

**MINUTES**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JUNE 17, 2014**

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

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Republic Airport Commission Meeting date has been changed to August 26<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the April 2014 meeting were adopted.

**III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

No changes and/or adoption of the agenda were made.

**IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. REPORTS**

**1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2014**

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for March and April 2014 were discussed by Ms. Shelley LaRose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of March, the FAA recorded 17,382 total operations. The Airport Operations Department reported 3,736 landings, a decrease in all categories from the prior year. Touch and go operations for March were slightly up from last year with 1,084 reported, 32 were multi-engine aircraft. Passenger numbers were down with 1,037 being reported and there were 503 based aircraft in March, an increase of 18 from the year before.

In April 2014, the FAA recorded 18,232 total operations, a decrease of

2,625 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,358 landings with a decrease in single engine, turbo prop and helicopter operations. Touch & gos were higher in single engine category and lower in the helicopter category. Passenger numbers decreased to 999. There were 503 based aircraft in April, same as the prior month.

Commissioner Barbera inquired if the lower operations were attributed to something specific, such as fuel prices. Mr. Geiger responded that the weather in April was not good. Fuel prices have had a long term effect on operations overall.

There were 23 noise complaints registered in March; 12 during day, 4 at night and 7 unknown, 5 of the calls were reported from one household. The complaints were predominantly caused by jet aircraft. These events were reported by residents residing in the northwest sector of the airport. Four were related to based aircraft, twelve as a result of transient aircraft.

There were a total of 34 noise complaints registered in April, an increase from the prior year. The majority of the complaints registered were attributed to jet aircraft. These events were reported primarily from residents residing in the northwest quadrant of the airport. Eleven were related to based aircraft, fifteen transient and eight were unknown. 22 calls were from one household.

Commissioner Nocerino asked what would be considered nighttime operation hours. Ms. LaRose responded "10 pm to 7 am."

Commissioner Barbera asked if the caller who reported 22 noise complaints had been contacted by Airport Management. Ms. LaRose explained that John Arancio, Airport Assistant Manager, responds to every caller who leaves their contact information. Mr. Arancio added that this caller contacts the airport frequently and has consistently over many years. Commissioner Barbera inquired if there has been any resolution to the complaints from the caller. Mr. Arancio responded that this caller is a longtime resident of the area and is located in an airport flight path.

Mr. Geiger discussed the Financial Reports for the months of March and April 2014. March is the end of the fiscal year. Rental income was higher due to receipt of the hotel concession rent check. Labor expenses were down because the employee benefit calculations were lower than estimated. Airport utilities were higher due to payment made in March instead of April. Communications were higher due to a change in phone service providers and the replacement of a portable base radio. Insurance was higher due to the pre-payment of a premium. Annual revenue was down due in large part to decrease in flying as a result of poor weather, snowstorms and the 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group restaurant being closed. Rental income was higher due to television and movie shoots. The difference between the budgeted revenue and actual revenue for the year was \$17,000.

Commissioner Flaumenbaum inquired about the insurance increase. Mr. Geiger explained it was not an increase, the premium was paid earlier.

April is the new fiscal year; most categories were pretty close to what was actually budgeted. Miscellaneous income was higher than anticipated due to television and movie shoots. Expenses were lower across the board. Insurance was lower since the premium was paid in March instead of April. Employee expenses were down due to postponement of training.

Mr. Arancio spoke and presented a power point presentation to provide more specific information regarding the total aircraft activity trends, jet aircraft activity trends and their impact on the historic noise contour results. He also explained that the noise contour is shrinking and therefore paying to develop a new contour is not cost-effective.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Regional Helicopter Council held a meeting at the Melville Marriott. Helicopter pilots and the community gathered to discuss everything from complaints to resolutions. Most audience members were from the Southold area of Long Island. Republic Airport has very few helicopter complaints.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Greenport Schools had their annual tour of Republic Airport.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, approximately 30 members of the Farmingdale Rotary Club stopped by for a tour of Republic Airport.

On Memorial Day Weekend, the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show at Jones Beach was held. It was a well attended event and an amazing weekend all around. Special thanks were extended to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for their volunteers who took care of security. CAP personnel volunteered their time and the airport could not have supported the Airshow as well without their efforts.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, special needs students from Northport toured Republic Airport. A tour of Talon Air's facility was included.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, students from Northport Schools toured Republic Airport. A tour of Northeastern Aviation's facility was included.

Commissioner Barbera mentioned the Nassau County Executive invited the Republic Airport Historical Society to attend the opening ceremony of the new Museum of American Armor at Bethpage Village Restoration. It was a magnificent event.

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

1. Breslau Modernization and Redevelopment Update: The SEQRA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA). The FAA has the document for review and we are waiting for its release.
2. Vision Plan Update: The document is still in Albany for discussion.
3. Talon Air FBO Application: Chairman Frank Nocerino stated that the Commission received an anonymous letter regarding housing and hotel services at Talon. The

Commission wrote a letter to the Commissioner of New York State Department of Transportation expressing an investigation into this matter. Chairman Nocerino received confirmation from Commissioner McDonald that the Office of Fire Protection and Control will investigate the claim. Chairman Nocerino suggested the RAC request information regarding the outcome of the investigation and status of the 56<sup>th</sup> RFI.

4. Northeastern's FBO application is still being reviewed.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

One (1) individual commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Michael Geiger on behalf of Executive Secretary  
Republic Airport Commission**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION**  
JUNE 17, 2014

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association asked for a copy of the explanation of the noise presentation. Ms. LaRose Arken agreed to supply her with a copy.

Ms. Norjen stated she was alarmed that there are now 65 jets based at Republic Airport. She inquired as to where are they being stored. Are they at Talon, Northeastern, hangars or on the tarmac? Ms. LaRose-Arken responded that the aircraft are associated with the Special Service Operators and Fixed Based Operators. Ms. Norjen expressed concern that Republic Airport will become the next Teterboro. The Vision Plan stated 60-65 based jets by the year 2020, not now. The Vision Plan will clearly be outdated by the time it is published.

The increase in jet traffic is more than just a noise issue. Ms. Norjen is alarmed at the recent increase. She hopes this Commission is just as concerned. This affects communities all around including Melville and Plainview. When you see planes at lower altitudes looking to descend, you know they are coming here and not JFK.

Referring to the FAA proposal and study to redesign New York Class B Airspace; Commissioner Barbera responded that the Commission appreciates her concerns and recognizes that the FAA lowering the ceiling to 3,000 feet is a serious issue. JFK traffic can affect all of us and the communities such as Floral Park. This is a concern that will drastically affect the flight pattern even for our General Aviation pilots.

Ms. Norjen expressed concern about the 3,000 foot ceiling limit and that this should be part of the Noise Contour report. The report should be expanded to include the impact of the integrated noise patterns. She has consistently complained about JFK flights in our area. JFK flights as well as Republic flights should all be incorporated to the noise contour report.

Commissioner Bodenmiller asked Ms. Norjen to please invite others who express these same concerns to attend our meetings. Commissioner Nocerino encouraged her to have them write in if they are unable to attend.

###