

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 10, 2018

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Chairman Nocerino stated that he had a conversation with Ron Epstein, Executive Deputy Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer of New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), about the concerns of scheduled commercial traffic coming to the Airport as a result of the five-parcel project. Chairman Nocerino said that Mr. Epstein assured him that it will be written into the permit that there will be no scheduled commercial service as part of this project. Chairman Nocerino said he will follow up with him on that.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes for February 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 JANUARY 2018 AND FEBRUARY 2018

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for January and February 2018 were discussed by Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager. In the month of January, the FAA reported 14,196 total operations, compared to 12,377 from 2017. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,821 landings. Touch and go operations for January were higher than last year with 1,691 reported. Passenger numbers were

lower with 970 being reported, a decrease of 10 from the previous year. There were 441 based aircraft in January, a decrease of 31 from the year before.

In February 2018, the FAA reported 15,928 total operations, compared to 15,891 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,405 landings. Touch & go operations for February were higher than last year with 1,930 reported. Passenger numbers were higher with 884 being reported, an increase of 38 from the previous year. There were 430 based aircraft in February, a decrease of 46 from the year before.

There were 36 noise complaints registered in January; 22 during the day, 7 during the night and 7 unknown. The complaints were predominantly caused by jet aircraft. The majority of complaints were from arrivals on Runway 14 and departures on Runway 32. The majority of the 36 events were reported by residents in the northwest sector of the Airport. Eight complaints were from based aircraft, 21 were from transient aircraft, and 7 were unknown.

There were 33 noise complaints registered in February; 19 during the day, 13 at night, and 1 unknown. Most of the registered complaints were attributed to jet aircraft. Twenty-eight of the 33 complaints came from the northwest area. Thirteen complaints were from based aircraft, 14 from transient, and 6 were unknown.

Mr. McElroy stated that the increase in helicopter Touch and Go activity for January and February may have been due to weather or wind, when compared to numbers from 2017.

Commissioner Richard Grant asked what the Airport's nighttime hours are. Mr. McElroy responded between 11pm and 7am.

Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director, discussed the Financial Reports for the months of January and February 2018. Revenues were higher than budgeted for January. Revenue was lower for Tie-down Fees, but above what was projected for

all other Revenue categories. The largest surplus was from Rental Income due to the higher than anticipated concession rent for the hotels. There were no film shoots in January. Expenses were lower than budgeted for the month. Labor Expense was lower due to a 4-week payroll billing cycle. The Employee Expenses were lower because a purchase of Fire and Rescue Personal Protection Equipment was postponed. Professional Services was lower than expected. Airport Maintenance had the largest variance due to postponement of the snow-blower purchase which will take place later in the year. We also did not need to buy de-icing chemicals, which kept us below budget. Several items were over the projected budget including Utilities, due to higher consumption; Communications, due to some maintenance that was budgeted for later in the year; Insurance, because we made a payment that was originally budgeted for December; and Vehicle Maintenance, due to the purchase of diesel fuel, tires, and needed snow plow repairs.

February Revenues were higher than budgeted. The majority of the positive variance was from Rental Income and Miscellaneous Income. Besides an Insurance reimbursement for a damaged fence, there was a film shoot in February for a new Netflix show called "The Good Cop". There was a film shoot in March for a CBS series called "The Code", for which we received about \$29,000 for the two-day event. Since June 2017, which is the beginning of the Airport's fiscal year, we have received \$90,000 in Insurance reimbursements, mostly for repairs to the outside fence. We have received \$70,000 so far in film fees. Expenses in February were less than budgeted. The largest surpluses were from Labor, due to a 4-week payroll billing cycle. Expenses for Utilities, Communications, and Promotion/Public Relations were all lower than expected. The major overrun was in Employee Expenses for training on the ARFF truck that caused us to exceed the anticipated monthly budget.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Gary Barnable reported that the Main Terminal front door replacement project is finished. Mr. Rick McElroy stated that plans are still on track for the Memorial Day Weekend Air Show.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: Mr. Barnable reported that the Project Design Review by the FAA is on-going. There was a meeting with the tenants of the hangars in the northeast corner to go over how the new design will impact their operations. We will be working some of their comments into the design as we progress.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: Mr. Barnable stated that the application is still in review.
3. RFP by ESD for long term lease of Five Development Parcels: Mr. Barnable reported that NYSDOT will be meeting with the FAA in the near future and provide them with a preliminary overview of the proposed development. It will be the first time we are sitting down just to present them with the proposed development. We will discuss the project with them and ask for direction on required submittals for their review.
4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Mr. Barnable stated that the hangars look to be finished by mid-year, and are expected to be open by September of this year.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nine (9) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday – June 12, 2018 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
APRIL 10, 2018

