

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the February 19, 2009 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Hayssen called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Delaney, Doherty, Hayssen, Smith and Starrett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Delaney moved with support from Starrett to approve the December 2008 minutes Commission Meeting Minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that there were 11 complaints since the December 2008 meeting.

1. Lou Hayton – too many loud, low helicopter overflights
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3. Dan Weir – TSA procedures and Horizon Air flight delay
4. Dylan Fong – low overflight
5. Andrea Rubinstein – Horizon Air customer service
6. Beth Billingsley – helicopter circling too low
7. Paul Maynard – loud jet overflight
8. Scott Griffin – Horizon Air is too loud and low
9. Carrie Johnson – loud explosion
10. Scott Griffin – Horizon Air is too loud and low
11. Scott Griffin – Horizon Air is too loud

B. Tower Report

Steve Miller, Tower Manager, reported on the progress of discussions with the FAA to replace the existing tower.

C. Airline Update

Stout reported that Horizon Air's passenger load for January 2009 was 5% higher than January 2008. The Portland flights have the weakest load factors, but there are no changes or additions planned for spring 2009.

D. Hangar Inspections

Lange reported that hangar inspections will resume in March, probably starting with the "A" and "B" hangars.

E. EIR/EA Update

Stout reported that the FAA submitted 85 comments on the proposed scope of work. In addition, the Air Transportation Element (ATE) includes noise limits, departure allocations and runway weight tolerances, which the FAA considers restrictions and need to be replaced. Since the noise restrictions were in place prior to 1991 when Federal law changed, it might be possible to "grandfather" those.

F. Projects Update

Stout reported on the following projects:

- Two Airport projects identified by the FAA as eligible for Federal economic stimulus funds: the Apron “A” overlay and the terminal remodel.
- Apron “F” electrical upgrade has been completed and went smoothly.
- A request to the County Purchasing Department for a restroom facility for Apron “F” has been submitted.
- Specifications have been submitted to County Purchasing Department for an airfield sweeper to replace current sweeper, which does not meet air quality standards.
- Bid specs have been completed for tree removal.
- Two sets of hangars will be repaired and repainted this year.
- The Airport is working on a schedule to cover and re-seal all pavements every five years.

G. Budget Process

Liz Finn, Transportation & Public Works Department Analyst, explained the budget process changes which have affected the Airport rates and charges. The date for the annual fee hearings has been moved up to April 21, 2009, rather than June, when they are typically held.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Sonoma Helicopters

Barry Chambers, flight instructor for Sonoma Helicopters, expressed concerns over the requirement for Sonoma Helicopters to pay the \$1,000 application fee for an operating agreement, since it was not required for Makin Air, which is operating under North Coast Air’s operating agreement. He would like to be sure that all businesses on the Airport are given equal treatment.

B. Badging and Security Changes

Stout explained that under the new TSA requirements, all commercial operators will need Airport Operating Area (AOA) badges. This will entail a TSA threat assessment and background check. It is very likely that this requirement will be extended to all permanent Airport tenants. TSA is encouraging airports to submit plans for penalties for non-compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim DuVander, current EAA president, asked if Airship Venture had contacted the Airport regarding operating zeppelin flights from Sonoma County Airport this spring. Stout replied that they have not.

Barry Chambers suggested that the terminal remodel include plans for a location for Airport based businesses to be showcased.

Steve Miller stated that according to the FAA his FAA badge should give him full access to the SIDA area without a separate SIDA badge. Stout responded that he did not believe so and would verify with TSA.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Delaney requested an explanation of the letter to EAA regarding unauthorized commercial activities.

Hayssen is still researching the ILS procedure changes and has located a flight procedure office on the FAA website which handles approach procedure changes.

ADJOURN

Smith moved with support from Delaney to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager