

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 20, 2005 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Doherty, Hayssen, Smith, Starrett, Walters and Young

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Hayssen moved with support from Smith to approve the August 18, 2005, Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Complaint Update:

Stout reported that 18 complaints had been received since the August 18, 2005 Commission meeting. There were no complaints during the Air Show, but there were 2 the Friday afternoon prior to the Air Show, when aircraft were arriving and pilots were practicing.

1. Joanne Fishman – loud overflights and concerns about impact of commercial service.
2. Joanne Fishman – wants flight patterns changed
3. Anonymous – loud jet overflight
4. Mrs. Irwin – loud, low overflight
5. Marc LaMantia – loud overflight
6. Hannah Hoffman – increase in air traffic during the last 2-3 months
7. Karen Davis – loud, low overflight – same aircraft multiple times
8. Carol Rombeiro – low helicopter overflight
9. Celia LaMantia – loud, low jet overflight
10. Carol Cramer – loud, low overflight
11. Anonymous – loud, low overflight
12. Mike Salisbury – low helicopter overflight
13. Marc LaMantia – loud, low jet overflight
14. Anonymous – aircraft doing aerobatics over neighborhood
15. Sarah Phillips – aircraft doing loops over her home
16. Jack Blades – low helicopter overflight
17. John Young – loud overflights nightly waking him up
18. Marc LaMantia – loud overflights

B. Tower Update

Steve Beckmann reported that there are two new employees in training; both are experienced air traffic controllers.

Beckmann said air traffic continues to be down from 2004.

C. Manny's Restaurant

Stout reported that Exchange Bank, which is handling Manny's estate, has signed a ninety-day agreement to find a new tenant and that there are two interested parties. The back rent must be paid before the lease is transferred.

D. Airport Projects Update

Stout said the paving of runway 01/19 has been completed. Grooving and painting still need to be done. The safety areas have also been graded. It should be open in 2 to 3 weeks for traffic.

Tree removal is currently underway for the perimeter fence project. Beginning October 24, 2005, the gates at the Museum and Becker Boulevard will be closed for upgrading. Signs have been posted directing tenants to other gates.

Stout also reported that the area in front of the terminal would be re-landscaped. Korbel's landscape designer is working on the plans, which should be complete in another week.

The Airport is getting bids to trim the trees on the McMullen property, which are beginning to encroach on Airport air space.

Stout said the planned maintenance project for hangars 1-25 would be postponed to spring, 2006 due to lack of manpower and other projects.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Air Show

Doherty reported that final figures on attendance and profit were not complete, but attendance was approximately 19,000. There were some problems with gate control and driving on the Airport. Doherty said parking went well with good support from businesses close to the Airport.

B. Fuel Discount Weekend

Stout proposed a fuel discount weekend to promote use of the Airport and to support the FBO's. This would consist of waiving the 10 cents per gallon fuel flowage fee collected by the Airport. Commissioners suggested combining this with a safety program for pilots, information on noise abatement for pilots or an FAA safety inspection of aircraft (without consequences).

C. Noise Abatement Brochure

Stout brought a sample of the noise abatement brochure from the San Carlos Airport to compare to the Airport's draft. At this time our brochure lacks information for pilots on techniques to lessen noise over populated areas. Stout requested suggestions and recommendations. Members of the Commission offered to mark easily identifiable landmarks on maps to be used in a noise abatement brochure and suggested some changes pilots could make on approach to the Airport.

NEW BUSINESS

Stout reported that Aloha Airlines has reconsidered service because of fog, which according to their calculations would require cancellation of approximately 25-30% of their proposed operations at STS.

Stout said that the Airport is working on upgrade of the ILS to overcome that obstacle. Aloha and Delta Airlines are sending support letters to the FAA, and support from Congresswoman Woolsey and Congressman Thompson is being sought. This upgrade will reduce the ILS minimum if approved from 2400 RVR and 200 foot ceiling (2400 RVR/200) to either 1800 RVR/200 or 1200 RVR/100.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Walters suggested providing a copy of the Red Baron Flyer to the Press Democrat.

Hayssen will put together an article on training aliens based on Homeland Security guidelines.

ADJOURN:

Doherty moved with support from Smith to adjourn. All ayes. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout
Airport Manager