

**MINUTES**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JUNE 7, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nocerino at 7:03 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Stella Barbera and Joan Flaumenbaum. Robert Bodenmiller and Richard Grant were absent.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Nocerino announced that nothing new has been communicated from Albany since the last Commission meeting. The RFP for the five parcel development has been released. Nothing further has been reported.

In regard to community concern over Empire State Development (ESD) involvement in the decision making process pertaining to the five parcel development, all decision making has been clarified and NYSDOT makes the final decision on the development proposals at Republic Airport. This Commission will prepare a statement to ESD to consider any tax concerns with the community. This will be on record by the end of this summer. The letter will contain language that the Republic Airport Commission will be involved in any decision making processes. Commissioner Nocerino added that each commissioner here are also residents of the surrounding communities and are emphatic in the involvement of the proposals.

Commissioner Nocerino acknowledged Shelley LaRose-Arken as Commissioner of Long Island MacArthur Airport. This Commission is delighted to hear of her continued success and the Town of Islip has made a great choice in this appointment.

Robert Yturraspe, Airport Manager, announced the promotion of John Lauth to Assistant Airport Manager. Mr. Lauth was formerly the operations manager and has worked at Republic Airport for over 32 years. The Commission congratulated Mr. Lauth.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Bill Gordon of the American Airpower Museum and Blue Angel Captain Jeff Kuss.

## **II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commission Chairman, Frank Nocerino, announced that due to lack of quorum, the elections will be held at the next meeting.

## **III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Due to lack of quorum, the April minutes were not adopted..

## **IV. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A change to the agenda was made to reflect the next Republic Airport Commission meeting will beheld on Monday, August 8, 2016..

## **V. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. REPORTS**

#### **1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2016**

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for March and April 2016 were discussed by Mr. Robert Yturraspe, Airport Manager. In the month of March, the FAA recorded 20,246 total operations. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,867 landings, an increase in all categories except jet operations which were down by 5 from the prior year. Touch and go operations for March were higher from last year with 2,476 reported. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,236 being reported, an increase of 707 from the previous year. There were 456 based aircraft in March, a decrease from the year before.

In April 2015, the FAA recorded 20,082 total operations, an increase from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,625 landings. 428 were a result of single engine aircraft which was an increase of 461 totals from the previous year. Touch & gos were higher with 2,424 reported. Passenger numbers increased to by 64 from the previous year. There were 461 based aircraft in April.

There were 4 noise complaints registered in March; two during the day one at night and one unknown. The complaints were predominantly caused by jet aircraft. These events were reported by residents residing in the northeast and southwest sectors of the airport. Three were related to transient aircraft and the other was unknown.

There were a total of 5 noise complaints registered in April; three during the day and two at night. The majority of the complaints registered were attributed to jet aircraft. Two were based aircraft and three were related to transient aircraft.

Commissioner Nocerino inquired if noise complaint letters were sent to transient aircraft owners and pilots. Mr. Yurraspe replied, "Yes."

Commissioner Nocerino inquired if weather or other explanation to the higher number of aircraft operations. Mr. Yurraspe responded that apparently more flight students are flying. Commissioner Nocerino remarked that as "encouraging news."

Mr. Gary Barnable discussed the Financial Reports for the months of March and April 2016. March is the end of the fiscal year. 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. Fuel flowage was higher and tie downs were lower. Expenses were higher due to end of year purchasing of printing and paper supplies.

April is the new fiscal year; most categories were better than what was actually budgeted. Landing fees, fuel flowage and rental income were higher than forecasted. AFCO/AvPorts management contract was just approved. No expense information for the month of April was available yet but will be reported at the next RAC meeting.

## 2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

On May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>h</sup> Memorial Day Weekend, the Bethpage Federal

Credit Union Air Show at Jones Beach was held at Jones Beach. The crowd exceeded capacity and broke all records. Approximately 184,000 attended on Saturday and over 200,000 on Sunday. Approximate 45,000 attended on Friday to observe the performer's practices.

**B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS**

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: To protect the FAA grant, NYSDOT has accelerated a portion of the Runway 1-19 Safety Area project. Relocation of Hangars 2 and 3 will take longer to investigate. The bids for Runway 1-19 shift and perimeter road improvements are in. The last piece will be the hangar relocations and Taxiway Golf and will be incorporated in the next contract. Intercounty Paving was the lowest bidder among five solid, competitive bidders. Once the FAA concurs, then the contract will be awarded. Runway 1-19 will be closed during the construction period which is scheduled to begin this summer. Runway 1-19 will remain closed until Hangars 2 and 3 are relocated and the required clearance for taxiway Golf is established. Commissioner Nocerino added that the Airport is not forcing aircraft in any particular direction due to the closure on Runway 1-19 but the community must be made aware.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: The application is still under review.
3. RFP by ESD for long term lease of Five Development Parcels: Previously discussed.
4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: NYSDOT is currently waiting on design plans. Commissioner Nocerino added that Sheltair has met with various community groups. Ms. Helen Norjen acknowledged his statement. Mr. Barnable added that no changes have been announced from the proposal.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three (3) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday - August 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION**  
JUNE 7, 2016

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association acknowledged that they had met with Sheltair and expressed their concern over the Newsday article which reported hangar space over 210,000 square feet.

Ms. Norjen inquired of the status of the 60,000 weight limit. She added that the February meeting minutes said "subsequent to the meeting, the Commission was provided with status." Ms. Norjen inquired if an executive session was held and would like a copy of that minutes. In addition; there was a typo in the February meeting minutes that should read "120,000 square feet, not 210." Commissioner Nocerino explained the Commission did not meet. Ms. Norjen inquired if this matter was still in litigation and why is not being vigorously pursued. Commissioner Nocerino added that the Commission will inquire further.

Ms. Norjen stated she was glad to hear that this Commission is writing a letter to Albany addressing that this Commission should be included in the planning of the parcel development

Ms. Norjen reminded the Commission that she requested a letter be sent to the Governor in regard to the Transfer Legislation and PILOT program. The land on airport property, the ALP approved plan all relate to the Transfer Legislation and must be adhered to. Non-aviation use must be addressed now. Commissioner Nocerino agreed and said it will be addressed in his next correspondence to Albany. Commissioner Nocerino asked Ms. Norjen to please provide the Commission with as much factual documentation to assist in supporting these concerns before the opportunity to do so is missed.

Ms. Norjen noted the length of time that has passed since NYSDOT has had a representative at these meetings. She inquired when we can expect someone to be in regular attendance again. Commissioner Nocerino responded that this was being discussed just prior to the meeting tonight. Mr. Barnable concurred. Commissioner Nocerino added that a NYSDOT representative is needed here for many reasons. Ms. Norjen added that "we deserve to have someone here." Commissioner Nocerino agreed. Commissioner Barbera added that the seat is a voting member of this Commission and we have not had a NYSDOT representative since Subi Chakraborti. This must be reestablished quickly. Ms. Norjen asked Mr. Barnable to please address this issue.

Mr. Ralph DiLiello, a resident of Farmingdale, inquired if the Governor and his representatives were aware of the fact that the general public is against commercial airlines coming to this area. Commissioner Nocerino responded that the Commission has met with several area residents and this notion is off the table. Governor Cuomo's remarks were taken seriously and thanks to many people voicing their concerns, producing accurate facts and figures in addition to newspaper articles expressing same, he has since moved his focus to Macarthur Airport.

Mr. DiLiello inquired about aircraft curfews on early morning departures and late night arrivals. Mr. Yturraspe stated there is no curfew and prevailing winds determine runway usage. Mr. John Lauth, Assistant Airport Manager added that the Air Traffic Control Tower opens at 7am daily. Commissioner Nocerino added that flight students are most likely training at that hour on weekends. The control tower does their best, however weather and wind are beyond their control. Mr. Lauth explained Republic Airport's voluntary Noise Abatement procedures. An audience member spoke up over her concerns for midnight to 5am flights that were repetitious and loud. Mr. Lauth responded that during overnight hours, the airport could receive medical flights. Commissioner Nocerino added that these flights are usually emergency blood runs and organ donations. Mr. Lauth added that any touch and go or student flight instruction is discouraged and the operations department does speak to the pilots if this is happening in the overnight hours.

Ms. Joan Donnison of the Bay Village Civic Association asked for clarification for notifying the airport of noise complaints. She has not heard back from anyone by phone or in writing in the past six months. Mr. Yturraspe apologized and said he would address this. She asked if the former procedures will return. Mr. Yturraspe responded, Yes."

Ms. Donnison asked about the relocation of the buildings alongside the runway that will be closed. Mr. Barnable explained that Sheltair hangar is not moving. Ms. Donnison asked if the buildings will be moved in July or August. Mr. Barnable clarified that the runway shift will be happening this summer, not the hangar relocation. Ms. Donnison inquired when the paving will begin? Mr. Barnable responded that the anticipated start of the project is July/August of this year and once it begins, it will be completed in 180 days. They are hoping to complete as much pavement work by November to avoid weather and temperature delays.

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