

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Frank Nocerino at 7:04 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Robert Bodenmiller and Richard Grant. Stella Barbera and Joan Flaumenbaum were absent.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum the Commission was unable to adopt the minutes from the December 2015 meeting.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for November and December 2014 were discussed by Mr. Robert Yturraspe, Manager of Airport Services. In the month of November, the FAA recorded 17,972 total operations, an increase of 2,548 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 6416 landings which were up in all categories. Touch and go operations for November were higher than last

year, a total of 2,089 operations reported. Passenger count was higher with 1,396 reported, an increase of 225 from last year. A total of 455 based aircraft were reported.

In December 2015, the FAA recorded 14,920 total operations, an increase of 1,614 from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,901 landings, with an increase in single engine, and helicopter categories. Touch and go's were higher in all categories except jet operations which remained the same at zero. Passenger totals were 922, only slightly higher than the previous year.

There were a total of five noise complaints registered in November, a decrease from last year; one reported during the day, one at night and three unknown. Helicopters attributed to three of the five complaints reported, four complaints called in from the northwest quadrant. One was from based aircraft, one transient and three unknown.

There were six noise complaints registered in December, an increase from the previous year. Four were recorded as nighttime, jet traffic and were attributed to transient aircraft.

Mr. Gary Barnable discussed the Financial Reports for the months of November and December 2015. In November, landing fees and fuel flowage were higher than anticipated. Tiedowns were lower due to vacant spots. Office equipment expenses were higher due to the purchase of a new copier machine. Airport maintenance expenses were lower as a result of postponement of de-icing chemicals and fewer hits around the perimeter of the airport.

In December, landings and fuel flowage fees were higher than anticipated. License fees were lower. Miscellaneous income was lower than anticipated. Tiedown fees were lower due to vacancies. Commissioner Grant inquired if there was any interest in film shoots. Mr. Barnable responded that it lower than last year. Mr. Yurraspe added that most film shoot inquiries are for locations with hangars so we refer them to the FBO's who can accommodate their request. We do have a couple of

inquiries that we are meeting with in the next few weeks.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

On February 6, 2016, the Canadian Snowbirds visited the airport. They will be performing at the Air Show in May and will be based at Sheltair.

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). No real change from the last meeting. Progressing survey work. Sheltair will be providing plans in the near future.
2. Northeastern FBO Application: The application is still under review with NYSDOT legal department. No approval of FBO status has been issued. There are still some outstanding items to be addressed.

3.&4. Governor's Initiative 2016 Request For Proposals: Governor's RFP to enhance economic activity at FRG and SWF: Commissioner Nocerino stated that according to print media reports, the Governor's focus is on MacArthur Airport in Islip. They are looking to build a customs building on that property. The RFP for Operations and Management Services at Republic Airport has no new changes and nothing more to report since the last meeting. There is an RFP for the 5 parcels through Empire State Development (ESD). This Commission will keep everyone apprised. He has not heard anything further about commercial service at Republic Airport. He has been assured by Ron Epstein that there is no reference to bring commercial service in the proposed RFP for Airport Operations and reminded everyone that negotiations are still in progress.

Commissioner Nocerino added that he met with Stew Leonard, Jr. who sends his regrets at not being able to attend this meeting tonight due to a previous obligation of attending his High School reunion. Commissioner Nocerino added that Mr. Leonard expressed his desire to be a good neighbor in Farmingdale and Republic Airport. Stew Leonard's is adding another store in East Meadow.

Tina Diamond asked if Mr. Leonard own a private jet. Commissioner Nocerino stated that he is sure that he does. Commissioner Nocerino added that he is very family orientated and many members of his family work at the location. He employs over 450 people at the Farmingdale location.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Four (4) individuals commented.

Mr. Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
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Commissioner Nocerino welcomed back Ms. Norjen.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association stated that the RFP mentioned five parcels. There is an Airport Layout Plan that designates these areas for non-aviation purposes. This should be followed by NYSDOT. Ms. Norjen referred to the 1982 Transfer Legislation which was created by this Commission and urged the Governor to review it. There are legal things that took place and are part of the document. She states that PILOT language is in the Transfer Legislation. There is a 60,000 pound weight limit that was specifically intended for this airport. This commission has great power and strength to request this community to stand up against what this Governor is doing to the Farmingdale and Babylon area with these tax free zones. Ms. Norjen expressed her shock at hearing change in Sheltair plans of the 210 square foot hangar handling large aircraft. Seven of the 30,000 sq feet hangar is not the same as one big hangar. This is not what was presented in the EIS. This encourages 40,000 or 50,000 pound G4s and G5s would be the largest aircraft to land here. Now it's more. None of this makes any sense. In addition, the Transfer Legislation is very specific to PILOT. We must go back to this legislation.

Commissioner Nocerino asked the airport if new plans were submitted. Mr. Yturraspe stated no. Ms. Norjen inquired about the height of the building being developed; Commissioner Nocerino explained that we will review the plans again. The originals were submitted 7 or 8 years ago when the presentation was made. Ms. Norjen stated it was 2007. Commissioner Nocerino stated that as soon as the plans are available for review, they will compare.

Ms. Norjen inquired as to the status of the 60,000 pound weight limit. Commissioner Nocerino stated the Commission will write a letter to the NYSDOT Commissioner to obtain an update. Ms. Norjen added that there has been an injunction wherein DOT has been defending this for over 20 years. (Subsequent to the meeting, the Commission was provided an update by the airport.)

Ms. Norjen inquired as to the size of aircraft being flown to Cuba from Republic Airport. Ms. Diamond asked if this was a small plane or large jet. Ms. Norjen added that building big hangars will be bringing in bigger planes. This is no longer light general aviation. She added that small charters fly from here to Atlantic City and the Bahamas. This community continues to be the

recipient of noise, air pollution and other things. The charters come from all over the country. We need a Master Plan for Republic Airport. Commissioner Nocerino responded, "There is no Master Plan and there won't be a Master Plan. It was a decision NYSDOT made a long time ago." Ms. Norjen added that the community is not getting the information regarding the EIS. Mr. Nocerino acknowledged her inquiry and agreed that her questions are valid.

Ms. Norjen mentioned there was an article mentioning the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) reaching out to residents about concerns and asked "what about our concerns?" Ms. Norjen asked how is Republic Airport identified in the Airport Layout Plan. Commissioner Nocerino responded, "We are a General Aviation airport."

Ms. Norjen added, "Large planes landing here, the landing fees are approximately 1/3 of Teterboro, JFK and LaGuardia. Where would you land? We must think of the future. Prepare to fight this." She suggested that this Commission pass a resolution that the airport be maintained "as-is" and keep commuters and large aircraft out.

Commissioner Nocerino stated he was speaking with News 12 and Newsday about this. This community does not want any of this to change. It shall remain status-quo.

Tina Diamond disagreed. Commissioner Nocerino asked if she knew something that this Commission was not aware of. Alyssa Taft added that the tax-free businesses are not helpful to the community. There is something brewing. She mentioned that transportation people are attending the Melville Planning Committee meetings. She believes something is brewing and all the signs are there.

Commissioner Nocerino added that he is not involved with LIRR matters. The Governor has talked about tax-free zones for many years. He has put an RFP out which we have not seen yet. This Commission has asked for everything we are entitled too. The State has not released anything to us. Ms. Taft suggested that it is time now to make some noise. Commissioner Nocerino stated that this Commission has done everything they can to obtain information and has passed on any information obtained. The State has consistently told us the RFP for the airport operations and management contract is confidential. Ms. Taft asked what the Commissions' role is here at Republic Airport. Commissioner Nocerino replied, "Advisory." She requested advisement from the Commission.

Ms. Taft inquired if the new management company has taken over the airport yet. Commissioner

Nocerino replied, "Not yet."

Ms. Norjen mentioned that AvPorts has an operation out of Gary, Indiana airport for the last ten years. The runway was lengthened by moving the rail road tracks. This community and commission must pay attention. This Commission must recognize the type of Management Company that is operating in Indiana. This Commission must obtain a copy of the contract. It sounds like a sweet-heart contract. Commissioner Nocerino noted the request.

Ms. Taft requested the Commission put out a press release or notice of safety concerns and community concerns. Commissioner Nocerino was not aware of any safety concerns and nothing has been brought forward. This Commission will speak to Sheltair in regard to their plans. Ms. Norjen inquired if Commissioner Nocerino has changed his stance on these matters. He expressed that this Commission is doing all they can do at this time. Without further factual information, the newspaper and media reports are hearsay. Ms. Norjen expressed her concern that the community and the Commission were never made aware of Talon Air's proposed expansion at the airport which is enough to not trust the State's processes in regard to this airport. These matters must be investigated further. She further stated that the State is disenfranchising this Commission and this Commission needs to do something before it's too late. Mr. Nocerino explained that this Commission has written many letters and reached out the State several times to obtain information. I have no problem fighting the truth but we will not over react to hearsay.

Ms. Nancy Schliwka inquired how does a proposed and approved development plan, such as Sheltair, with seven hangars become a new, larger development plan without notice or approval. Commissioner Nocerino explained that all amendments are submitted to NYSDOT. This Commission has not seen any changes or amendments to the previous plans. This Commission does not know how these changes and amendments are implemented. Once we see the plans, we can inquiry further.

Mr. Robert Ford interjected that the image portrayed in Newsday was not an actual photograph of the area, but a computer generated rendering.

Ms. Norjen asked the Commission to please keep the community informed. Commissioner Nocerino said he would.

Ms. Schliwka asked if the noise complaint call in information has changed. Deborah Brown

explained the number listed is the direct number to the Noise Complaint line.

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