

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:02 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 August and October 2018 were adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

Chairman Nocerino stated he received a response from NYSDOT Acting Commissioner Paul A. Karas to his invitation and they will meet after January. Chairman Nocerino said he will also suggest that a meeting be held with the Coalition.

Chairman Nocerino said he received some questions from John Lisi of the Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance and the Daniel Street Civic Association about the 5-parcel project, which he forwarded to Ron Epstein, Executive Deputy Commissioner at NYSDOT. He stated that Stella Barbera will schedule a meeting with the Working Group and invite Mr. Adam Katz or his representative to attend.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2018

The Operations and Aircraft Complaint Reports for September and October 2018 were discussed by Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager. In the month of September, the FAA reported 15,739 total operations, compared to 18,039 from 2017. The Airport Operations

Department reported 5,728 landings. Touch and go operations for September were slightly lower than last year with 1,977 reported. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,184 being reported, an increase of 48 from the previous year. There were 410 based aircraft in September, a decrease of 62 from the year before.

In October 2018, the FAA reported 16,665 total operations, compared to 18,860 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,114 landings. Touch and go operations for October were lower than last year with 2,129 reported. Passenger numbers were unchanged from the previous year, with 1,039 reported. There were 418 based aircraft in October, a decrease of 24 from the year before.

Commission Member Joan Flaumenbaum asked why there was a decline in operations in September and October from the previous year. Airport Manager Rick McElroy responded that there was no particular reason, including weather-related reasons. He said the numbers reflect the people's preference for flying.

Commission Member Stella Barbera commented on the decline in jet operations and questioned if aircraft were flying to other airports nearby.

There were 37 noise complaints registered in September of this year compared to 60 last year. Twenty-six complaints were related to the day and 11 for night. Eighteen of the 37 complaints were caused by jet aircraft, 6 from multi/single aircraft, 1 from helicopter, and 12 were from an unknown aircraft type. Seventeen complaints were identified as arrivals on Runway 14. Twelve of the complaints could not be identified by runway, 3 complaints were from touch and go's on Runway 32, and 2 complaints from touch and go's on Runway 01. Thirty-five of the noise complaints were reported by residents in the northwest sector of the Airport. Sixteen complaints were caused by transient aircraft, 8 complaints from based aircraft, and 13 were unknown.

There were 29 noise complaints registered in October of this year, compared to 103 in the previous year. Twenty-two complaints related to the day, and 7 related to night. Ten of the complaints were attributed to jet aircraft, 8 were from multi/single aircraft, 3 from helicopters, and 8 were unknown. Eight complaints were attributed to departures on Runway 32. Another 8 complaints could not be identified by runway, 6 complaints were

from touch and go's on Runway 32, and 2 complaints were from arrivals on Runway 32. The majority of the 29 complaints came from the northwest area of the Airport. Six complaints were caused by based aircraft, 15 from transient, and 8 were unknown.

The Financial Reports for September and October 2018 were discussed by Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director. For September, the total revenue was \$38,068.39 below the budgeted amount, mostly across all categories except for License Fees. The largest shortfall came from Miscellaneous Income, which was \$19,206.54 below the budgeted amount because the Airport did not receive the estimated number of film shoots. For September, the Total Expenses were \$71,622.93 below the budgeted amount. The largest under-run was from Labor Expense, due to a 4-week payroll billing cycle, one open position that will be filled in the near future, and an employee out on medical leave. Professional Services were under budget due to savings on the new Security System maintenance contract, and for Appraisals that were not realized during the month because they were not needed at this time.

Mr. Barnable reported that the Total Revenue for October was \$33,355.85 below the budgeted amount. The largest shortfall was from Miscellaneous Income, which was \$15,836.87 below budget. In October, a film shoot for the TV show "Bull", brought in \$4,188. Total Expenses were under the budgeted about by \$98,636.96. The largest under-run was for Airport Maintenance due to projects being pushed back to future months. A project to replace the outside doors in the Main Terminal was budgeted for November but has been pushed to December. A project to remove rubber on the runways was pushed back to next Spring during better weather conditions, and the purchase of aero paint and beads was pushed back to future months. Mr. Barnable stated that there was an increase in film shoot activity for November and December from TV shows "The Code", "Manifest", "Billions", and "Madam Secretary". He said the Airport collected \$81,332 from films shoots in October and November.

Commission Member Richard Grant asked if the film shoots are booked far in advance or month-to-month. Mr. Barnable answered that film shoots are scheduled without much advance notice and the Airport tries to accommodate their schedule. Mr. McElroy mentioned that the Airport budgeted approximately \$105,000 in film shoot revenue this year and has received about \$100,000 so far. He commented that film shoots will

probably pickup again in March or April next year. Mr. Barnable added that the revenue from film shoots will help to fund some of the projects on the Airport.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Barnable mentioned the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony that took place on December 7th at the American Airpower Museum. There were no Pearl Harbor survivors in attendance this year.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: Mr. Barnable said that work on the plans is continuing and they will try to get it out next year. On November 7th, 2018, the Notice of Availability of the Technical Memorandum, which is part of the NEPA/SEQRA process, was published in Newsday. Letters were sent to DEC and the Town of Babylon. It was also posted on the Airport's website and copies were made available for public viewing at local libraries. Mr. Barnable stated the 30-day comment period ended on December 7th, 2018, and all comments were directed to the Aviation Bureau of NYS DOT. He said the Aviation Bureau will compile the comments and work with the Office of Environment to take any further action as appropriate. After that, the Bureau will send it to FAA for their Environmental process.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: No changes.
3. RFP by ESD for long term lease of Five Development Parcels: Mr. Barnable said the draft EA (Environmental Assessment) was submitted to FAA on October 18th, 2018. When FAA has completed their review, the document will be put out for a 45-day public review period and the public meeting will be planned. Mr. Barnable stated, to his understanding, the public meeting will be held during the 45-day public review period.

Chairman Frank Nocerino said he will request that the public meeting be scheduled in the evening to better accommodate community members so that more people can attend.

4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Mr. Barnable stated that Sheltair is still working on the opening of two of their hangars. He said there is still work being done with the

Security Fence and a few other items before they can open their doors for customers, and they still need to get Certificates of Occupancy.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two (2) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019 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
DECEMBER 17, 2018

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident, stated that she made 3 FOIL requests for copies of RAC Meeting minutes, Operations reports, and Aircraft Complaint reports from various years. She also requested to see Talon's short-term lease for Echo Ramp and a description with images or maps of the Echo Ramp reconfiguration. She said that she met with Interim Airport Director Gary Barnable and Assistant Airport Manager John Lauth to discuss Echo Ramp. Ms. Santangelo stated that, although she believes the actual physical ramp reconfiguration does not match how it is configured in the RFP, she believes it functionally provides the same result, which is easier and faster access to their planes. She said she questions how long this lease is going to be in effect. Ms. Santangelo stated that having a Master Plan would be very helpful to the people who pay rent for tie-downs and those who actively use the Airport. She said they should know what the long-term plans are for tie-down configurations so they can respond. A Master Plan would be helpful to the community with respect to aviation uses and non-aviation uses, because the Airport isn't necessarily paying taxes and that shifts the tax burden to homeowners. She stated a Master Plan would be helpful so that we can have informed discussions about what the vision is for the Airport, and therefore the community, since the Airport is part of the community.

Chairman Nocerino responded that there have been 2 or 3 Master Plans in the past, and then a Vision Plan. He said numerous attempts were made to have a Master Plan but NYSDOT declined to do it. Commission Member Stella Barbera commented that there were Workshops and Working Group meetings held to discuss the Vision Plan. Chairman Nocerino responded that the Commission has done everything that it can do.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked if it would be helpful to have community members contact people like Senator Brooks to get involved. Chairman Nocerino replied that he would make it part of his discussion with the Acting Commissioner, but the main thing is to discuss getting another member for the RAC Commission. He also said to continue making FOIL requests.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association, stated that the reason the Master Plan wasn't approved was because people didn't want the Design Aircraft category changed to C-III, which includes the 200,000 lb Boeing 727. She said the Vision Plan was very vague and it wasn't specific like a Master Plan. She read aloud a letter that she wrote to Chairman Nocerino stating her concerns and asking the Chairman to discuss them with the Acting Commissioner. She said she wanted to know how and when

NYSDOT was selected to be the Lead Agency for the Environmental Review. She asked for Chairman Nocerino to ask Acting Commissioner Karas to do the RFP process over and let the public be included from the beginning instead of being left out. Ms. Norjen stated that the October 2018 Operations Report showed an increase in the number of based jets from 48 in 2017 to 57 in 2018. She noted it was nearly a 20% increase in jets and asked if it was caused by the Sheltair project. Chairman Nocerino responded that Sheltair backed down on the number of jets in their original proposal. He said that based jets were down in September and up in October, and that the numbers can fluctuate.

Ms. Norjen asked to know the procedure for updating the Airport Layout Plan. She said the public needs to know the Plan from the beginning and it requires a separate public meeting. Republic Airport and NYSDOT has obligations to follow the legal process. Ms. Norjen asked for a status on the 20-year injunction against the 60,000 lb aircraft weight limit. She said that the Woodland Civic Association had sent a letter regarding the improvements to Runway 1/19 and asked if the letter was received. Mr. Barnable responded that it was received.

Chairman wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. He stated that the next RAC meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2019, and the 2019 RAC meeting schedule will be posted on the Airport's website.

Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Helen G. Norjen
26 Hawthorne Street
East Farmingdale, NY 11735
October 12, 2018

RAC Chairman Frank Nocerino
7150 Republic Airport, Room 216
East Farmingdale, NY 11735

Dear Commissioner Nocerino:

I hope this info is helpful when you meet with DOT Commissioner Karas. It shows that NYSDOT has a legal obligation to include the RAC in the decision making process. DOT did not comply with SEQRA when it approved a brief, inaccurate EA for the largest project ever at Republic Airport. DOT failed to properly inform the RAC and the public during the environmental review process. The size of this project and its impacts on our environment definitely deserve comprehensive review in an EIS.

Critical to this conditional award is why the 2015 RFP, that included non-aviation development, was superceded with a 2016 RFP that allowed only aviation development. The elimination of non-aviation is not consistent with the current FAA approved Airport Layout Plan that shows 3 parcels as: compatible non-aviation, aviation compatible (cleverly obscured on the map) or restaurant, all of which would make PILOT payments as was provided for in the 1982 transfer legislation.

There are many other questions and concerns about the way NYSDOT maneuvered through the RFP process, especially when they didn't mention the huge Sheltair development in their brief EA. Please tell Commissioner Karas that the conditional award of 5 very valuable airport parcels needs much further scrutiny and community involvement. He now has the authority to correct the DOT's actions by rescinding the conditional award.

Thank you in advance for helping to protect our communities.

Sincerely,



Helen G. Norjen, member

The Republic Airport Civic Coalition for Transparency and

Compliance

cc: John Lisi, RACCTC
encl: NYS Transportation Law - art: 15, sect: 400, pg: 5
Newsday: 3/2/17 article
TOB-FBC: pg: 1-1
DOT/EA: pg: 13
RA/2016 ALP