

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
7150 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, ROOM 201
EAST FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:04p.m. Also present were Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Stella Barbera, Robert Bodenmiller, and Richard Grant.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Nocerino welcomed everyone back to in-person RAC meetings. He announced that Commission Member Joan Flaumenbaum who was present but not seated on the Board, had resigned from the RAC and he thanked her for her 23 years of service. The Chairman also welcomed former Airport Director Michael Geiger who was also present.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE AND AUGUST 2022

Mr. Bodenmiller made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from June and August, seconded by Ms. Barbera. The motion carried unanimously.

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 2022

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the following:

- Total Operations were up 11% in July and 16% in August from the previous year. Landings, Touch & Go's, and Based Aircraft numbers also increased. Jet landings decreased by 17% in July and 11% in August. Passenger volume was down 18% in July and down 13% in August.
- Aircraft noise complaints in July and August were lower than those reported in 2021. There were 67 complaints filed by 9 households July, and 42 complaints from 7 households in August. Most complaints related to daytime operations and multi/single engine aircraft. Residents living west and northwest of the Airport filed most of the complaints.
- Total Revenue for July and August were favorable overall. Revenue from Landing fees, License fees, Fuel fees and Rental Income showed favorable variances in both July and August, however Miscellaneous Income was unfavorable due to less than

anticipated revenue from film shoots. Total Expenses in July were favorable. Labor Expenses were favorable due to a vacant position in Maintenance and employees on leave. Utilities were unfavorable due to higher than anticipated consumption. August Rental Income was favorable due to a payment received for Breslau area development. August Expenses for Labor, Data Processing, Professional Services, Vehicle Maintenance and Airport Maintenance were all favorable.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth reported on the following:

- a. FAA Part 139 Annual Certification Inspection:** Only minor discrepancies.
- b. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Gateway:** Republic Airport's Main Terminal served as a gateway September 19-21 for TSA to pre-check helicopters flying into Manhattan during the annual UNGA meeting.
- c. Film Shoot:** Amazon's "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" was filmed at Ventura.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. Thanks to Joan Flaumenbaum for her "Best Efforts" on Behalf of Republic Airport and the Community

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio read a Resolution which expressed appreciation to Joan Flaumenbaum for her service as a member of the RAC Commission. All five Commissioners voted in favor and the Resolution was adopted. Chairman Nocerino presented a plaque to Ms. Flaumenbaum.

C. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Airport Director Mr. Anthony Ceglio reported on the following:

- 1. Alpha Taxiway Project:** A contract was signed with H&L Construction and the Airport is awaiting the Contractor's schedule. The project is now expected to start in Spring 2023 rather than Fall 2022.
- 2. Conklin Street Property:** A consultant was hired to survey the property for any environmental issues and develop plans to remove the old buildings. Plans should be available in Winter 22-23.
- 3. Molloy College:** Mr. Ceglio added that Molloy College notified the Airport of their intent to vacate their facility at the end of October after being a tenant for over 20 years. The State will issue an RFP in the near future in order to find a new tenant for the building.
- 4. 5-Parcel Development Project:** There was no new information other than the FAA appears to be close to finalizing their review of the Environmental Assessment (EA).

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two (2) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino said he would send a letter to NYSDOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez about the need to replace Ms. Flaumenbaum and filling the other open positions on the Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
October 11, 2022

Ms. Nancy Cypser of the Woodland Civic Association asked to know when Ron Epstein left his post with NYSDOT. She asked if the Commission could provide the Civic Coalition with the names of any contacts in his absence, and if anyone has been appointed to his position. Airport Director Anthony Ceglie replied that Mr. Epstein left in April 2022, and his responsibilities were split among several people. He said the Assistant Commissioner is Janet Ho. Ms. Cypser asked to know if new RAC members could be volunteered or be suggested. Chairman Nocerino explained the process of appointing new RAC members. Ms. Cypser asked to know if there was a copy of the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) that was more current than the one from 2016 because there have been radical changes like the 1/19 Runway shift. Mr. Ceglie said he believes the last FAA-approved ALP was from 1990. There have been draft revisions since then but they may not have all been approved by FAA yet. Mr. Ceglie said they will research when the latest ALP was approved. Ms. Cypser stated that a request was made in 2020 for a list of all pending ALP changes but it was never received. The Chairman said he will look into it.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident, asked to let the community know if there is anything they can do to encourage the replacement of RAC Commissioners. She asked if the December RAC meeting's Agenda could indicate which Commission seats are open. She commented that the number of households reporting noise complaints does not reflect the significant proportion of households who gave up reporting noise complaints. She asked to know the total number of Touch & Go operations on all runways to determine how many Touch & Go noise complaints can be apportioned to each runway. Airport Manager John Lauth said the data can be researched and reported for the next meeting. Ms. Santangelo said that helicopters are not supposed to take a direct route over their homes. Mr. Lauth responded that there are voluntary routes if the Tower approves the request. He said UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters were stationed at the Airport during the week of UNGA and they were requesting direct routes to the west. There have also been some new helicopters flying direct routes to the west. Airport management notified them about routes that avoided the noise-sensitive areas and they immediately started changing their course. Ms. Santangelo asked if the Conklin Street area survey included a study of environmental issues underground. Mr. Ceglie said a sub-surface investigation was performed including soil and ground water, and results will be available sometime this winter. Mr. Lauth added that the Town of Babylon is also interested in plans for the site. Ms. Santangelo said it might be helpful to look at the ALP at the next meeting because the community wants to be proactive instead of reactive on this topic. The Chairman said when the latest copy becomes available it will be handed out. Commission Member Stella Barbera added that if it is within the purview of an ALP Working Group, which would be comprised of community members, civics, and others, it would expedite the process of examining the information. Chairman Nocerino stated that the ALP information would also be sent to the Working Group.

Ms. Cypser commented that if there is a draft ALP after 2016, they would like to see it. Mr. Ceglie said he would check with FAA to make sure it's ok to show the draft to the community before it is approved. She also thanked the Commission for the revised June meeting minutes which were more complete.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

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