

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom video and tele-conference and was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:02p.m. Also present were Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Stella Barbera, Joan Flaumenbaum, and Richard Grant. Commission Member Robert Bodenmiller was not in attendance.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Airport Manager John Lauth reminded online attendees to use the “raise hand” feature on Zoom if they wanted to ask a question.

- Chairman Nocerino said he would slow down and pause when reading questions in Zoom Chat so that attendees would have sufficient time to type them and have them answered. The 5-minute time limit still applies.
 - The Chairman said there was no updated information on the Environmental Assessment for the 5-parcels development project.

 - The Chairman said the RAC would draft a Resolution stating that the Commission is against cargo operations at Republic Airport, with the exception of emergency landings such as FEMA.

- Airport Director Anthony C. Ceglio reported that the Airport received inquiries from the offices of Suffolk County Legislator Leslie Kennedy and U.S. Congressman Andrew Garbarino about possible flights of undocumented immigrants arriving at Republic Airport. The Airport checked with all FBOs and no such operations were reported, so the information was not accurate.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

- Joan Flaumenbaum moved to adopt the August 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Richard Grant.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2021

Airport Manager John Lauth discussed the following:

- Aircraft Operations and Complaint Reports for July and August 2021. Airport operations were up 41% in July and 36% in August compared to the previous year. Lower numbers in previous year likely due to COVID. Based aircraft are also up but

comparable to previous years - around 500.

- Aircraft noise complaints totaled 134 in July 2021 and 122 in August compared to 50 and 18 in the previous year. In July, 83% of complaints were from 6 homes, and 67% were from 2 homes in August. Most of the complaints were related to daytime transient aircraft operations and reported by households west of the airport.
- Financial Reports for July and August 2021 were discussed. Total revenue exceeded budget projections, and total expenses were lower than budget projections in both July and August.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth reported on the following:

- a. **FAA Part 139 Inspection:** Annual FAA Inspection completed August 26-27.
- b. **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Gateway:** September 20-21, Republic Airport served as a gateway to pre-check helicopters and float planes heading to the city.
- c. **FEMA On Site for Hurricane Ida:** August 20-27. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was on site in preparation and response to Hurricane Ida.
- d. **Energeia Partnership Leadership Academy at Molloy College:** September 15th. Transportation workshop at the Main Terminal. Attendees were also given a bus tour of the Airport.
- e. **Atlantic Aviation Sold to KKR & Co.:** Sale to KKR Corp., a private investment firm finalized on September 22nd.
- f. **COVID-19:** TSA extended facemask requirements across all transportation networks including airports to January 18, 2022.
- g. **American Airpower Museum:** Held events at the end of summer, including a music concert, and a vintage automobile and aircraft show.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Airport Director Mr. Anthony Ceglie reported the following:

1. **Runway 1/19 Safety Area Improvements Project:** Construction completed in May 2021. The \$18 million was 90% FAA funded. Final closeout paperwork to be submitted to FAA.
2. **Rotating Beacon Replacement Project:** Also going through closeout process with FAA. The half-million dollar project was also 90% funded by FAA.
3. **Alpha Taxiway Project:** Plans to resurface the taxiway are 75% complete. Construction is expected in late Spring or early Summer 2022. The \$11 million project is 90% FAA funded.
4. **ALP Update:** An ALP (Airport Layout Plan) update is needed due to the RSA project, Golf Taxiway changes, and Sheltair hangars completed over the past few years.
5. **5-Parcel Development Project:** There are no updates on the 5-parcel project as Chairman Nocerino reported earlier.
6. **FAA Airport Rescue Grant Through American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA):** A \$148,000 grant application will be submitted to the FAA under the

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Funds anticipated in 2022 will be used to offset personnel expenses for the previous year.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three (3) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
October 12, 2021

Ms. Nancy Cypser, of the Woodland Civic Association, asked if the next RAC meeting and all subsequent meetings could be held in person. She said the Zoom format does not allow for adequate discussion and follow-up questions. She suggested that meetings could be held downstairs where attendees could remain socially-distant and masks could be required.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo asked if the RAC was exempt from New York State Open Meeting Laws in making meeting minutes available to the public within 2 weeks of the meeting date. She believes the Open Meetings Law does not require one to go through the FOIL process to obtain the information. She said the public should be able to see the minutes that the RAC is approving. She said she submitted a FOIL request in August for RAC minutes and she has not yet received the documents. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio said we will look into the reason why a response to her FOIL request was delayed. Chairman Nocerino asked the Airport to find out if the minutes can be posted to the website.

Ms. Cypser asked if the conditional award of the 5 parcels would be voided if building doesn't occur within a certain time frame. She asked if the change in the location of runway 1/19 requires a completely new Airport Layout Plan. This is a structural alteration to the airport and is not a pen and ink change. There should be an opportunity for public comment for all alterations included in a new plan. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio stated that the Environmental Assessment (EA) is still being reviewed by FAA. Chairman Nocerino added that once a permit is issued, then there is a time frame.

Mr. Mario Espinosa of the Farmingdale Board of Education asked if RAC meetings were going back to having meetings in person. Chairman Nocerino said we need to ask NYSDOT if they will allow live meetings. He said he would like to see the December meeting held in person.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo posted the URL address for the New York State Open Meetings Law in Zoom Chat.

Ms. Cypser asked why Ultimate Jet Charters is the only charter identified on the operations report and not Talon. She asked to know how many other flights might not appear and the community would like to know Talon's totals. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that Ultimate Jet Charters' passenger totals appear on the report because their flights operate from the Main Terminal, and the other charter flights do not. All flights are included in the Operations Report. Chairman Nocerino asked to have Talon's totals for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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