that is currently in place.

Mr. Michael Groner, an Echo tenant mentioned that he was informed that there is a freeze on tiedowns at the airport. There are plenty spots in the twin area on echo, why can't they allow single engine aircraft in there?

Airport Manager Mr. Rick McElroy stated that Atlantic is currently looking to expand. They have a waiting list.

Airport Director, Mr. Gary Barnable stated that the multi spots are laid out for multi engine aircraft.

Mr. Groner mentioned that when JFK is using RWY 22, they bring planes in at 2,000 ft over the northwest, that could contribute to the noise.

Ms. Tina Diamond stated that the environmental process did not follow any state procedures. The hearing that they mentioned did not occur.

Ms. Barbara Loehr of the Daniel Street Civic Association stated that the five parcel development will have a cumulative effect to worsen traffic conditions. The Environmental Assessment did not address cumulative impacts. It states that there will be no change in land use. Considering there are five parcels one of which will be the expansion of the main terminal, that is not accurate. It states that the comments from the 4/6 meeting were addressed, but not to the public's knowledge and understanding. The citizens feel that with all the downtowns and hubs being constructed in the area that the Airport will become a hub and commercial air traffic will come.

Ms Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association expressed concern about the pace at which the project is moving and she is not satisfied with the answers that she has been getting from the DOT. The study failed to mention that the corporate jet passengers coming to the airport will contribute to the traffic in the area. She would like to see the plan withdrawn. She also would like to see an approved Master Plan for Republic Airport.

Commissioner Nocerino stated that he intends to have a lengthy conversation with

Commissioner Driscoll and he will work on getting a meeting with the community.

Alissa Sue Taff from the Civic Association of Sweet Hollow stated that the SEQRA process was not followed and should be challenged. No alternative uses were given. There was no opportunity for public comments and the meeting on April 30, 2015 was not a public outreach.

Commissioner Nocerino requested that direct questions be submitted to be included when he meets with the Commissioner. Mr. Nocerino read an email confirming his meeting with the Commissioner.

Another tenant expressed his concern about those tenants that will be displaced and would like to know what plans are in place for them. He requested that the pilots be informed about the plans for relocating aircraft.

10/10/17

###