

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2022

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom video and tele-conference and was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:06p.m. Also present were Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, Joan Flaumenbaum, and Richard Grant.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Nocerino announced that Commission Member Joan Flaumenbaum was resigning from the RAC. He said that NYSDOT will determine if the October RAC meeting will be held in-person. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio announced that the mulching facility on Conklin Street has closed and relocated north of the Airport. He also stated that Mr. Manuel (Manny) Moran Mendoza was hired as the Airport's new Operations Manager.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 2022

Commission Member Stella Barbera made a motion to adopt the June minutes, seconded by Mr. Bodenmiller and Mr. Bologna. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting attendee Ms. Nancy Cypser requested a correction to the June minutes regarding an omission of her comments. Chairman Nocerino retracted the motion, rescinded the vote, and asked for Ms. Cypser's letter and comments be attached to the June minutes with the correction.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2022

Assistant Airport Manager Mr. Michael Clow discussed the following:

- Total Operations were down 20% in May and 4% in June from the previous year. May landings, touch & go's, and based aircraft numbers all increased. Landings and touch & go's in June were higher than the previous year, while passenger volume and based aircraft numbers were down.
- Aircraft noise complaints in May and June were lower than reported in 2021. In May, 46 complaints were filed by 13 households, and in June there were 34 complaints from 15 households. Most complaints related to daytime operations of jet or multi/single engine aircraft. Residents living west and northwest of the Airport filed most of the complaints in May, while June complaints were mainly from the northwest.
- Total Revenue for May was favorable overall. Rental Income was higher than anticipated due to CPI adjustments for Atlantic Aviation and Molloy College. Total Expenses for May were unfavorable. Labor Expenses exceeded the budgeted amount due to overtime paid for the air show. Utilities, Janitorial Services, Insurance Expenses, and Vehicle Maintenance

were also unfavorable. In June, Landing Fees, License Fees, and Fuel Flowage Fees were higher than anticipated. Rental Income was favorable from CPI adjustments for Atlantic and Molloy College however higher-than-expected rents were billed to Edgewood, Kimco, and SUNY but were not collected. Expenses in June were favorable overall. Labor Expenses were lower than anticipated due to the vacant positions for Operations Manager and Senior Maintenance Technician. Insurance Expense was unfavorable due to an increase in premium for general liability.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Assistant Airport Manager Mr. Michael Clow reported on the following:

- a. FAA Part 139 Annual Certification Inspection:** Inspection was to have taken place this week but FAA postponed it to a future date.
- b. Ventura Air Services Achieves ARGUS Platinum Rating:** Ventura was given a Platinum rating by ARGUS, a safety-rating system for air charter operators. Platinum is the highest level that can be awarded.
- c. American Airpower Museum “Warbird Weekends”:** The Museum’s events were very successful.
- d. Film Shoots: “Let the Right One In”, “FBI Most Wanted”:** Filming took place at Talon and Sheltair.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Airport Director Mr. Anthony Ceglie reported on the following:

- 1. Alpha Taxiway Project:** A grant offer was received last week for FAA 90% funding of the project and it is in the process of being signed by NYSDOT. A pre-construction meeting will be held within the next few weeks. Mr. Ceglie said he wanted to inform the public that construction vehicles will be entering/exiting the Airport from Route 110. Signs will be posted to alert traffic of a lane closure between the hours of 10am and 3pm, allowing rush hour traffic to get through. Construction is expected to begin before the next RAC meeting in October.
- 2. Conklin Street Property:** The Edgewood mulching facility is closed. NYSDOT hired a consultant to survey the area, conduct soil/ground water testing, and develop plans to demolish the buildings and clean up the site. It will take about a year to complete. The Town of Babylon is aware of the project and we plan to work with them on possible future development ideas for the parcel.
- 3. 5-Parcel Development Project:** No new developments. FAA and NYSDOT continue to work with Stratosphere to resolve comments on the EA.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two (2) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino stated that he would like to have a small celebration for Joan Flaumenbaum's 20-plus years with the Commission at the next meeting in October, and he would like everyone to be a part of the festivities. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:
Anthony C. Ceglio on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
August 16, 2022

On Zoom Chat, Ms. Nancy Cypser of the Woodland Civic Association wrote: June minutes correction - My repeated notification that my entire message was not being read was not in the public comments section of the minutes. I'd like a correction since all community comments should be included.

On Zoom Chat, Ms. Cypser wrote: Is there an explanation why the May landings by type were 13,000, which is significantly higher than the average operations number of around 7,000? March was 6,323, April was 6,813, and June was 8,156.

On Zoom Chat, Ms. Cypser wrote: The committee is supposed to be 9 members. Now that it is 5, what steps are you taking to fill the empty spots? Is the committee even allowed to operate with only 5 members? Chairman Nocerino responded that he does not expect anything to happen until after the November elections.

On Zoom, Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident, asked Chairman Nocerino "with whom are you fighting to allow us to have an in-person meeting, who is blocking your ability to have an in-person meeting"? The Chairman responded "DOT". Ms. Santangelo said DOT is misinforming you because as of June 8th, the Commission is in violation of New York Public Officers Law 103-a which was passed by the Legislature in April and became effective on June 8th. That law says that a public body, like the Republic Airport Commission, may at its discretion, use video conferencing but only if that public body has adopted a resolution authorizing the use of video conferencing, which I don't think DOT asked us to do when we had that done, that we have established written procedures, governing members, and public attendance, and that those written procedures are conspicuously posted on the public website of the public body, which I don't think has happened. And here's the critical, that the members of the public body, the members of the Airport Commission members must be physically present at the meeting, otherwise you don't have a quorum. You have to be physically present in the same place, that the minutes of the meeting involving the video conferencing have to include which members are seated remotely, that the public notice for the video conference meeting must also identify the physical location for the meeting where the public can attend, that the recording from the public meeting must be posted on the website within 5 business days of the meeting and stay available for a minimum of 5 years, and other elements. I don't know who you're talking to at the DOT but presumably, they are aware of this public law, and aware that because of what they are telling you, the Commission is actually in violation of that law. Mr. Ceglie responded that everything Ms. Santangelo said was true, but there was additional guidance that is dated August 14th. He said Governor Hochul's Executive Order 11, which allowed remote meetings due to COVID-19, is authorized through September 12th. He said this information was received right before the meeting. He checked with the Legal Department in Albany and they asked us to put in a request and they'll do further research tomorrow. We understand that you and the community want a public meeting, and so do we. We hope to have one in October. We'll get further guidance on this prior to the next meeting. Ms. Santangelo said she did not feel like you were trying to keep us from meeting in person, but that in 3 minutes of Googling, she was able to find all this stuff. She said NYSDOT has been hosting in-person meetings at least since March 9th. It just doesn't add up. Chairman Nocerino agreed that the directions are confusing and frustrating but that he wants to have the next meeting in person and have a celebration for Joan Flaumenbaum. Ms. Santangelo stated that it's important because there are members of the community who are not comfortable with Zoom and that makes it hard to participate. She appreciates the effort to make sure that, not only are we complying with relevant laws, but that we are doing our best to make sure everyone in the community is able to engage.

On Zoom Chat, Ms. Cypser wrote: Please read my questions out loud. I am not on the phone. I do not have a microphone. Thank you. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio read aloud Ms. Cypser's question regarding filling the empty spots on the Commission. Chairman Nocerino stated the RAC can operate with 5 members and 5 is a quorum. He said Mr. Ceglio became the 6th member when he came on board. He said another reason the Commission needs a quorum is when we have Resolutions.

Mr. Ceglio read aloud Ms. Cypser's question about the number of landings reported in May. He said the Airport will look into these numbers and get back to her at the next RAC meeting.

On Zoom Chat, Ms. Cypser wrote: Another comment - lack of complaint calls for noise does not mean it is quiet. Use of runway 14/32 causes a constant disruption in my neighborhood. I only make a complaint when it gets outrageous but it is a constant problem. Chairman Nocerino said he knows Runway 14/32 is a problem area and we are trying to stay on top of it.

###