

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
7150 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, ROOM 201
EAST FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Bodenmiller at 7:00p.m. Vice-Chairman Vincent Bologna, Jr, and Commission Member Richard Grant were present. Commission Member Stella Barbera was unable to attend.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio announced that Airport Manager John Lauth was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Technical problems with the Airport's website have been corrected and non-working links are now functioning.

The Airport has a new email address for general inquiries, contactus@republicairport.net. The old email address, info@republicairport.net, is no longer being used or monitored.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2024

Due to lack of a quorum, a vote was not held.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, and FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2024

Mr. Ceglio discussed the Operations Reports:

- November Total Operations reported by FAA decreased 25% from the same month last year, and Landings decreased by 8.1%. Touch and Go's were down 5.6% and enplaned passengers were down 8.2%. Based aircraft fell 0.2%. Fiscal Year-to-Date numbers reflected a much smaller decrease in overall operations for November and the previous 8 months, Total Operations were down 3.6%, Landings down 1.0%, and Touch and Go's down 0.6%.
- December Total Operations reported by FAA decreased 10.9% from the same month last year and Landings decreased 1.0%. Touch & Go's increased 4.3%. Enplaned passenger volume was the same as last year. Based aircraft increased 0.7%. Fiscal Year-to-Date numbers reflected a decrease in Total Operations of 1.0%, Landings decreased by 0.1%, and Touch and Go's had a small increase of 0.3%.

Mr. Ceglio discussed the Aircraft Complaint Reports:

- In November, 39 complaints were filed, compared to 44 complaints last year. The majority of complaints came from the west. Most complaints could not be identified by runway and were reported as 'Unknown'. Five of the 39 complaints related to Based aircraft, 10 to Transients, and 24 were reported as 'Unknown'.
- In December, 38 complaints were filed, compared to 17 complaints last year. Most complaints came from areas west of the Airport. The majority of complaints could not be identified by runway and were reported as 'Unknown'. Two of the 38 complaints related to Based aircraft, 7 to Transients, and 29 were reported as

'Unknown'.

Mr. Ceglio discussed the Financial Reports:

- November Revenue on an Accrual basis was \$325,582.36. Total November Expenses were \$388,645.65 for a deficit of \$63,063.29. The actual Fiscal Year Revenue was \$2,014,990.56, Expenses were \$2,035,338.51, making the deficit year to date \$20,347.95.
- December Revenue on an Accrual basis was \$339,152.26. Total December Expenses were \$314,873.70 for a surplus of \$24,278.56, making Fiscal Year Revenue profitable by \$3,930.61.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Ceglio reported the following:

- Annual Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) & Tabletop Review, Jan. 29th:** Required by FAA Part 139 each year. Airport staff, local police, FBI, FAA, and Airport tenants attended to review plans and procedures for responding to Airport emergencies.
- Customs & Border Protection (CBP) Global Entry Event, Feb. 15th:** US Customs requested use of the terminal to screen Global Entry applicants. Appointments with CBP are required in order to attend.
- New York Blood Center Blood Drive Hosted by New York State Police Troop L:** To be held Feb. 19th in the Main Terminal lobby. Signs are posted in the terminal with details on how donors can sign up.

OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Mr. Ceglio reported the following:

- Stratosphere 5-Parcel Development Project:** NYSDOT is still working with Stratosphere to finalize responses for the roadway Tenant Alteration Applications (TAAs) for Parcels A and B. Stratosphere is revising plans including moving the roadway further away from Walmart and the suggestions for landscaping.
- Runway 1/19 Pavement Resurfacing Project:** Bids for the project will be opened on February 20th (postponed from February 6th) and will be reviewed by NYSDOT. A winning bid will be selected and awarded within the next month. We anticipate construction will start in Spring 2026.
- Building 42 RFP:** The RFP was advertised in late December. There were 2 or 3 potential bidders who attended a pre-bid webinar but only 1 bidder attended a mandatory walk-thru of the building. NYSDOT received one proposal and it is being reviewed.
- Modern/Breslau Project:** Construction of Hangar 86 is still on schedule to be completed by early Summer 2025. Work is still being done in the interior and office areas. Work was completed on 23 new tie-down spots north of the Hangar. They will be building a restroom/pilot lounge near the new tie-down spots and Modern will submit plans to hopefully complete it by summer.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three (3) individuals commented.

The next RAC meeting will be held on April 8, 2025. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Bologna, seconded by Commissioner Grant. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:
Anthony C. Ceglio on behalf of Executive Secretary

Republic Airport Commission
PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
February 11, 2025

Ms. Nancy Cypser from Woodland Civic Association asked if events like US Customs Global Entry happen again, the community would appreciate being notified beforehand. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio said a notice could be sent out but the Airport does not have any say on CBP's process for advertising or making appointments.

Ms. Cypser asked Mr. Ceglio to identify Building 42 and if their lease is up. Mr. Ceglio used an aerial photo of the Airport in the room to point out the structure and identified it as being currently occupied by Ventura Aviation. He said their lease expired approximately 18 months ago. A lease extension was attempted but could not be approved with the NYS Office of State Comptroller, so a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued. Chairman Bodenmiller added that there was a substantial fire in the building in June 2023 and it had been heavily damaged. Mr. Ceglio said repairs to the office area are still ongoing.

Ms. Cypser asked if the Commission could share whether there was any interest from a current FBO to submit a bid on the RFP for Building 42. Mr. Ceglio said that the only response to the RFP was submitted by the current tenant.

Ms. Cypser commented that there is a discrepancy with the numbers on the November and December Aircraft Complaint reports. November's Fiscal Year-to-date totals are higher than December's totals. She asked if the website's technical issues had any impact on the ability to file noise complaints. Mr. Ceglio said the discrepancy will be reviewed, and that the submission of online noise complaints was not affected.

Ms. Cypser asked Mr. Ceglio, in light of 2 recent crashes in Washington DC and Philadelphia, and because Republic is the 3rd busiest airport in the State, do you feel that the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) is adequately staffed, and are there any concerns that it may not have adequate coverage? Mr. Ceglio responded, "No, not at all." For a long time, our ATCT has been considered a training tower, so there are not only certified controllers present but there are others who are training to be controllers, meaning there are "a lot of eyes" in the tower. I don't feel that our ATCT is understaffed at all.

Ms. Cypser asked Mr. Ceglio if he would ever have the same issue that is being investigated with the DC crash, that there may have been a need for more controllers in the tower.

Mr. James Keane, an Echo Tenant and pilot, spoke to Ms. Cypser's question about the number of controllers on duty at the DC crash, saying that many things will be investigated and ATCT is only a small part. He added that Republic's controller staff is excellent and the tower is very well-covered. "In 23 years, I've never felt like there wasn't enough people up there."

Ms. Cypser clarified that she was not suggesting the Air Traffic controller in the DC accident was at fault. She was asking Mr. Ceglio if he was struggling potentially with getting ATCT coverage? Do the controllers feel comfortable? Mr. Ceglio said he can't answer for the FAA and the Airport is not responsible for the FAA. To his knowledge, there has never been an issue or a gap in ATCT coverage or the ability for pilots to communicate with the tower, ground control, or clearance delivery. Ms. Cypser said she's not asking this to be adversarial, but in terms of the community writing letters saying we need more controller staff. Mr. Ceglio answered that he does not believe there is any problem with the level of staffing in the control tower.

Chairman Robert Bodenmiller added that saying anything about the cause of the 2 crashes is very speculative at this point, and said the Airport has absolutely no control over the number of people the FAA puts in the tower.

Dr. Robert Corona, an Echo Tenant, asked if the safety seminars for pilots that used to be held by ATC could resume. Mr. Ceglie said the Airport will look into it. There is an annual Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) meeting where ATC discusses airport safety issues with tenants. We can make a note to notify you of the next meeting.

Ms. Cypser commented that she understands why some data on the Aircraft Complaint reports are reported as "Unknown". When complaints are phoned in, do callers identify themselves? Mr. Ceglie answered not always, and that online complaints have a space to provide a name, address, and the time. Ms. Cypser asked if it's possible to get a list of the people that phoned in complaints. Mr. Ceglie responded that he does not think the names should be shared as a matter of privacy. He said if you want us to verify that your complaints are being counted correctly because of a discrepancy found in the reports, then we can look into it. Chairman Bodenmiller added that we don't want to discourage anyone from calling in by telling them that their name will be made available to others. We have a better chance of getting accurate complaint numbers without disclosing names.

Ms. Cypser asked if the airport has been able to negotiate the price of Echo tie-down rates with Stratosphere. Mr. Ceglie said it's still being discussed and we are working with them on different options. The discussions have been very positive. The rates on Echo ramp haven't increased since 2008 and they did mention that increases would be phased in. We are also trying to identify other areas on the airport where tie-downs could be created. Hangar 86 at Modern Aviation, as we mentioned, just created 23 new tie-down spots that will offer a pilot lounge and other amenities. Those spots are not ready to be leased yet, but in talking with Modern, their rates will probably be higher than the current Echo rates. There are also some temporary tie-down spots being created on the Alpha ramp. We're cleaning up the area and will be fixing the potholes, so that for maybe 12-18 months, the area can be used temporarily for parking. We are trying to be fair and not hit pilots all at once with rate increases, but the fee needs to be fair and reasonable since the rates have not been increased in a very long time.

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