

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nocerino at 7:02 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Robert Bodenmiller, Richard Grant, Stella Barbera and Joan Flaumenbaum.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Nocerino announced that there was a fire at the Conklin Street property. Community Health and Safety including one of our Commissioners, Bob Bodenmiller, were at the scene. NYS engineer to make a determination if the building can remain until October. Many agencies including the MTA/LIRR were involved. East Farmingdale Volunteer Fire Companies has put the Airport on notice regarding building concerns and future structural safety.

On another note, the Governor's office has received numerous inquires regarding his initiatives. There has been tremendous support from the surrounding communities against his decisions and comments in regard to the role and future of the airport. I have spoken with elected officials and the Governor's spokesperson and they have assured me that they will get back to us. To date, we have not received any response from the Governor. Please continue to contact elected officials, with your comments and to voice your concerns. This Commission thanks you for your support and the continued support from all the civic organizations and agencies.

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association stated that Alyssa Taft was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a previous obligation with the Town of Huntington.

Michael Geiger, Airport Director announced that John Arancio had accepted a job at the Port Authority at LaGuardia Airport and May 22nd was his last day. Mr. Arancio was the Assistant Airport Manager here at Republic for the past 6 years and he did a great job. In addition, Bill Lachnicht, our Maintenance Manager has accepted a job at the Port Authority at JFK. His last day will be July 24th. Bill has worked at Republic for 10 years. He did an amazing job. This is a very old airport. This building is over 30 years old and somehow Bill was able to keep it going on a very tight budget. The Port Authority is very lucky to get him. Mr. Geiger then announced his own

retirement from New York State DOT. His last day will be July 30th.

Commissioner Nocerino offered his congratulations to each and every one and went on to say “when the Port Authority takes our people it is a credit to our airport.” He wished everyone the best.

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 2015. 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 Stella Barbera seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous in favor of Vincent Bologna.

Commissioner Nocerino thanked everyone for the support and continued belief in the Commission. He further stated, the challenges are still facing us and the reactions of our legislators are positive and continue to support us. Senator Flanagan’s interests and support is crucial along with Senator Marcellino’s appointment to Chairman of Education. Thank you again.

III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2014, February 2015 and April 2015 meetings were adopted.

IV. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

V. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2015

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for March and April 2015 were discussed by Ms. Shelley LaRose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of March, the FAA recorded 15,418 total operations. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,293 landings, an increase in all categories from the prior year. Touch and go operations for March were higher from last year with 1,769 reported. Passenger numbers were down with 990 being reported. This is a result of Gold Transportation going out of business. There were 463 based aircraft in March, an decrease from the year before.

In April 2015, the FAA recorded 17,915 total operations, a decrease of 317 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,164 landings with a decrease in multi-engine operations. Touch & gos were higher with 1,912 reported. Passenger numbers increased to 1,091 from the previous year. There were 460 based aircraft in April, down three from the prior month.

There were 3 noise complaints registered in March; two during the day one unknown. The complaints were predominantly caused by jet aircraft. These events were reported by residents residing in the northwest sector of the airport. Two were related to transient aircraft and the other was unknown.

There were a total of 9 noise complaints registered in April; three during the day, one at night and five unknown. The majority of the complaints registered were attributed to jet aircraft. Four were related to transient aircraft and five were unknown. Ms. LaRose-Arken has taken over this responsibility from John Arancio and phone calls or letters will be going out shortly.

Mr. Geiger discussed the Financial Reports for the months of March and April 2015. March is the end of the fiscal year. Rental income is up due to CPI adjustments. Landing fees were higher in the month of March. Licensing Fees were higher due to international aircraft use of the terminal related to Customs and Border Protection Services. Expenses were higher

due to end of year purchasing. The Airport received \$100,000.00 more than estimated, however our expenses exceeded the revenues at the end of the fiscal year.

April is the new fiscal year; most categories were pretty close to what was actually budgeted. Landing fees were higher as more people were flying. Fuel flowage was also higher. Expenses were lower across the board. Employee expenses were down due to postponement of training. Due to cost saving measures, we were under budget for the month of April.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

On May 23rd and 24th Memorial Day Weekend, the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show at Jones Beach was held at Jones Beach. There were cooler than expected temperatures however the crowd still exceeded capacity and all roads were shut down on Sunday. Approximately 114,000 attended on Saturday and over 200,000 on Sunday. The Breitling Jet Team parked at the main terminal ramp. They were very friendly and receptive to the crowds and received a good response. It was also Number "2" (Chabro) Birthday and the crowd sang "Happy Birthday" to him. One of their jets had a bird strike, yet landed safely. The Blue Angels will return next year. We just received notice that their will not be an airshow at Coney Island this August. Stewart Airport will host this show in August.

B. RESOLUTION

1. Resolution for Michael J. Geiger, Airport Director.

Ms. Shelley LaRose-Arken read the resolution wherein the Commission honored Mr. Geiger with a Plaque for his time and dedication as Airport Director over the past ten (10) years. Commissioner Nocerino took a motion, and all Commission Members were in favor of the Resolution.

C. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Breslau Modernization and Redevelopment Update: The SEQRA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA). The Environmental Assessment Record of Decision was issued. Under SEQRA, the FEIS, Volume II document was issued for a ten (10) day availability period. The State will issue its findings then will move on to the design portion. The entire FEA and FEIS document is located in the Reference Department at local libraries. There will be a link on the airport and state websites to these documents. Legal Ad notices were published in Newsday.
- 2 & 3. FBO Applications: The process is continuing. Talon is still working on construction and Northeastern is in the legal process.
3. RFP status: No selection to date. Time period has passed and no comments were received from Albany. The current management contract will be extended for nine months.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five (5) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
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Ms. Nancy Schliwka of Woodland Civic Association requested clarification of the SEQRA/FEIS. She stated that the final environmental assessment was available for review without comment. Mr. Geiger stated that is correct in regard to the Environmental Assessment. Ms. Schliwka referred to the June 4th Newsday Legal Ad publication that stated where these documents were available and began to read from the notice. Ms. Schliwka inquired why there was only a ten (10) day comment period when there are five volumes to read through. In addition, the notice clearly stated the documents are available online and as of 6:35 p.m. this evening, they were not. Mr. Geiger responded that he was told the documents would be available online today. Ms. Schliwka requested that the comment period be extended in lieu of the fact that the online documents were not available in a timely fashion as published. Commissioner Nocerino inquired to the status of the documents available online. Mr. Geiger said he would look into it. Commissioner Nocerino responded that the comment period should be extended to include the time the documents were not available online. Ms. Schliwka requested that this statement be made clear in the minutes.

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association produced a letter dated September 4, 2014 from Town of Babylon to Republic Airport requesting a thirty (30) day comment period and felt that is a reasonable time frame and should be honored. Ms. Norjen stated that she went to the library to view the documents and two (2) librarians could not locate the binders. She confirmed finding the documents and further commented that the size of the volumes are unreasonable.

Ms. Norjen produced two (2) letters, one for Mr. Geiger and one for Commissioner Nocerino and requested that these letters be produced to all the Commissioners.

Ms. Norjen stated that five (5) volumes of documents are an unreasonable amount for anyone to read. She asked how many people had been notified about this document. Mr. Geiger responded that over 200 people, including elected officials, civic associations, community leaders and residents on our mailing lists had all received notification.

Ms. Norjen stated that when these environmental studies are performed, the government assured that the public is given enough notice and fair consideration to review and comment. Ten (10) days is not enough. Considering all that has occurred over the years, the public has never been

given considerate notice and the stuff going on around here is questionable. She added that DOT has operated this airport for over 33 years and they never adopted a Master Plan.

Commissioner Nocerino responded that the airport has followed rules and regulations on this project. He acknowledged that Ms. Norjen and Ms. Schliwka statements regarding the comment period. Ms. Norjen added that the cumulative impact is questioned. Ms. Norjen added that assessing the cumulative impact is part of the review process. She explained the FAA FEA and State FEIS have different page numbers saying it is difficult to differentiate. She stated that she has read many EIS and notices and this was not clear in any way.

Ms. Schliwka inquired if there is a mistake found in the document, how it can be brought to their attention. Her written comments made at the February 2013 were inadvertently attributed to Ms. Norjen. Although the comments were addressed, they were Ms. Schliwka's comments not Ms. Norjen's. She would like to have that corrected to reflect her name. Mr. Geiger responded that she can comment on this.

Mr. Roy Douglas of the Republic Airport Historical Society addressed the Commission to express his sadness in hearing that Mr. Geiger is retiring and that John Arancio and Bill Lachnicht are leaving Republic Airport. Mr. Arancio was the utmost professional and wonderful contributor to all of us. Mr. Lachnicht has been wonderful in his assistance with the historical society and his work with us is truly appreciated. He went on to say he has spent over 33 years at Republic Airport and has seen many Directors and Commissioners come and go. Looking back to where it was compared to now, progress has exceeded all expectation. Mr. Geiger has been a valuable asset to this progress. His support to the Republic Airport Historical Society has been invaluable. In addition, Mr. Geiger's tireless efforts and strong commitment to this airport, along with a great sense of humor, is going to be missed. Over the years, he has attended many events at the airport and the museum and always found Mr. Geiger's speeches reflective, intelligent and distinguished. Mr. Douglas hopes that Mr. Geiger's words will be published and archived. His statements were always knowledgeable, educational and on the money.

Mr. John Lisi, President of the Daniel Street Civic Association wished Mr. Geiger good health and happiness in his retirement. Mr. Lisi suggested that the Working Group Committee be reinstated in light of all the activity that has been happening Commissioner Nocerino agreed and assured him that it will start up again once all the dust has settled.

Ms. Schwilka asked if she could have a copy of the June 3rd FEIS ad placed in Newsday and was

confused by the legal words contained in the ads. Mr. Geiger responded that he found the language a little weird, but acknowledged that it is the required legal language.

Mr. Robert Miller of the American Airpower Museum thanked Mr. Geiger and Ms. LaRose-Arken for all the cooperative efforts from the airport throughout the years. The museum has received such tremendous support from the management here at Republic Airport and he hopes that anyone coming in will do the same. Mr. Miller expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Geiger and how much Mr. Geiger will be missed.

Mr. Geiger responded that he will miss Republic Airport tremendously. He thanked the Commission for doing such a fine job volunteering their time and services all while handling pressure and occasional controversy. Mr. Geiger added that he never missed a meeting during his time here, 64 meetings in all. He added that he attended many community meetings and will miss the airport's tenants and the civic community very much.

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