

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:01 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, Vincent Bologna, Jr., Joan Flaumenbaum, and Richard Grant.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Nocerino announced that, despite the departure of Acting Commissioner Paul Karas from NYSDOT, he was still planning to meet with the new Commissioner in the future. He also stated that Interim Airport Director Gary Barnable had retired since the last RAC meeting, and that Mr. Gary DeVito, P.E. was present as a representative of NYSDOT.

Assistant Airport Manager John Lauth introduced the Airport's new Security Supervisor, Mr. Everett McCain. Mr. Lauth stated that Mr. McCain has over 30 years of law enforcement experience working for the Port Authority Police Department and had previously worked at JFK, LaGuardia, and Teterboro airports.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A quorum was present and the minutes for December 2018 and February 2019 were adopted.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019

Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager, discussed the Operations and Aircraft Complaint Reports for January and February 2019. In the month of January, the FAA reported 14,326 total operations, compared to 14,196 in 2018. The Airport

Operations Department reported 5,257 landings. Touch and Go operations for January were 2,167, an increase of 476 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,042 being reported, an increase of 72 from the previous year. There were 413 based aircraft in January, a decrease of 28 from the previous year.

In February 2019, the FAA reported 14,051 total operations, compared to 15,928 in 2018. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,939 landings. There were 1,704 Touch and Go operations in February, a decrease of 365 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were reported as 905, an increase of 21 from the previous year. There were 412 based aircraft in January, a decrease of 18 from the previous year.

There were 19 total noise complaints registered in January 2019 compared to 36 last year. All 19 complaints were related to daytime operations. Seventeen complaints were attributed to multi/single engine aircraft. Residents near the northwest sector of the Airport reported all 19 noise complaints. Eleven of the complaints were identified as Touch and Go operations on Runway 32, and 3 complaints were from arrivals on Runway 01. Thirteen complaints were attributed to based aircraft, 5 from transient aircraft, and one was unknown.

There were 6 noise complaints registered in February 2019, compared to 33 the previous year. Five of the complaints were filed for daytime operations. Four complaints were attributed to multi/single engine aircraft, 1 was from jet aircraft, and 1 was from an unknown aircraft type. Five of the total noise complaints were from residents living near the northwest sector of the Airport. Four of the total complaints were identified as Touch and Go operations on Runway 32. Four complaints were attributed to aircraft based at the Airport, 1 from a transient aircraft, and one was unknown.

Mr. McElroy stated that the Airport's new website, which is still under construction, will give users the ability to file noise complaints electronically by completing an online form. This option will be offered in addition to the current

methods of filing noise complaints by phone and email.

Mr. McElroy read the Financial Reports for January and February 2019. In January, there was a negative Net Operating variance of \$153,330.56. Total Revenue was under budget by \$190,772.25, due mainly to budgeting the annual Rental Income from the 5 parcels in January, but it actually was not realized until February. Expenses for January had positive variances, predominantly in the categories of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) for ARFF, the new telephone system, and savings from the new security system contract.

Mr. McElroy said the Total Revenue for February showed a positive variance of \$215,571.46, mostly related to January revenues not being realized until February. Expenses showed a negative variance of \$8,240.05 due to Labor expenses for overtime caused by snow events.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. McElroy said that the first-floor restrooms in the Main Terminal building were currently undergoing a complete renovation. He stated that the project might be completed before the Bethpage Air Show on Memorial Day weekend, but no later than mid-June.

Mr. McElroy stated that the Airport received \$1.5 million in state funding from the State Aviation Capital Grant Program for road repairs, which has not been addressed for over 20 years. The project will begin in Spring 2019. He said there were several film shoots that took place over the last few months, including CBS's "The Code", Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel", and HBO's "Succession". He went on to say that the Airport will participate in an upcoming tabletop exercise for the 2019 Bethpage Air Show.

Mr. McElroy mentioned that the Airport received approval to construct a storage facility for the salt and sand used on runways and taxiways during winter weather events. That project is scheduled to be completed by the end of Summer 2019. Commissioner Joan Flaumenbaum asked where the storage unit would be located.

Mr. McElroy responded that it will be constructed at the south end of the Maintenance garage against the fence line, and it will be approximately 30' x 30' in size.

Chairman Nocerino added that the 2019 PGA Tournament will take place in May at Bethpage State Park, which will help generate revenue for the Airport and for the local communities. He also thanked Commissioner Stella Barbera and members of the Working Group for their work at their January meeting and asked her to provide a brief summary.

Commissioner Barbera said the Working Group members held a very productive meeting. She said the goal was to produce a list of questions and concerns the Working Group had about the 5-parcel development. She stated that input was requested from Civic groups that were not able to have a representative in attendance, so that their opinions could be included. She said the list was provided to Chairman Nocerino and she hopes the Chairman will be able to share these concerns with the new NYSDOT Commissioner before any construction takes place.

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: No changes.
3. Five Parcels Development: No changes
4. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Mr. McElroy stated that COs (Certificates of Occupancy) were issued for 3 of the new hangars, 2 of which are occupied, and that Sheltair has a permit to build a 4th hangar. Chairman Nocerino suggested that a tour of the new hangars be arranged for the new Commissioner, and for the Working Group members and the Civic leaders, because they put a lot of time and

effort into the outcome of this project.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three (3) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

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

REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION

April 9, 2019

Ms. Nancy Schliwka, of the Woodland Civic Association, asked if the Airport keeps a record of aircraft based at the Airport that are “repeat offenders” for noise complaints, to which Mr. McElroy responded it does not.

Mr. John Lisi of the Daniel Street Civic Association and the Republic Civic Coalition for Integrity and Compliance asked which category on the Operations Report are the activities for Talon and Stratosphere included. Airport Manager Rick McElroy responded that they are included in the total number for jet operations.

Mr. Lisi asked if there were any updates on either the Environmental Study or the public outreach for the 5-parcel development project. Chairman Frank Nocerino stated there was not and said he would try to speak to Ron Epstein, NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner, to get information for the next RAC meeting.

Mr. Lisi asked for clarification on which roads would be repaired as a part of the \$1.5 million grant received by the Airport. Mr. McElroy replied that the access roads to Route 109 and Route 110 would undergo improvements.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association said she hopes the new NYSDOT Commissioner will visit the area and meet with the public to become familiar with the area and the Airport layout. She asked about an Airbus 319 that arrived at the Airport the previous week and wanted to know the status of the ALP (Airport Layout Plan). She stated that, in order for the Airport to grow and develop, there should be more input from the community. She also asked if it was legal to issue an RFP for the 5 parcels of land if they are not consistent with the ALP. Chairman Nocerino responded that these are questions he will bring to the new Commissioner of NYSDOT.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm