

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Vincent Bologna, Jr. at 7:02 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Robert Bodenmiller, Joan Flaumenbaum, and Richard Grant. Chairman Frank Nocerino and Commission member Stella Barbera were unable to attend. Mr. Gary DeVito attended on behalf of NYSDOT.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Because a quorum was not present, the minutes for August, October, and December 2019 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 NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the Operations and Aircraft Complaint Reports for November and December 2019. In the month of November, the FAA reported 18,552 total operations, compared to 14,101 in the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,389 landings compared to 5,232 in the previous year. Touch and Go operations for November totaled 2,176, an increase of 400 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,095 reported, an increase of 64 from the previous year. There were 400 based aircraft in November, a decrease of 13 from the previous year.

In December 2019, the FAA reported 16,174 total operations, compared to 14,858 in the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,513 landings

compared to 5,477 in the previous year. There were 2,099 Touch and Go operations in December, an increase of 79 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were reported as 947, a decrease of 14 from the previous year. There were 396 based aircraft in December, a decrease of 17 from the previous year.

There were 8 noise complaints registered in November 2019 compared to 29 last year. All of the complaints related to daytime operations. One complaint was attributed to helicopter operations, 1 to jet aircraft, and 6 were from an unknown aircraft type. Six complaints were from residents in the northwest sector of the Airport, 1 was from the north, and 1 from the northeast. Two of the complaints were related to arrivals on Runway 19, and 6 could not be identified by runway and were reported as “unknown”. None of the complaints related to based aircraft, 2 were attributed to transient aircraft, and 6 were unknown.

In December 2019, there were 36 noise complaints registered, compared to 21 in the previous year. Eighteen of the total complaints related to daytime operations, 8 related to nighttime, and 10 were unknown. Seven complaints were attributed to jet aircraft, 19 from multi or single engine aircraft, and 10 could not be identified by aircraft type and were reported as “unknown”. Thirty-one of the total noise complaints were from residents living near the northwest sector of the Airport, 3 were from the southeast, 1 from the south, and 1 from the west. Seven complaints were attributed to arrivals on Runway 32, three were from arrivals on Runway 14, fourteen complaints were from Touch and Go operations on Runway 14, and 10 complaints could not be identified by runway. Eighteen complaints were attributed to transient aircraft, 8 to based aircraft, and 10 were unknown.

Commission Member Joan Flaumenbaum asked if there were more flight operations in December, causing the increase in reported noise complaints. Mr. Lauth said yes and that the FAA reported 1,326 more operations in December 2019 over December 2018.

Mr. Lauth read the Financial Reports for November and December 2019. For November revenue, there were unfavorable variances in License Fees and in Fuel Flowage fees due to lower than anticipated fuel deliveries. Miscellaneous Income had an unfavorable variance due to less than anticipated revenue from film shoots. Labor

Expenses in November were favorable due to vacant positions in the Operations department that have since been filled. Employee Expenses were favorable due to planned ARFF Recurrent Training being postponed. There were favorable variances in Office Supplies and Utilities expenses due to lower consumption. The largest favorable variance in November was in Vehicle Maintenance Expenses due to postponing the purchase of ARFF foam because an adequate supply was already on hand.

For December revenue, there were favorable variances in Landing Fees and Fuel Flowage Fees due to increased flight activity and fuel deliveries. Rental Income saw an unfavorable variance due to Stratosphere no longer being required to pay for parking spaces related to Parcel A. Labor Expenses in December saw a favorable variance due to open positions in Operations and lower than anticipated overtime costs. Utilities Expense also had a favorable variance due to lower than expected consumption. Airport Maintenance Expense was unfavorable due to repairs made to a retaining wall on Route 109.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Lauth reported that upcoming film shoots on the Airport included Showtime's "Billions", a CBS show called "FBI: Most Wanted", and HBO's "The Flight Attendant". The Blue Angels arrived for their winter visit on December 19th, 2019 and held an initial meeting with the Airport, NYS Parks Department, and all the agencies involved with the 2020 Bethpage Air Show. Mr. Lauth said that the Airport, in cooperation with the Suffolk County Police Department and NY Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), is actively promoting the "See Something, Say Something" awareness program to Airport tenants and employees as a safety initiative. The Airport also met with NY DHSES to discuss implementing a uniform Active Shooter training program designed specifically for the Airport and its FBOs and tenants. Mr. Lauth mentioned that the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony took place at the American Airpower Museum on December 7, 2019, and it was the first time that there were no actual Pearl Harbor survivors in attendance. Finally, Mr. Lauth mentioned that Airport Maintenance Manager Dennis McCormick had retired, and the Airport was in the process of filling the vacant position.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: Mr. Lauth stated that the project is expected to commence by early Summer 2020 and will take about one year to complete.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: No changes.
3. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Construction of the 4th hangar is still underway.
4. Snow & Ice Control Material Storage Structure: Mr. Lauth said construction of the foundation began on December 16th, 2019 and the structure is expected to be completed by end of March 2020.
5. NY State Infrastructure Grant for \$1.5M / Entrance Roads: Mr. Lauth said the paving and striping was completed but concrete parking blocks still need to be installed.
6. Five Parcel Development Project: Mr. Lauth stated that Chairman Nocerino informed him there were no changes to report.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five (5) individuals commented.

Vice-Chairman Bologna adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
February 11, 2020

Mr. Mark Goldberg, an Echo tenant, thanked the Airport for accommodating his group of Boy Scouts on a recent tour of the Airport.

Ms. Louise Skrzynecki, a Farmingdale resident, said she was concerned about planes “buzzing” over her house throughout the day. She said she has lived in her home for 47 years and it started in September of 2019. She asked to know what is being done about it because it is dangerous. Mr. Glen Kidd, Airport Operations Manager, replied that the winds typically favor Runway 14/32 during the winter months. Airport Manager John Lauth added that, for safety reasons, ATC works with the pilot and controls the movement of the aircraft. He said the wind direction will determine which runway is used. Mr. Lauth stated that Mr. Kidd will investigate the aircraft patterns over Ms. Skrzynecki’s home and try to find out the reason for the activity in that area.

Mr. Mario Espinosa from the Farmingdale Board of Education asked to know if the annual Pearl Harbor Ceremonies would no longer be held. Airport Manager John Lauth replied that there had been actual Pearl Harbor survivors who attended ceremonies in the past but no survivors attended the event in December. He said he hopes the tradition will continue.

Mr. Espinosa asked to know the reason for the meeting about Active Shooter training. Airport Manager John Lauth replied that members of NY DHSES contacted the Airport about providing fundamental Active Shooter training to Airport tenants and personnel. He said Airport management agreed it was a good idea.

Nancy Cypser from the Woodland Civic Association asked if the Runway 1/19 Safety Area Improvements is the same project that the Airport had asked for variances with some New York State safety regulations. She said her civic association had written a letter about 1 ½ years earlier in response to some of the State’s safety codes being moved from an “Optimum” safety level to an “Acceptable” safety level. Airport Manager John Lauth asked Ms. Cypser to give him a copy of the letter so that he could answer her question correctly.

Mr. John Lisi of the Daniel Street Civic Association asked if the 4,400 increase in FAA’s reported November Operations can be attributed to recent warm weather. Airport Manager John Lauth replied that

warmer weather or lower fuel prices could be factors for the increase in operations.

Mr. Lisi said he had previously asked for a revision to the Operations Report to show which aircraft are operating “after hours” and to identify the “repeat offenders”. Airport Manager John Lauth said this information will not be included in the report. Operations Manager Glen Kidd added that he had prepared an initial report on nighttime operations and the aircraft types to give to Mr. Lisi at the October and December RAC meetings, however Mr. Lisi did not attend either meeting. Mr. Lisi asked Mr. Kidd to email the information to him.

Mr. Lisi stated that the civic groups have been told for over a year that there have been no changes with the status of the 5 parcels project. He said that NYSDOT and FAA have a pattern of not communicating with the RAC which is not satisfactory. He asked if the Commission was being complacent in seeking answers to their questions, and he asked the Commission to seek answers from officials with higher authority. Mr. Lisi said that the civic groups rely on the Commission to be an intermediary between the powers that be and the community. He said they want to prompt some dialogue because it seems everything takes too long to happen.

Vice-Chairman Bologna replied that Chairman Nocerino has been in contact with NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner Ron Epstein but there was no new information available. Airport Manager John Lauth stated that the project is currently going through the Environmental Assessment process with FAA. He said he has asked to know what phase the project is in but has not yet received a response. Mr. Lauth said that Chairman Nocerino received a letter from Evelyn Martinez of FAA and a copy was forwarded to NYSDOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez. Mr. Lauth stated that Chairman Nocerino spoke to Mr. Epstein about setting up a meeting with Commissioner Dominguez, who was newly appointed as head of DOT only a few months earlier. Vice-Chairman Bologna said he would inform Chairman Nocerino of Mr. Lisi’s concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.