

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
7150 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, ROOM 201
EAST FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK
MARCH 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:04p.m. Also present were Vice-Chairman Vincent Bologna, Jr., Commission Members Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, and Richard Grant.

Chairman Nocerino began the meeting by stating the next RAC meeting would be held on April 23, 2024, and that the 5-parcels Working Group will consist of 11 participants representing 7 civic groups, 2 towns, and 1 pilot. Ms. Barbera will represent the RAC and organize the Working Group meetings. He added that there has been no movement with the 5-parcels, Open House, or the (Echo Ramp) tie-down rates. Senator Martinez has resumes of 2 candidates being considered to fill RAC vacancies.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio asked for a motion to nominate a RAC Chairman. Mr. Bodenmiller nominated Mr. Nocerino, seconded by Mr. Grant, and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Ceglio asked for a motion to nominate a RAC Vice-Chairman. Ms. Barbera nominated Mr. Bologna, seconded by Mr. Nocerino, and the motion carried unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2023

Vice-Chairman Bologna made a motion to adopt the December 2023 minutes, seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

V. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the following:

- Total Operations reported by FAA increased 19.8% in November but decreased 16.7% in December when compared to the previous year. Landings reported by Airport Operations increased 39.7% in November and 6.4% in December. The majority of operations were attributed to single-engine aircraft for both months. Touch & Go's increased by 62% in November and 18.2% in December. Passenger volume increased 13.3% in November and 30.8% in December. An audit was performed to determine the number of Based aircraft, which resulted in a decrease for both months.
- November Aircraft Complaints totaled 44 from 15 households while December complaints totaled 17 from 12 households. Most complaints were from daytime operations. The majority of November complaints could not be identified by aircraft type, runway, or location and were reported as "Unknown". Residents living west and northwest of the Airport filed most

of the complaints for both months. Touch & Go operations accounted for 1 complaint in November and 2 in December. "Unknown" aircraft that could not be identified as either Based or Transient accounted for 29 complaints in November. In December, Transient aircraft caused the most complaints totaling 8.

Ms. Barbera commented that the area northwest of the Airport is known to file noise complaints but numbers from the west are increasing. She asked if flight paths have changed and what's being done to mitigate these complaints. Mr. Lauth said the flight paths have not changed. Air Traffic Control (ATC) directs the flight paths and uses wind and other factors to determine which direction is safe for operations. We communicate to ATC that the majority of complaints come from those areas, and we invite them to attend our Safety Meetings to discuss the issue, however there's been no real change. Ms. Barbera said she is glad the Airport responds to complaints in writing. Assistant Airport Manager Michael Clow added that complaints receive a response if we have a mailing address or phone number to contact them.

- November Revenue was favorable for Landing and Fuel Flowage Fees, due to higher than forecasted landings and fuel deliveries to Atlantic Aviation. There were unfavorable variances in Rental and Miscellaneous incomes due to the pending FAA office lease renewal and more than anticipated water usage fees. November saw favorable variances for Employee, Utility, Data Processing Vehicle Maintenance and Airport Maintenance Expenses. Labor Expense was unfavorable due to overtime costs.
- December Revenue was again favorable for Landing Fees due to higher than anticipated landings. Rental income was unfavorable due to the FAA lease renewal. December Expenses for Labor, Data Processing, Vehicle Maintenance and Airport Maintenance were all favorable. Communications Expense was favorable for vehicle radios in good working condition, Utilities Expense for lower than anticipated consumption, and Professional Services due to no need for appraisal or lease specialist services.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager John Lauth reported on the following:

- a. New Airport Entrance Sign on Route 110:** Sign was refurbished at low cost to make it more visible and to incorporate the Airport's logo design. Upgraded LED lighting will be added and there are plans to improve the entrance at Route 109.
- b. Obstructions to Runway Approaches / Tree Trimming:** A survey indicated that trees were creating obstructions to the runway approaches and needed to be removed for safety reasons. Trees were removed near Conklin Street and New Highway and the Southern State Parkway. The Airport also coordinated with the Cemeteries to the east and some residents to the northwest. There are plans to re-plant new trees. Mr. Ceglie added that the last survey was done over 20 years ago. A new survey will be done to verify the absence of obstructions when all trees are removed. NOTAMs have been issued to restrict instrument approaches to certain runways. It could take a year to complete the work and have the corrections entered into FAA's database.
- c. NYS Police Troop L to Partner with NY Blood Center for Blood Drive, Feb 21st:** Event was held at the Main Terminal.
- d. Film Shoot at Nassau Flyers, Netflix "The Night Agent", Feb 5th:** Held at Hangar 2 on New Highway.

Mr. Lauth added that the US Navy Blue Angels will return in May for the 20th Anniversary Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach on Memorial Day weekend. They and other performers will be based at the Airport.

Mr. Ceglio mentioned that Vice-Chairman Bologna informed the Airport about PSEG's plans to perform powerline inspections using low-altitude helicopters over the Massapequa, Amityville, and Copiague areas this week so that the Airport and the public are aware.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio reported on the following:

1. **Alpha Taxiway Project:** Project was completed on time and under budget with only centerline striping and permanent markings left to be done. An outstanding ponding area at the south end of the Airport will also be addressed. All work should be completed by the end of March.
2. **5-Parcel Development Project:** Tree clearing and debris removal is ongoing at Parcel A near Seversky Road.
3. **Hangar 31 RFP:** The facility used to be a Grumman hangar and was transferred to Cablevision and then to First Quality about 15 years ago. The lease is up and the State issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in January. Proposals are due in April and we have 4 potential responders. The State will determine the best value from the proposals to be submitted.
4. **Runway 1/19 Pavement Design Project:** Plans were reviewed with the engineering consultants. We expect the project to go out for bid in 2025 and construction to begin in the fall of 2025 or early 2026. Runway 1/19 will be closed for the duration of the project and Runway 14/32 will be used. The project should take 6-8 months to complete.
5. **Breslau Development/Hangar 85:** Construction is ongoing. The steel frame, side panels, and roof are in place. The interior concrete slab will be poured this week and the project is on course to finish ahead of schedule by the end of Summer 2024.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three (3) individuals commented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
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Dr. Bob Corona, an Echo tenant, asked for the latest information about tie-down spots on Echo ramp and if the new area will have enough space for all the Echo tenants. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio said NYSDOT and Stratosphere are still working on the numbers to make sure that whatever is taken away will be replaced. We understand there are no spots available at MacArthur, Brookhaven, or Gabreski airports and will strive to keep the number of spots at FRG consistent.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, President of Woodland Civic Association, asked for information about the 5-Parcels Open House that was canceled in October, and is there a way to poke them to move forward. Chairman Nocerino said there have been no new developments and he has written letters. Ms. Santangelo asked if there was a legislative process that requires public meetings to address this matter. The Chairman said there will be one more meeting, and Stratosphere did not give the Commission Members enough notice about the October Open House or present material, or even have an Agenda available. He said that the Civics will be given their own table at the Open House when it takes place, and that he plans to speak with NY State Senators Martinez and Weik within the next few weeks. Ms. Santangelo said it seems that it is to Stratosphere's benefit that they delay the meeting as long as possible, and there should be a way to hold them accountable to communicate with the community. Chairman Nocerino said he does not understand why Stratosphere does not want to move forward. Ms. Santangelo said she is concerned that they may have started doing things that will benefit them. Mr. Ceglio said Stratosphere has not been given approval to do anything other than clearing trees and razing the old restaurant. They are aware that they cannot do anything until the Open House takes place with the community, and the Working Group cannot have any meetings because there are no plans for them to review yet. Ms. Santangelo added that the Civic Coalition is still opposed to the 5-parcel development and they still have questions about the award process and the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Ms. Santangelo mentioned 3 aircraft accidents that happened near the Airport in recent years and expressed concern for the safety of the community. She asked about a crash that occurred in Old Bethpage involving fuel and wanted to know when the final report would be available to the public. Mr. Lauth said he will find out if a final report was published. Ms. Santangelo also asked if the Airport was on par with national statistics for the number of major incidents relative to the total number of operations. Mr. Lauth said he will research the information.

Mr. Jim McKenna of the North Lindenhurst Civic Association asked if a 737-300 series aircraft is the largest aircraft allowed to land at this Airport. Mr. Lauth responded that an aircraft of that size is allowed to land here, and they are typically chartered by the New York Islanders and other various sports teams. Mr. McKenna asked if the Aircraft Complaint Report could categorize the jet complaints according to aircraft size. Mr. Lauth replied saying a noise complaint must provide the correct information in order to identify which aircraft generated the complaint. Mr. McKenna said the Airport will get "push-back" from the community about noise, safety, and traffic. Noise from the Blue Angels is acceptable, but nobody wants to hear a 737 at 11:30pm. We are concerned that the parcels will lead to larger aircraft other than charters, which means more traffic, buses, congestion. Chairman Nocerino stated that scheduled airline service is not permitted at this airport and it is part of the State's Transportation Law. RAC has opposed scheduled service for years. Mr. McKenna said that information should be publicized because the public's fear level is high, and the Airport's expansion would allow for larger charter aircraft. Mr. Lauth said the size of the Airport is not changing. The areas being developed are for planes that are already here and want to be housed in a hangar. Corporate jets tend to be larger now but they are a lot quieter than before. Chairman Nocerino said that any of the Commission Members can be invited to speak at a civic meeting if you want to talk about it. Mr. Bodenmiller asked attendees to be wary of mis-information that is circulating about the changes happening at the Airport, and he encouraged everyone to seek facts by contacting the Airport directly with their concerns.

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