

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the February 18, 2016 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Young called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carrillo, Hayssen, McCord Smith Starrett and Young.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Carrillo moved with support from Hayssen to approve the January 21, 2016, Aviation Commission Minutes. Four Ayes. Starrett abstained. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Introduction – Deputy Director Transportation & Public Works

Stout introduced Johannes Hoevertz, the new Deputy Director of Transportation & Public Works.

B. Complaint Update

Stout reported that there were 5 aircraft related complaints since the last Commission meeting. There were no other complaints.

1. Kelly Germolus – flight path should be changed
2. Kimberly Sone – low overflight
3. Ann Fitzgerald – helicopter overflight
4. John Duffy – military overflight at night
5. Johanna Greenberg – loud, low overflight

Stout said that the 2015 Complaint Summary is close to completion and should be ready for publication in April 2016.

C. Tower Report/Update

Stout reported that in December there were 4,949 operations compared to 3,312 in December 2014, an increase of 49.4%. Total operations for 2015 were 83,463 compared to 73,476 in 2014, an increase of 13.4%.

Stout said that the Super Bowl had little impact at STS with most of the increased traffic occurring in South Bay airports.

D. Airline Update

Stout reported that there were 19,970 passengers in January 2016 compared to 15,790 in December 2015, a 26.5% increase, due to the third LA flight. The Orange County flight will start on March 16, 2016; so far the bookings are a little lighter than those for LAX.

Marketing advertisements in the Press Democrat are underway. KZST is partnering with Alaska Airlines on a contest for listeners to win airline and Disneyland tickets. Sonoma County Tourism is sponsoring a contest in Orange County for four wine country trips.

Stout reported that Alaska Airlines plans to replace the Q400's with jets in all of its California markets; no date, however, has been announced.

Stout will be meeting with Sun Country in Minnesota regarding possible seasonal service to Minneapolis and Denver. Allegiant is still interested in providing twice weekly service to Las Vegas but have not committed. American Airlines is now planning to analyze the STS market.

E. Projects Update

- Airline Apron Rehabilitation – the ramp will be sealed after the winter rains. A transformer is scheduled for delivery in March, which is needed to complete the electrical work.

- Perimeter Fence Clearing – the fence area has been cleared; chipping will be done during dry weather.
- Terminal Ticket Counters – the Airport is working to upgrade the counter space to accommodate a second airline.
- Hangar Maintenance – the Commissioners asked about plans for hangar maintenance; Stout replied that the Airport is completing a hangar assessment study and evaluating how to add hangar maintenance to the budget. It might be necessary to hire a contractor to paint hangars due to staffing limitations. The Commissioners also mentioned the problems with pigeons and swallows in the hangar area. Stout said the barriers originally installed to block the pigeons from getting into the hangars have worn out and need to be replaced. Swallow nests can only be removed before they are occupied by the birds.
- Long Term Parking Lot – the Board of Supervisors supports moving ahead with the parking lot. A meeting with the Auditor and the debt advisory committee has been scheduled to discuss funding. It is possible that commuters using SMART train could increase pressure on Airport parking.
- TruAir Corporate Hangar – renderings for the site were distributed to the Commission.
- Vine Jet – a commercial space will be added in the space between the hangar and parking loop. As part of the project new bus stops will be added in order to move the buses away from the front of the terminal.

F. Board of Supervisors Presentation Update

Stout thanked the Commission for their support. A meeting is scheduled with Supervisor Rabbitt and Tim Dacey from Mead & Hunt to work on options for terminal improvements.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Cancel April 2016 Commission Meeting

McCord moved with support from Starrett to cancel the April 2016 Commission meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Hayssen said that the Airport Manager and staff deserved special recognition for the Board of Supervisors' presentation.

Young said that the pedestrian gate by the tower has been chained closed. Stout was unaware of this situation and will have Airport staff check into this and that it will probably need a new cypher lock.

ADJOURN

McCord moved with support from Starrett to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager