

**MINUTES**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JUNE 11, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:05 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Robert Bodenmiller, Vincent Bologna, Jr., and Richard Grant. Commission Members Stella Barbera and Joan Flaumenbaum were unable to attend.

Chairman Nocerino said that he spoke with NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner Ron Epstein about various topics. He said a public hearing will be held for the draft Environmental Assessment, and that NYSDOT is close to appointing a new Commissioner. He stated that the search for a new Airport Director is ongoing, and that a NYSDOT representative needs to be appointed to the RAC. Chairman Nocerino mentioned that The Albany Times newspaper contacted him for a comment about their recent articles on Talon Air. He said he chose not to comment because the articles were not written about Republic Airport.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Because no quorum was present, the minutes for April 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 MARCH AND APRIL 2019

Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager, discussed the Operations and Aircraft Complaint Reports for March and April 2019. In the month of March, the FAA

reported 18,007 total operations, compared to 16,738 in 2018. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,231 landings. Touch and Go operations for March were 2,397, an increase of 252 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,147 being reported, an increase of 58 from the previous year. There were 413 based aircraft in March, a decrease of 19 from the previous year.

In April 2019, the FAA reported 15,265 total operations, compared to 17,461 in 2018. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,322 landings. There were 1,927 Touch and Go operations in April, a decrease of 104 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were reported as 960, a decrease of 129 from the previous year. There were 416 based aircraft in April, a decrease of 10 from the previous year.

There were 20 total noise complaints registered in March 2019 compared to 2 last year. The majority of the complaints were related to daytime operations. Fourteen complaints were attributed to an unknown aircraft type, 4 related to jet aircraft, and 2 related to multi/single engine aircraft. Residents in the northwest sector of the Airport reported 15 of the total noise complaints. Two of the total complaints were identified as Touch and Go operations on Runway 32, two complaints were from departures on Runway 14, and fourteen complaints could not be identified by runway. Three complaints were attributed to based aircraft, 3 complaints to transient aircraft, and 14 were unknown.

There were 18 noise complaints registered in April 2019, compared to 7 the previous year. Sixteen of the total complaints were related to daytime operations. Sixteen complaints could not be identified by aircraft type, and 2 complaints were from jet aircraft. Thirteen of the total noise complaints were from residents living near the northwest sector of the Airport, and 4 complaints were from the north. One complaint was attributed to a departure on Runway 14, one from an arrival on Runway 14, and 15 complaints were reported as either unknown or other. One complaint was attributed to aircraft based at the Airport, one from a transient aircraft, and 16 were unknown.

Chairman Nocerino asked what defines an aircraft as “unknown”. Mr. McElroy

responded that it is an aircraft that might be headed to LaGuardia or JFK, and not specifically flying to Republic Airport.

Mr. McElroy read the Financial Reports for March and April 2019. In March, there was a favorable Net Operating variance of \$22,674. Of that amount, \$15,220 was for Airport Maintenance expenses for airside painting that was budgeted for March but done in April.

Mr. McElroy said the Total Revenue for April showed a positive variance of \$88,567, mostly related to budgeting for a new Sand and Salt storage unit in April that will not be constructed until late summer. Vehicle Maintenance expenses in April included the purchase of ARFF foam that was budgeted in February.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. McElroy reported that the first-floor public restrooms renovation project was completed. He said that the 2019 Bethpage Air Show in May went off successfully, and that the US Navy Blue Angels will be appearing in next year's Air Show. Mr. McElroy reported that there were several film shoots at the Airport, and that a few more are scheduled in June. Chairman Nocerino thanked Sheltair Aviation for hosting a Flight Line event during Air Show weekend.

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

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: Mr. McElroy reported no changes.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: The project is moving forward. A review of their fuel farm will take place.
3. Five Parcels Development: No changes.
4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Three hangars are complete, and construction of a fourth hangar will begin soon. Sheltair will continue to operate

out of both the old and new locations.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Six (6) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2019 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

June 11, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey Chipetine, and Echo tenant, commented on the lack of water available to the Echo tie-down area, saying the inability to wash aircraft is posing a serious burden for tenants. He said the solution is to move a single airplane out of spot 74 which is occupying the old wash rack. He said he would like this corrected. Mr. Mike Groner, another Echo tenant, said he had the same question as Mr. Chipetine.

Chairman Nocerino responded that the situation it will be investigated.

Mr. John Lisi of the Daniel Street Civic Association, said that on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, he wrote on behalf of the Coalition to Ms. Evelyn Martinez, Manager of FAA New York Airports District Office, regarding the FAA's undertaking of the NEPA approval process of the 5 parcels. He stated that her reply on May 23<sup>rd</sup> said that FAA was working in concert with NYSDOT, reviewing the Environmental Assessment and all other aspects of this approval. Mr. Lisi said he emailed Ms. Martinez to ask why the FAA was working with NYSDOT, which owns the parcels and is interested in contracting them to Stratosphere, when the FAA and NYSDOT are two separate agencies. He said he did not receive an answer yet. Mr. Lisi continued by referring to an FAA webpage that showed the status of work permits and that permanent construction work had been authorized on the parcels. Mr. Lisi commented that it is the beginning of the construction of the parcels without the approval of FAA, NYS Attorney General, or other required sign-offs. He said it was an insult to the public since there have been no public meetings which are required by NEPA. He said the Coalition is giving thought on how to get an injunction to stop this. Chairman Nocerino responded that he will speak with Mr. Epstein and will find out about the work permits. Mr. Lisi asked Chairman Nocerino if he would get in touch with Ms. Martinez from FAA, rather than asking Mr. Epstein about what the FAA is doing. Chairman Nocerino responded that he will try to speak with FAA.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association said that the Civics are going to be counting on the Commission to make sure that the process is being carried out as written by law. She said they need to know if there is going to be a public hearing or a public meeting, and she urged the Commission to find out what is going on. Chairman Nocerino responded that Mr. Epstein informed him they have committed to holding a public meeting as part of the review process.

Ms. Norjen commented that noise complaints for "unknown aircraft" in the Aircraft Complaint

reports should be identifiable because the take offs and landings are supposed to be logged. Assistant Airport Manager John Lauth responded that takeoffs and landings are logged, and that complaints are investigated using the logs to see if there are any aircraft operating close to the time of the reported noise event. Sometimes the “unknowns” cannot be identified because of the level of general air traffic at the Airport at the reported time. Chairman Nocerino urged residents who file a noise complaint to provide the most accurate time possible, along with any details that will help with the investigation.

Mr. Denis Garbo, of the Lighthouse Point Civic Association, said that the Aircraft Complaint report for March 2019 shows a ten-fold increase in complaints when compared to the same month last year. He asked what the purpose of the report is if no one is going to question this much of an increase. He asked if any action is being taken to minimize complaints. Mr. John Lauth, Assistant Airport Manager said that noise complaints are investigated to identify the aircraft and find out why the pilot did not follow recommended procedures. Mr. Lauth said that a spike in noise complaints does not necessarily represent an increase in the number of individual households filing a complaint, but rather may be caused by one person filing multiple complaints. That person may live in an area where activity is concentrated, such as the area to the northwest. The Airport has permanent signs on the runways that indicate to pilots the presence of noise-sensitive areas. Mr. Lauth said that pilots are notified to stay within established flight patterns in order to avoid those areas. From time to time, weather conditions or other variables may require an aircraft to divert from these procedures for safety reasons.

Ms. Norjen commented that Republic Airport has a Preferential Runway Use Plan for Runway 1/19. Mr. Lauth said that the Airport uses the preferential Runway system to mitigate air traffic to the northwest. He said Operations personnel speak to pilots of large aircraft about preferential runway use and give them copies of the recommended Noise Abatement procedures. He explained that if pilots are not able to use Runway 1/19, then there are alternatives: instead of departing from Runway 32, we tell them to depart from Runway 14, away from the northwest area. If they must depart from Runway 32, possibly due to weather, we tell them to make the turn-out. Mr. Lauth said these procedures are part of the Preferential Runway plan, and that due to safety reasons, ATC may sometimes re-route aircraft to depart straight out and not make the turn. He said the Airport is very conscious of the Preferential Runway plan and strives to make pilots who are new to the Airport more aware of these procedures.

Chairman Nocerino asked Airport Manager Rick McElroy if Airport management could meet with ATC about the procedures for Preferential Runways and Noise Abatement.

Ms. Tina Diamond of The Concerned Citizens Association of Farmingdale mentioned the articles in the Albany Times that claimed the 5-parcel bidding process was corrupted. She wanted to know what the Commission can do to stop the process. Chairman Nocerino said the RAC's hands are tied, but the Coalition and the public can write to their representatives and the new Commissioner to express their concerns. Chairman Nocerino said he will write a letter to FAA about the information that Mr. Lisi provided.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm