

**MINUTES**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:04 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Stella Barbera, and Vincent Bologna, Jr., Mr. Gary DeVito attended on behalf of NYSDOT, and Mr. John Lauth was present as Airport Manager for Republic Airport. Mr. Robert Bodenmiller, Mr. Richard Grant, and Ms. Joan Flaumenbaum were unable to attend.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Nocerino announced that Mr. John Lauth as Republic Airport's new Airport Manager and Mr. Michael Clow as the new Assistant Airport Manager.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Because a quorum was not present, the minutes for August 2019 were not adopted.

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

No changes.

Chairman Nocerino began the meeting by saying that members of the Commission attended Sheltair's grand opening event on September 6th. He also mentioned that Commission Member Stella Barbera was being honored at a Knights of Columbus event on October 19<sup>th</sup> for her accomplishments in the community, and that Woodland Civic Association member Helen Norjen was presented with an award at the Sheltair grand opening to recognize her work with the local civic groups.

Chairman Nocerino said he sent a letter to Marie Therese Dominguez to congratulate her on her appointment as the new Commissioner of NYSDOT and to request that she meet with him to discuss adding new members to the RAC and issues concerning the Airport.

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

**A. REPORTS**

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2019

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the Operations and Aircraft Complaint Reports for July and August 2019. In the month of July, the FAA reported 11,265 total operations, compared to 21,032 in 2018. The Airport Operations Department reported 8,048 landings. Touch and Go operations for July were 3,145, an increase of 939 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were higher with 1,192 being reported, a decrease of 71 from the previous year. There were 405 based aircraft in March, a decrease of 10 from the previous year.

In August 2019, the FAA reported 10,813 total operations, compared to 19,499 in 2018. The Airport Operations Department reported 7,773 landings. There were 3,066 Touch and Go operations in August, an increase of 650 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were reported as 1,267, a decrease of 2 from the previous year. There were 406 based aircraft in August, a decrease of 6 from the previous year.

There were 11 total noise complaints registered in July 2019 compared to 14 last year. The majority of the complaints were related to daytime operations. Six complaints were attributed to an unknown aircraft type, 3 related to jet aircraft, and 2 related to multi/single engine aircraft. Residents in the northwest sector of the Airport reported 7 of the total noise complaints. Six complaints could not be identified by runway and were reported as "unknown". Three complaints were identified as departures from Runway 32. Five complaints were attributed to transient aircraft, and 6 were unknown.

In August 2019, there were 9 noise complaints registered, compared to 16 the previous year. Seven of the total complaints were related to daytime operations. Two complaints were attributed to multi/single engine aircraft, 2 complaints were from jet aircraft, and 4 could not be identified by aircraft type and were reported as "unknown". Four of the total noise complaints were from residents living near the northwest sector of the Airport, and 3 complaints were received from residents living near the southeast area. Two complaints were attributed to arrivals on Runway 01, and 4 complaints could not be identified by runway. Four complaints

were attributed to based aircraft, 1 from transient aircraft, and 4 were unknown.

Commission Member Stella Barbera thanked Mr. Lauth and the Airport for researching the noise complaints and calling back residents in response to their concerns.

Mr. Lauth read the Financial Reports for July and August 2019. In July, there was an unfavorable variance in Landing Fees due to lower than forecasted landings, and an unfavorable Rental Income variance due to Stratosphere no longer being required to pay for parking spaces related to Parcel A. For July, Labor Expense was favorable due to vacancies in the Operations department and for Airport Manager, and Vehicle Maintenance Expense was favorable due to lower than anticipated repair expenses and equipment rentals.

In August, Miscellaneous Income was lower than budgeted due to less than anticipated film shoot activity. License Fees were unfavorable due to less than anticipated revenue from Customs & Border Protection and Commercial Operating Permits. Expenses in August saw favorable variances. Data Processing Expense was lower than budgeted due to software support being postponed until September. Vehicle Maintenance Expense was favorable due to postponing the purchase of ARFF tools, diesel, and tires, and Airport Maintenance Expense was lower due to delaying the blast fence painting project until later in the year.

## 2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Lauth reported that from September 17<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>, TSA and SCPD were set up in the Main Terminal lobby to vet helicopters flying into Manhattan for the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He said film shoots for “Madam Secretary” and a movie starring Jennifer Lopez called “Marry Me” were scheduled to take place in October. Mr. Lauth also reported that new fencing, landscaping, and lighting were installed in front of the Main Terminal building.

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

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: Mr. Lauth said the project continues to move forward. He stated that runway obstructions will be addressed and that the project is estimated to begin in late Spring or early Summer of 2020.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: Mr. Lauth reported no changes with the application. Chairman Nocerino asked to know the approval date of their FBO application and requested that the Commission be informed of Northeastern's plans when they are available, especially with the fuel tanks. He said the Commission may want to provide some input, and a Working Group meeting may be scheduled to assist in gathering the information.
3. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Mr. Lauth said that construction is ongoing, and they are working on the new Vehicle Service Road (VSR). He said that Sheltair decided that instead of building 6 large hangars, they would build 4 hangars of one size, 2 of a smaller size, and 2 more of an even smaller size. The square footage of the leased property is going to stay the same, but the hangar space is going to be a little less. Commission Member Stella Barbera mentioned that one of Sheltair's clients had requested a smaller hangar.
4. Salt & Sand Storage Structure: Mr. Lauth reported that the plans continue to progress, and that the contractor bid opening took place earlier that day.
5. NY State Infrastructure Grant for \$1.5M / Entrance Roads: Mr. Lauth said that the re-paving of the Airport entrance roads is scheduled to begin on October 28<sup>th</sup> and will take several days to complete.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Four (4) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:  
**NYSDOT on behalf of Executive Secretary**  
**Republic Airport Commission**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION**  
**August 12, 2019**

Mr. Jeffrey Chippetine, an Echo tenant, said that he and other Echo tenants were very appreciative that the wash rack had been restored as he requested at the August meeting. After only 3 ½ weeks, he said that another aircraft was parked in the wash rack spot, even though there were several other spots on Echo that could have been used to park the airplane. He said that there is no reason that the wash rack spot needs to be occupied by an aircraft. Airport Manager John Lauth responded by saying the situation will be investigated.

Ms. Nancy Schliwka of the Woodland Civic Association asked what determines if an aircraft is a “based” aircraft, and if an aircraft can be based at more than one airport. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that a based aircraft typically has a month-to-month rental agreement for a tie-down spot or hangar space at the Airport. Mr. Lauth said that it is possible for an aircraft to be based at multiple locations, and that “Snowbirds” are a common example. He said the FAA keeps a database of where all aircraft in the US are based, and they audit the list twice a year. They ask the Airport to provide aircraft data and they check for duplicates at other airports. He said if duplicate tail numbers are found, the Airport will investigate to determine the reason.

Ms. Schliwka asked if a single aircraft generates multiple noise complaints, does the Airport make it a point to speak with the pilot. Airport Operations Manager Glen Kidd responded that, for the most part, the Airport does not receive multiple complaints about a single aircraft.

Ms. Schliwka said that at the August meeting, she handed out 2 flowcharts to the Commission which illustrated the steps of the Environmental process and NEPA. She asked to know if there was any information about what stage the 5 Parcels project was currently at in that process. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that information about it would be available at the December RAC meeting. Chairman Nocerino said that he will ask Commissioner Dominguez that question when he meets with her.

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association asked why the 5 Parcels development project

was not included on the meeting's Agenda. Chairman Nocerino responded that the reason was because there have been no new developments on the project since the August meeting, and that the 5 Parcels will be included on the next meeting's Agenda.

Ms. Norjen mentioned the letter that Chairman Nocerino sent to Evelyn Martinez, Manager of FAA NYADO, which referred to Pen & Ink changes to the 5 Parcels project. She said she gave the Chairman a copy of a letter that accompanied the 1989 approved ALP which stated that only small revisions can be done with a Pen & Ink change. She said the Stratosphere project is not a small project and that NYSDOT should follow the rules and the Commission should make sure that they follow the rules. Chairman Nocerino said that he did not receive a response from Ms. Martinez yet, and that he was going to send another letter to her. He stated that NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner Ron Epstein assured him that the Commission would be kept informed and that nothing would move forward without the RAC's knowledge.

Ms. Norjen asked about the abandoned buildings north of Conklin Street and wanted to know what NYSDOT was doing to follow safety codes for these buildings. Airport Manager John Lauth replied that the buildings were condemned within the last 18 months. He said NYSDOT's action plan included temporary fencing around the buildings so that they are not accessible and signs are posted as a warning to keep people away. He stated that NYSDOT is aware of their condition and is looking into a permanent resolution. Chairman Nocerino added that he sent a letter to NYSDOT, at the request of the East Farmingdale Fire Department, about the buildings being a safety issue. He said he was also concerned about any chemicals that might be in the soil beneath the buildings. The Chairman stated that he would like to meet with Airport Manager John Lauth to discuss the community's concerns about the buildings and send another letter to the State. Mr. Lauth said he would let NYSDOT know that the community still has questions about this issue.

Mr. Mario Espinosa of the Farmingdale Board of Education stated that he was new to the RAC meetings and asked the Commission to identify the positions of Mr. Epstein, Ms. Martinez, and Ms. Dominguez, which Chairman Nocerino did. Commission Member Stella Barbera asked to know if "Deputy Commissioner" was a new job title for Mr. Epstein. Chairman Nocerino said that Mr. Epstein would be at the public meeting and he would ask him about his job title.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.