

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:05 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, Vincent Bologna, Jr., Joan Flaumenbaum, and Richard Grant.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A quorum was present and the minutes for June 2018 were adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

Chairman Nocerino stated that when the FAA Review starts there will be a public meeting. He said that Senator Boyle sent a letter to the Governor about filling two vacant seats on the Commission. Mr. Nocerino said he also intends to send a letter about appointing a representative of NYSDOT to the Commission.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2018

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for May and June 2018 were discussed by Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager. In the month of May, the FAA reported 16,786 total operations, compared to 17,582 from 2017. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,814 landings. Touch and go operations for May were higher than last year with 1,900 reported. Passenger numbers were lower with 654 being reported, a decrease of 334 from the previous year. There were 427 based aircraft in May, a decrease of 50 from the year before.

Regarding the decrease in based aircraft, Chairman Nocerino asked if the formerly-based aircraft operators are selling their planes or are they moving to other airports. Mr. McElroy replied that the Airport tries to get exit interviews, but most of the time there is no feedback.

In June 2018, the FAA reported 22,133 total operations, compared to 20,160 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 7,167 landings. Touch & go operations for June were higher than last year with 2,346 reported. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,001 being reported, an increase of 96 from the previous year. There were 416 based aircraft in June, a decrease of 58 from the year before.

There were 11 noise complaints registered in May of this year compared to 92 last year. Nine complaints were related to the day and 2 for night. Six of the 11 complaints were caused by jet aircraft. Five of the complaints were from arrivals on Runway 32. The majority of the 11 events were reported by residents in the northwest sector of the Airport. Three complaints were from based aircraft, 6 were from transient aircraft, and 2 were unknown.

There were 29 noise complaints registered in June of this year compared to 14 last year. Twenty-one complaints related to the day and 8 for night. Fifteen of the complaints were attributed to jet aircraft, and 13 were from an unknown aircraft type. Fourteen of the complaints were attributed to arrivals on Runway 14, and 13 complaints were unable to be identified by runway. The majority of the complaints came from the northwest area of the Airport. Five complaints were from based aircraft, 11 from transient, and 13 were unknown.

Commissioner Stella Barbera asked how many households in the northwest area had filed noise complaints in June. Mr. McElroy responded that the 25 complaints in the northwest area were received from 5 households. Ms. Barbera asked if additional information was garnered from conversations with the residents who were contacted. Assistant Airport Manager John Lauth responded that most of the people he spoke to were cordial and wanted to know more about how to identify the type of aircraft, which runway was active, or weather conditions at the time. Mr. Lauth said he

provides them with more information so residents have a better idea of why the noise event occurred.

The Financial Reports for May and June 2018 were discussed by Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director. For May, the Total Revenue was \$2,284 below budget. Landing Fees, Rental Income, Tie-down Rentals, and Miscellaneous Income were lower than budgeted. License Fees and Fuel Flowage Fees were higher than budgeted. In May, there was a budget of \$5000 for the Miscellaneous Income but it only realized \$1,645. He said that income from movie shoots is an estimate based on previous years and is hard to project. Expenses for May were \$63,327 over the budgeted amount. Labor Expenses were under budget due to vacant positions and a 4-week payroll billing cycle. The largest overruns for the projected budget were for Communications Expense, due to investing in a new phone system which was budgeted for other months but the bill was paid in May. There were Airport Maintenance Expenses for roof repairs for Molloy College that were not scheduled in the budget. Insurance Expense was for pre-paid premiums in May. Professional Services Expense was for work that was budgeted in November. Office Equipment Expense was a purchase that was budgeted in April. The Employee Expense overrun was for OSHA Fit Testing that was budgeted in March, and the ARFF PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that was budgeted in January. Utilities Expense in May was under budget because the Water bill was paid in April.

For June, Total Revenue was down across the board from what was budgeted. The largest deficit was for License Fees due to lower than budgeted Customs and Border Protection Fees and Commercial Operating Fees. Expenses for June were lower across the board than what was budgeted. Several of the larger surpluses were due to a new security company, CHS, Inc., which was contracted to replace TYCO. With the new contract, there is a lower cost per month that will continue to generate savings through the years. The variance in Utility Expense was favorable due to lower than anticipated consumption. Employee Expense had a favorable variance for a Uniforms/Shoes payment that was scheduled in July, and a Subscription to be paid in August that was budgeted for this month.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager Mr. Rick McElroy stated that the Airport sent out a bid request for reconstructing the first floor restrooms at the Main Terminal. Contractor bids should be received in mid-September and the plan is to complete the project during the current fiscal year. Mr. Barnable added that after the first floor renovation is completed, the second floor restrooms will also be reconstructed.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: No changes.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: No changes.
3. RFP by ESD for long term lease of Five Development Parcels: Mr. Barnable stated that within the next couple of weeks, Stratosphere should be submitting the application to FAA for the EA (Environmental Analysis) and the ALP (Airport Layout Plan) update. After their review, announcements for a public meeting will be made.
4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Mr. Barnable stated that Sheltair is trying to be open by the first week of October. He said that improvements are visible where the future entrance will be on New Highway that include improved shoulders, new line striping, and new signage.
5. Noise Contour Update: Mr. McElroy stated that the 2017 Noise Contour Report that was presented at the June RAC meeting is now posted on the Airport's website.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eight (8) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:
Gary Barnable on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission

PUBLIC COMMENTS
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Mr. John Lisi of the Republic Airport Civic Coalition stated that the FAA is about to start their review of what has been done so far and that there will be a public meeting. He said that they need to be an integral part of the process, and the meeting should take place before the review is completed. Chairman Nocerino responded that he has asked NYS DOT Deputy Commissioner Ron Epstein if the public meeting is going to be part of the process and is waiting for a response. Mr. Lisi said they are hoping the RAC will be involved when the FAA does their review. He mentioned that it should be brought to their attention that Sheltair did a full Environmental Study for the whole Airport when they proposed their project, and the FAA should look at it because it has already been done. Chairman Nocerino replied that the Commission may send a letter to Mr. Epstein in the next couple weeks to remind him. Mr. Lisi commented that the FAA is supposed to be the final authority, but it almost appears that FAA is taking direction from NYS DOT. Mr. Lisi stated that Evelyn Martinez, FAA Airports District Office Manager, is in charge of the region, and there are people above her who may need to be included. Chairman Nocerino said that maybe a letter will be sent to Ms. Martinez and to carbon copy her on the letter to Senator Boyle on the DOT appointment. Mr. Lisi said he received a copy of Senator Boyle's letter to the Governor and circulated it among the Coalitions. Chairman Nocerino commented that he is very concerned about the Governor's appointment to the RAC. He said the appointee should be someone from the area who knows about the Airport.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association stated that the ALP update usually requires an environmental review. She asked to know what procedure will be used and if the Commission and the public will be involved. Mr. Barnable responded that the update is going to reflect the plans for the five parcels and that it is the FAA's procedure. Chairman Nocerino said it will be part of the letter to FAA. He also stated that the public will be involved with the meeting so that they know before the fact, not after the fact.

Ms. Norjen asked why a more comprehensive noise study like the Integrated Noise Model was not used for the Noise Contour Report. Ms. Norjen stated that in the Environmental Assessment that Mr. Epstein signed, she had a problem with the brevity of the document, and that it did not identify the Sheltair project. She said they are glossing over the cumulative effects of the Sheltair project and the 5-parcel conditional award, and the new Acting Commissioner should know about it. Ms. Norjen asked if the

Commission received a copy of a “Republic Airport Development Sites” handout dated May 2018. She said it shows that NYS DOT, DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation), DHSES (Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services), and FAA will review and comment as appropriate, but the RAC was not mentioned. Ms. Norjen said the Commission should tell Acting Commissioner Karas that former Commissioner Driscoll ignored the Commission and did not consult with the RAC as required. She said that Acting DOT Commissioner Karas needs to be familiar with 5-parcel award. Ms. Norjen also asked if the preferential runway use plan was in effect and being followed, to which Mr. Lauth responded yes. Chairman Nocerino said that the handout looked like it was a presentation.

Ms. Tina Diamond of the Concerned Citizens Civic Association of Farmingdale said it was presentation made to the civics. She said they told Mr. Epstein they believe that the Republic Airport Commission had been left out of everything. Chairman Nocerino responded that the Commission did not know about the meeting, and that now with the new level of communication that is in place, he will ask why the Commission did not receive a copy of the handout.

Commissioner Stella Barbera commented that it appears that the new Acting DOT Commissioner may not know that a Republic Airport Commission exists. Chairman Nocerino responded that he is going to send a letter to request a meeting between himself and the new Commissioner to discuss the RAC.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident, said this seems to be echoing what happened when the RAC was not consulted when the RFP was sent out the first time. She commented that it is a pattern for the Commission to not be included, and that the Commission not being mentioned in the presentation is another example. Commissioner Joan Flaumenbaum said she was troubled that the Commission did not know they were not included in the presentation until now, and had they known this a month ago, the letter proposed by the Chairman could have gone out then.

Ms. Nancy Cysper, stated that the calls made in response to noise complaints are made a month after the complaint is filed and details are hard to remember. She asked if the phone calls could be made more promptly. Assistant Airport Manager John Lauth stated that time is needed to research the complaint before calling back the resident, but that he will try to make the calls more promptly.

Mr. Ted Barber, an Echo tenant, asked for a status on Echo ramp. Mr. Barnable answered that Echo ramp is being reconfigured to allow for transient jets. He said a temporary Certificate of Occupancy for

the trailers on the site was issued on July 24th, and the first jet arrived on Aug 1st. He said there were no operational issues being reported.

Mr. Mark Goldberg, an Echo tenant, asked how many single engine parking spots were eliminated. Mr. Barnable replied that anyone who had a space still has a space. He said that there were a number of airplanes that were either not airworthy or had not been moved in 2-3 years, so 10 aircraft were relocated to Delta ramp. Mr. Barnable said Stratosphere created 4 new spaces. The self-service fuel tank, which had not been in use for a year and a half, was relocated to the back of the restaurant property, and 2 spots were created in that area. One spot was created near Molloy College and one spot on the back side of First Quality.

Mr. Mike Groner, an Echo tenant, asked if the wash rack is coming back, to which Mr. Barnable replied that it will not.

Mr. Mark Goldberg asked how many spots did Talon take over for their operations. Mr. Lauth answered that they used approximately 64 spots and all the spots were relocated.

Mr. Ted Barber asked if there were more plans for Echo ramp. Mr. Barnable responded that Stratosphere is going to put in a service trailer on the airside of the fence near the building that is currently there, so workers can get out from the elements. He added that it has been going through reviews, and the approval process should be completed by tomorrow.

Mr. Mark Goldberg asked if the Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the Airport. Mr. Barnable responded that the temporary Certificate of Occupancy was issued by Main Office Aviation Bureau, which is the Albany aviation group.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked how much of the new Echo ramp development is parallel with the RFP. Mr. Barnable replied that no plans for construction have been submitted and the proposals can be viewed online to see what they are projecting in the future. He stated that the area where the temporary building is located is going to be a wide open ramp. It is not worked into their future plans.

Adjourned 8:02pm