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale Resident, commented that 74% of the noise complaints in January and February 2018 were from jets, and yet the development that is being proposed would add to the jet noise complaints. Ms. Santangelo asked why the ILS is on Runway 14/32 if Runway 1/19 is the preferred runway. She asked if it is possible to move the ILS to the preferred runway, rather than installing a second ILS.

Chairman Nocerino replied that The ILS was installed in the 1970s, and a FOIL request is needed for more information.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked for the status of the notifications to the public about the 48-hour time frame for filing noise complaints.

Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director, replied that it was reviewed with the Main Office Aviation Group and management. They asked us to re-word it to say "strongly recommend". The notice is on our website now. We put up a banner that states we "strongly recommend" that noise complaints come in within 48 hours, to help us better analyze them. It is not going to be mandatory. Again, we are urging everyone to help us out so we can do the analysis more accurately.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked if there was a recent Noise Contour report available.

Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager, responded that the Noise Contour study is in the process of being updated. Information for 2016-2017 and previous years has been gathered, and we are populating the FAA model at the moment. Our plan is to present the findings at the June meeting.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked how and when will residents who are affected by Runway 14/32 be notified when Runway 1/19 is closed for Runway Safety Area improvements.

Chairman Nocerino asked if notices could be sent out to the surrounding area.

Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director, responded that the Airport would look into the best way to get the information out including notices and posting on the Airport website. The design process with

the FAA is still going on and will drive the schedule. We will have a better timeline as we get closer to construction.

Ms. Nancy Schliwka of the Woodland Civic Association read a statement regarding the RFP for the five-parcel development.

Mr. John Lisi of the Daniel Street Civic Association read a statement regarding the Temporary Use and Occupancy Permit issued to Talon Air, and then turned the floor over to Mr. Denis Garbo of the Civic Coalition for Transparency and Compliance.

Mr. Denis Garbo of the Civic Coalition for Transparency and Compliance stated that the concerns of the Coalition are rooted in the words of the Governor, who made it public in 2015 of his desire that this Airport should become an auxiliary to JFK and LGA. What does that do to the quality of life for us? It is not just the noise, but the vehicular traffic. If this were to become a full-blown commercial airport, think of what it would do to the Route 110 corridor of traffic. When we made some requests from the State Comptroller's Office in August 2017, we were initially told that he did not have to respond to us because we were considered Lobbyists, and they do not respond to Lobbyists. But we are citizens. It is that kind of treatment we receive from State government that is really the reason why we asked for support from our neighbors; to write to the Assemblymen, the State Senators, and the Governor to express their feelings about these plans to expand Republic Airport. It is something that will be irreversible and will forever change the nature of the surrounding community and the quality of life.

Chairman Frank Nocerino stated in response to Mr. Lisi that the Commission was never told what was going on, and said he is going to go back to Albany again, and they are going to have to come down here.

Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director, said that the announcement read at the February meeting stated that it was a Use and Occupancy permit, and it did not have anything to do with the five-parcel development, and it still does not. It is a separate and temporary arrangement with NYSDOT for improvements on that ramp. The structures are not trailers for construction. They will be used with the new operation, and it is temporary. It is not part of the future project. We reorganized Echo ramp so we can bring in transient corporate jets that can utilize the temporary building that is going up right now.

Mr. Elliot Bloom, a partner with Long Island Clean Tech, LLC asked if the use of the parcel was advertised to other facilities at this airport, or was it offered only to the entity that was awarded the parcel.

Mr. Gary Barnable responded that the request was brought forward by Stratosphere. It was reviewed and agreed on and analyzed for use. Anyone could have brought a request forward and we would have done the same thing. The request was put forward to New York State. It was approved by Main Office Aviation Department and the Airport. I will find out who signed it from the Main Office.

Mr. Elliot Bloom commented that NYSDOT entered into a lease without going through a legitimate public procurement process, without there being a bid or an RFP for any other developers.

Mr. Gary Barnable stated that it is a short-term lease that has been done for other projects on the Airport. The lease will end when they no longer want to pay us the rent, or we find another use for it, or it becomes a part of the project. If you bring a proposal to the Airport we will review it. We will take a look at all suggestions.

Ms. Nancy Schliwka of the Woodland Hills Civic Association asked why the FAA's website states that the permit was issued as "Work Type - Temporary FBO Building".

Mr. Gary Barnable responded that these are the Work Types that they used for the submission: utility poles, the building. What they are analyzing is the height of the improvement next to the runway. These were cases that were submitted to FAA, and they put in for the different types of work, and those are the descriptions, like 'signage', 'poles'. The height of the structure is really what the FAA was looking at.

Mr. Elliot Bloom commented that it seems odd that NYSDOT did not tell this Commission that the Airport entered into a lease for that parcel.

Chairman Frank Nocerino stated that this Commission knows nothing about the Use and Occupancy permit. We will ask NYSDOT to provide the Commission with a copy of the lease.

Mr. John Lisi stated that the Daniel Street Civic Coalition does not find the explanation about this issue

plausible and does not accept it.

Ms. Barbara Loehr of the Daniel Street Civic Association and the North Lindenhurst Civic Association stated that she submitted a FOIL request on February 19, 2018, asking for copies of all applications and permits filed by Talon and their affiliates for the temporary use of the former 56th Fighter Group property and Echo ramp, the reorganization of Echo ramp, and the temporary placement of trailers on Airport property. NYSDOT responded that due to the high number of FOIL requests recently received, it is taking longer than anticipated to respond. On April 5th, I received a copy of a letter from NYSDOT Records Officer Jerry Morse to Jay Baron at Republic Jet Center. It stated that if Republic Jet Center believes that NYSDOT should except any of the identified records from disclosure under FOIL, then the company must submit a written statement to the Department detailing the necessity for such exceptions. Why is NYSDOT allowing Talon to skirt the FOIL law and keep the public in the dark, and why are we not getting any straight answers from the NYSDOT, the Commission, and the Airport? Why does it seem that the Commission is redirecting any opposition to this issue back to the public it represents?

Ms. Tina Diamond of the Concerned Citizens Association of Farmingdale commented that it appears everyone in the government is avoiding this issue. They need to come and speak to the people because it is public land. We need to see them face to face. If you can not get them to come, then we are going to have to go up and knock on doors in Albany. This is our government and they are totally ignoring us. That is not the way it is supposed to work.

Chairman Frank Nocerino responded he would make the first call to Albany and give them some information.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association read a statement regarding the RFP for the five-parcel development.

Chairman Frank Nocerino said he had a Senator write to NYSDOT and told them what the Commission's authority was. I have written letters to NYSDOT, and I will keep writing to them. We will continue to work with the public. I will call Mr. Epstein again.

Ms. Tina Diamond asked how can we stop the work we continue to see happening. Talon and Stratosphere continue to do whatever they want when they do not have approval.

Chairman Nocerino said that is something he will address.

Mr. Mark Goldberg, an Echo tenant, stated that at the last meeting he asked that the State provide a briefing for the Echo tenants with some transparency as to what is going on. Letters went out on March 9th to all the aircraft owners on Echo ramp. Today's meeting makes me concerned that there is more to this project. I know the community has a big stake in this. My immediate concern is the Echo stakeholders. My request is that the representatives of the State and Talon meet with the Echo tenants, who are paying money to the State, to find out what the plans are and what the financial impact will be on us.

Mr. Gary Barnable responded that the March 9th 2018 letter and the follow-up letter to Echo tenants whose tie-down locations were relocated, asked tenants to contact the Airport if they needed more information. We are responding to all of the calls from tenants and inviting them to come in if they want to review changes with their tie-down location.

Mr. John Lisi of the Daniel Street Civic Association asked for an update on the Article 78 lawsuit.

Chairman Frank Nocerino responded that he did not have any information about it.

Adjourned at 8:08pm