

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the January 21, 2016 Meeting

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carrillo, Delaney (left at 9:32 a.m.), Hayssen, McCord (left at 9:32 a.m.), Smith and Young.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *McCord moved to approve the December 17, 2015, Aviation Commission Minutes and Hayssen seconded. Five Ayes. Delaney abstained. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that there were 5 aircraft related complaints and 3 other complaints since the last Commission meeting. Year-to-date complaints are 232 compared to 335 in 2014, a 30.7% decrease.

1. Tracey Schafer – loud, low overflights
2. Johann Greenberg – loud jet overflight
3. Johann Greenberg – loud, low jet overflight
4. John Duffy – aircraft circling
5. Anonymous – change flight paths

B. Tower Report/Update

Stout reported that in November there were 6,308 operations versus 6,147 in November 2014, an increase of 3%. Year-to-date there were 78,514 operations compared to 70,264 in 2014, an increase of 12%.

David Swanson, the Tower manager, reported provided staffing and trainee updates for the Tower. Swanson also said that coordination for Super Bowl planning has been going well.

C. Airline Update

Stout reported that there were 23,013 passengers in December 2015 compared to 17,962 in December 2014, a 28.1% increase, due to the addition of the second Seattle flight for a 2 week period during the month and a third LAX flight. Year-to-date passenger numbers are 263,142, which is a new record, compared to 238,320 in 2014, an increase of 10.4%. Stout added that there were some delayed flights in December, which caused crowding in the terminal hold room.

Stout also reported that due to a suspicious package left in front of the terminal one evening last week, the Sheriff was called and the terminal evacuated causing about a half hour delay for passengers to deplane an arriving flight.

Stout said that the campaign to advertise the Alaska Airlines' flight to Orange County is underway. Advertising in Sonoma County will begin this week. The Airport is working with Alaska Airlines to advertise in the Orange County Airport. The load factors are doing well for March. Stout attended the Book of Lists event for the North Bay Business Journal and received a lot of positive feedback on the flight to Orange County.

Stout explained that the Santa Rosa/Seattle flight is the longest Q400 flight. Since this flight is longer than 500 miles, the Q400 is not as efficient, and they would like to replace it with the E175 or a 737/700 aircraft, which and hold up to 163 passengers may present a problem due to limited seating in the hold room. The Airport is working on reconfiguring the space to allow more seating.

Stout said the Small Community Air Service grant was extended to January 13, 2017 thanks to letters of support from both Sky West and American Airlines.

Allegiant is still interested in the Sonoma County market.

Stout will be going to Minneapolis in February for a meeting with Sun Country Airlines to discuss the possibility of nonstop service to Minneapolis, which has a major connection with Medtronic. Sun Country would use a 737/700 with a seating capacity of approximately 130.

D. Projects Update

- Airline Apron Rehabilitation – the ramp is being painted today so that the planes can be moved back on Monday. The electrical work needs to be completed and in April the edges of the ramp will be seal coated.
- Service Road – the Airport is waiting for the FAA grant, and the contractor extended the bids through April 30, 2016.
- Perimeter Fence Clearing – this project is nearly complete.
- Crack Sealing – Apron D and the area between the old and new shade hangars needs to be sealed, and there is a new product that should extend the life of that asphalt.
- Terminal Hold Room – the Airport is looking into ways to reconfigure the hold room.
- ATCT Elevator – the elevator is now operational.

E. Sonoma Jet Center

The hangar is under construction and work is progressing well.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Airline Rates & Charges

Stout explained that the Board of Supervisors made some edits to the Rates and Charges, which were included in the agenda packet. The airline charge for overnight parking was moved to the airline area, and terminal rates were adjusted to meet Airport costs. A “Per Turn” charge was added for airlines with irregular schedules to enable them to budget expenses more efficiently. The major addition is the Joint Use fees, such as the baggage claim, in order to cover those costs to the Airport. The Airport has discussed these charges with Alaska Airlines so that they can be included in the new operating agreement after approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Hayssen brought up the condition of some of the hangars and asked if repairs and maintenance have been planned. Stout responded that the hangar assessment study is nearly complete, which will create a repair and maintenance plan. Stout added that the Airport is working to add a dedicated maintenance person to deal with the backlog of hangar repairs, but that this will probably not be possible until County budget time. A new Airport operations staff position has been added, and that person should start in February.

Hayssen moved with support from Delaney to approve the Airline Rates & Charges. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board of Supervisors Presentation

Stout presented for Commission information the Airport 5-year improvement plan draft Power Point presentation that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2016.

B. Super Bowl

Stout reported that the reservation system is now live; Santa Rosa Jet Center and Sonoma Jet Center are providing aircraft parking. Reservations for IFR flights will be required from Thursday, February 4

through Monday, February 8, 2016. Swanson said the Tower will extend its hours of operation if necessary.

C. Cloverdale Airport

Young stated that the developer did not proceed with funding for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

There were no Commission comments at this time.

ADJOURN

Hayssen moved with support from Carrillo to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager