

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 12, 2018

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

Chairman Nocerino began the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of Ken Johansen, a pilot for the GEICO Skytypers who was lost in an accident on May 30, 2018.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

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

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Nocerino stated that the questions received from attendees at the April 2018 meeting, which were read into the meeting records, were sent to Albany. He also said that Mr. Ron Epstein, NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner/CFO had met with the Civic organizations. Chairman Nocerino said he spoke to New York State Senator John E. Brooks who is currently in session but was working on getting answers also.

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH 2018 AND APRIL 2018

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for March and April 2018 were discussed by Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager. In the month of March, the FAA reported 16,738 total operations, compared to 13,982 from 2017. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,750 landings. Touch and go operations for March were higher than last year with 2,145 reported. Passenger numbers were higher with 978 being reported, an increase of 37 from the previous year. There were 432 based aircraft in March, a decrease of 46 from the year before.

In April 2018, the FAA reported 17,461 total operations, compared to 17,144 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 5,874 landings. Touch & go operations for April were lower than last year with 2,031 reported. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,089 being reported, an increase of 27 from the previous year. There were 426 based aircraft in April, a decrease of 54 from the year before.

There were 16 noise complaints registered in March; 10 during the day and 6 at night. The complaints were predominantly caused by jet aircraft. Ten of the complaints were from arrivals on Runway 14. The majority of the 16 events were reported by residents in the northwest sector of the Airport. Six complaints were from based aircraft, 6 were from transient aircraft, and 4 were unknown.

There were 7 noise complaints registered in April; 6 during the day and 1 at night. Five of the 7 complaints were attributed to an unknown type of aircraft. There was insufficient information available to identify the majority of the complaints by runway. Six of the 7 complaints came from the northwest area. One complaint was from based aircraft, 1 from transient, and 5 were unknown.

Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director, discussed the Financial Reports for the months of March and April 2018. March Revenues were much higher than anticipated, with the majority from Miscellaneous Income. We received \$25,210 from a TV shoot called "The Code", and \$15,000 in Insurance Reimbursements for the repair of the Airport exterior fence that was damaged. Expenses for March were lower than anticipated. Labor expense was higher due to the five-week payroll billing cycle and an insurance payment that was not budgeted for that month. All remaining categories were less than budgeted. Some of the larger savings were for Employee Expenses. ARFF Training was rescheduled in April. Communications Expense was lower due to telephone and radio maintenance being postponed to a later date. Data Processing Expense was lower than budget due to there being no need for a software update, and we had an adequate supply of landing fee invoices on hand and did not need to make a purchase. Vehicle Maintenance Expense was lower due to postponing the purchase of First Aid AED supplies, vehicle maintenance tools, and gas. For Airport Maintenance Expenses, we postponed the asphalt/cold patch material purchase, and the purchase of aero paint and beads until May.

The revenues for April were slightly higher than anticipated. The largest deficit category was from Fuel Flowage fees, and it was offset by the highest surplus category for Miscellaneous Income, which included \$4,325 for the TV shoot "The Code". Expenses for April were slightly lower than anticipated. The largest deficits were for Communications and Airport Maintenance. We had Communications costs

that were budgeted for September and March, but were realized in April. The overrun in monthly budget for Airport Maintenance was for fence and fire hydrant repairs. The largest surplus in the budget was due to a 4-week payroll billing cycle and a vacant position in Operations.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Barnable stated the Air Show went off really well and everyone enjoyed the event. An attendance record was set for the 2 days: 82,000 on Friday for the practice run, and 207,000 for Saturday. Sunday was rained out. Mr. Barnable also mentioned that the installation of high efficiency lighting at the Main Terminal is continuing.

3. NOISE CONTOUR UPDATE

Mr. Rick McElroy, Airport Manager, introduced Mr. Charles Kurtz, Vice-President of Engineering Services for AFCO/AvPORTS Management LLC, and Mr. Johnson Chang-Fong, Manager of Engineering and Development for AFCO/AvPORTS Management, LLC. Mr. Kurtz discussed the Operations and Noise Report for 2017 in a PowerPoint presentation. (The presentation was added to the Airport's website at a later date.)

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. **Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements:** Mr. Barnable reported that the project is on-going. We are continuing to work with tenants in the northeast corner to address their concerns with the project.
2. **Northeastern Aviation FBO Application:** Mr. Barnable stated that the application is still in review. The Airport received plans that are in much greater detail for their proposed hangar project. We are just starting to look at them now.
3. **RFP by ESD for long term lease of Five Development Parcels:** Mr. Barnable said that NYSDOT has held two meetings with FAA on the project to present the proposed site development for each of the parcels and to work with FAA on what will be needed for submittals to FAA to start their review. The Department is working on draft documents for submission. There is going to be a public meeting held on the environmental process.

4. **Sheltair Development in Breslau Area:** Mr. Barnable stated that the two hangars that were started last year are well underway. There is a third hangar that is under construction now. Sheltair is also working on a connection to Taxiway Alpha at this time.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three (3) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday – August 7, 2018 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
JUNE 12, 2018

Mr. John Lisi of the Daniel Street Civic Association and the Republic Airport Civic Coalition summarized the meeting with Mr. Ron Epstein of NYSDOT held on May 31, 2018. He said that the main message from Mr. Epstein was that the donation money to the Governor had nothing to do with the RFP award process and it was duly noted. They agreed on only a few points and then agreed to disagree on so many other ones. For example, on the operating costs, we questioned the State's claim that they are losing \$250,000 a year. It was explained on the surface that the bookkeeping by prior Airport management and NYSDOT was not done properly. We did ask for a covenant on the Airport. Mr. Lisi said that Mr. Epstein mentioned something about putting in the permit, "absolutely no scheduled commercial flights". Mr. Lisi stated that Mr. Denis Garbo of the Civic Coalition for Transparency and Compliance had worked out some wording for a covenant which Mr. Epstein did not have a problem with. Mr. Lisi stated that Gordon Canary from Senator Boyle's office was also there, and that he and Mr. Epstein were concerned if they could legally put something like that in effect, when the FAA actually has total jurisdiction over the Airport. Mr. Lisi mentioned that they emphasized there was going to be a meeting with the FAA, and that they have been in communication with Evelyn Martinez, FAA New York Airports District Office Manager. Mr. Lisi said he was glad to see the presentation with the Noise Contours, but that there is a secondary issue. The Town of Babylon proposed a very large project in the immediate vicinity which is the Town of Babylon TOD (Transportation Oriented Development), just east of the Airport, a planned total development of 109 acres including 2,681 apartments. It lies just to the east of the noise contour lines. Mr. Lisi stated that he hopes that the Commission and Airport Administration have been involved with them on this.

Chairman Nocerino stated that he just received a disc about a project and asked Mr. Barnable if that disc is for the TOD project.

Mr. Gary Barnable, Interim Airport Director, replied that he did not know.

Mr. John Lisi stated, "We know the disc. There's 3,000 pages of data in there."

Mr. Barnable said to Chairman Nocerino that the disc was for controlling future development and he did not think it said anything about the number of units in specific site development projects.

Multiple attendees replied, "Yes, it does".

Mr. Lisi stated that it is a total build-out. They are going to do an initial phase, and then there is the next phase and the next phase.

Mr. Barnable said to Chairman Nocerino, "That's not what we have."

Chairman Nocerino stated that there are Town of Babylon meetings when it comes to projects outside the Airport. Mr. Bodenmiller and Mr. Bolgna sometimes go in my place. We do send people to the meetings, and they notify us if it has something to do with the Airport.

Mr. John Lisi stated that he mentioned the project just to make sure that the involvement is more than cursory, because it is a huge project. He said that The Commission has its own concerns with the Airport, and the Civics are looking at the other aspects.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association remarked that, at the February 2018 meeting, she had asked for Commission to pass a resolution asking for the five-parcel project award to be rescinded and a new RFP issued which stated that commercial service is not wanted at the Airport, and that the non-aviation parcels should be included again, as in the original RFP. Ms. Norjen also asked to know the status of the Airport's 60,000 lb aircraft weight limit.

Chairman Nocerino stated that the Commission asked that question about a year ago, and the answer received was that it is in litigation.

Ms. Helen Norjen stated that the Commission said it would consider a 100,000 lb weight limit like Teterboro. She asked for the status on that.

Chairman Nocerino replied they should wait to see how the progress with this project goes, then when we think we should have that meeting again, and we can organize it here with FAA and the elected officials. We can discuss the 100,000 lb weight limit as a possible trade-off.

Ms. Helen Norjen stated that, if possible, she would like a copy of the Noise Contour report.

Chairman Nocerino responded "Absolutely".

Ms. Helen Norjen asked to know how long a period of time it will be before the public meeting is scheduled.

Chairman Nocerino responded that he will ask Mr. Epstein for a date for the meeting, but it will not take

place during the summer. Chairman Nocerino then asked Mr. Lisi to share any communications from Mr. Epstein with the Chairman, so that they can be on the same page.

Mr. John Lisi said that he made an arrangement with Mr. Epstein that any updates would be sent to Mr. Lisi who would distribute them to the Coalitions. Mr. Lisi said he would include the Chairman in the distribution as well.

Ms. Helen Norjen asked where the meeting would be held, since the last meeting had 900 people. She also stated that there should be plenty of notice given and usually there is 30 days notice for public hearings.

Chairman Nocerino said that there will be ample notice in the newspapers. He also stated that there is a ruling for notifications, and thinks that it is at least 30 days.

Ms. Helen Norjen asked for the status on the litigation.

Chairman Nocerino replied that he had no status because it is not the Commission's litigation and it is not State litigation.

Ms. Helen Norjen stated that airplanes are supposed to turn right when they take-off, but the big planes sometimes go straight out. She said that something needs to be done about that. That is why we need a weight limit here.

Chairman Nocerino responded by saying that they need to start making that turn as soon as possible. It is a tough right turn.

Ms. Helen Norjen said she read in Newsday on May 4, 2018, that there was an Acting NYSDOT Commissioner. She asked what happened to Commissioner Driscoll.

Mr. Barnable responded that Commissioner Driscoll had left the Department of Transportation and the Acting Commissioner is Paul Karas.

Ms. Helen Norjen asked how long ago did Commissioner Driscoll leave. She thought they were writing to Commissioner Driscoll.

Chairman Nocerino replied that it was at least a year ago, and he did not think that Commissioner Driscoll was involved with this project.

Commissioner Stella Barbera commented that she heard Teterboro Airport might be closing and their operations might be absorbed by other airports in the vicinity. She asked if anyone knew more information about it, or if it would impact the Airport in any way.

Mr. Bob Miller of the American Airpower Museum stated that the FAA has a decompression chamber at the American Airpower Museum, and it seems to be quite successful. At the end of June, the B-29 FIFI will visit the museum and it will be a draw for the Airport.

Adjourned 7:46pm