

SONOMA COUNTY
AVIATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the June 17, 2021 Meeting

This meeting was conducted virtually over Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER:

Young called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Young, Duste, Hayssen, McCord, and Starrett

Absent: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Hayssen moved with support from Starrett to approve the April 15, 2021 Aviation Commission Minutes.

All Ayes (McCord Abstains): Motion Carried.

AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT:

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported in April there were 118 aircraft related complaints compared to 63 from 2020; an increase of 87%. Year to date there were 262 complaints compared to 233 in 2020, an increase of 12.4%. There were no general complaints received in April.

In May, there were 149 complaints compared to 98 in 2020, an increase of 52%. Year to date there were 411 complaints compared to 331, increase of 24%. There were no general complaints received in May.

Year to date, we have 1 general complaint compared to 4 received in 2020.

Approach RFP Update: This process has been put on hold. Supervisor Hopkins has requested a delay to putting the RFP out for solicitation until a joint meeting is held on July 28. That meeting will discuss potential impacts to the Fifth District. Commissioner Hayssen will be attending.

Stout stated meetings with the Town of Windsor are ongoing, occurring every four to five months reviewing noise and general issues at the Airport.

Duste requested the Noise Complaint Summary include the number of individual complaints versus multiple complainers to facilitate analyzing trends.

B. Tower Report/Update

There were 7,343 operations in March, compared to 5,365 in 2020, an increase of 36.9%. Year to date we saw 18,982 operations compared to 18,216 in 2020.

In April there were 8,287 operations, compared to 3,615 in 2020, an increase of 129.2%. April was the peak of Covid impacts, in terms of traffic, with year to date operations of 27,269 compared to 21,831, up 24%.

For comparative purposes, in April, 2019 operations were 24,903; in 2018 they were 25,007. We are slightly above where we were in 2018 and 2019.

Craig Lucas, Tower Manager, not present.

C. Airline Update

In April, we saw 25,915 passengers compared to 1,407 in April 2020. At the end of April 2020, we saw 95,182 passengers, compared to 52,431 in 2021.

In May, we had 38,050 compared to 3,843 in May 2020. Year to date, we are at 65,101 passengers compared to 99,025 in 2020.

Stout reported airline activity will increase thru the summer to potentially 20 flights a day. United is scheduled to resume flights to San Francisco on August 1st and flights to Denver September 8th. Avelo is approximately 1.5 months into operations, operating at 50% load factor. STS has begun an advertising campaign that is part of Avelo's start up package.

D. Projects Update

- **Terminal Improvement:** On track. A lot of activity going on, on the ramp side. The Contractor is starting Phase 2. Temporary fencing has gone up on south perimeter to create a dedicated work zone. New storm sewer lines that will run on the south & west side of the future building have been installed. Work is ongoing on the footings for the west ramp; contractor plans to pour the west ramp next week. They did a pour Friday for the slab for the new tug area on the backside of new Bag makeup room. This is about 80% complete. Work on baggage system will begin next. They are working on the construction of the new IT room. This will be done around July 15th. We will relocate the Rental Car counters to create a work zone to build new ticket counters. American and United will then move from the ticketing modular to inside the terminal lobby the second or third week of August. Rental Car counters will move into the ticketing modular at that time. Project is on schedule, anticipating completion of construction by October, 2022. The temporary Baggage Claim area will be in use through mid to late summer next year.
- **Solar Panel Installation:** We have, finally, received approval from the FAA to start construction. The Solar contractor is working thru Permit Sonoma on permitting. We expect a late August early September start of construction. The project is to be completed by the end of year, commissioned by January, 2022. Solar will supply 100% of Airport's power needs. We will sell power to the Water Agency or the North County Detention Facility.
- **Backup Generator for Terminal:** Generator has been ordered and will be delivered in October. It is in the queue for construction. Once installed, entirety of terminal will have backup power. Funds were provided through a Hazard Mitigation Grant through FEMA for emergency supply.
- **Replacement Fire Trucks:** We received our FAA grant for a new fire truck. After July 1 we will issue Purchase Order to Oshkosh for the new truck; it will take 10 – 12 months for delivery. The old Oshkosh 3000 will then be retired.
- **Replacement Runway Sweeper:** We were awarded an FAA grant for a new Runway Sweeper. After July 1, we will place order for the Sweeper and expect it will take 8 months for delivery.
- **Pavement Preservation Studies:** We received an FAA grant for update to our pavement Preservation studies. FAA requires Airports to do pavement preservation work. Every 10 years we must perform a pavement index condition study.

- **Car Wash Facility Upgrade:** Purchase order is done. Contractor is working with vendor on delivery dates. Anticipating next month to get this installed.
- **Consolidated Rental Car Facility:** Kicked off this project. Working with Vendor to do feasibility study. We have a site walk next week to work on environmental concerns and finalizing estimates for project. We expect this study to take about 9 months. Anticipate approximately 2 - 3 years before construction would start.
- **Paving of EAA Driveway from Windsor Road to Airport Gate:** Airport wants this done before rain season this year. Contractors have been very busy, and it has been difficult to receive bids.
- **Removal of Eucalyptus trees:** Wrapping up a bid proposal to remove Eucalyptus trees from the south area of the Airport.
- **Property Acquisition:** We successfully completed a property acquisition (for approach protection), on May 28th. Parcel is near Shiloh and Windsor Roads. We are working with Council to potentially use the property for employee housing.
- **Airline Ramp Rehabilitation:** Board approved an Airline Ramp Rehabilitation design contract. Two remaining spots on the Airline Apron are still in 1960's asphalt. Will be upgrading to concrete and potentially adding one more to two more parking locations.
- **Taxiway A Rehabilitation:** Design contract approval from roughly A3, South. Working for next summer to do an overlay of Taxiway A. Minor excavation will be needed.
- **Fence upgrades:** Some fencing is in need of upgrading: some are 6' in height, some sections cross creeks and have no fencing. FAA requires 8' fences for security and wildlife control. Environmental documents are nearing completion. We are working towards next summer for construction.
- **Restroom remodel:** Becker and Apron E restrooms haven't been updated in a decade. Working through planning process to renovate those two restrooms
- **Water Bottle Filling Stations:** Working with Zero Waste, helping to reduce waste. Zero Waste has offered a \$15-20k grant to install water bottle filling stations. These will be located at the restrooms at Becker and Knob Hill, and one for Airline staff on the Airline Apron.
- **Airport Operations Center:** Making progress on Airport Operations Center. Start date is early September.
- **Amy's Wicked Slush:** Amy's Wicked Slush now comes to Airport twice weekly, Monday and Thursday, from noon to six. They started this week, staging next to the temporary baggage claim.
- **Concessionaire in Gate 2:** Working to finalize contract with potential concessionaire that will operate in Gate 2.
- **Piano project:** A public agency has placed a painted, Snoopy-esh, piano in Gate 2 to encourage music appreciation.

Starrett inquired on the status of brush mowing, wood pallets, and general cleanup.

Daaboul reported work is in progress. Items are being cleared up, as well as the cleanup of the entire perimeter of AOA.

Stout reported mowing along fence lines to create fire breaks.

E. Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) Update

RSAT meeting is scheduled for July 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 am. We have not received feedback from the FAA on our modifications to standards. We have heard, however, the FAA will have changes but we don't know what they are. Depending on the changes requested, there could be serious

objections from the Airport. It has been a long, team effort, to create recommendations for paint and signage.

Hayssen will be attending RSAT meeting.

F. Sheriff's Garden/Jail Facilities

The Sherriff's garden is under the control of the Airport. Working with SAC crew (probation crew) for cleanup of the site. Getting bids for the removal of sheds and bids for removal of two dead Pine trees on perimeter. Trees will be removed when bird nesting season is over.

G. COVID-19 Update

We are in a state of transition and are aware it will create a lot confusion for users and operators on the Airport. We are working on messaging to ensure it is clear. Airport falls under TSA guidelines: including mask usage. These requirements are extended through September 13th. Mask usage is required on the Airport in buildings, in terminals, and aboard aircraft. TSA lifted outdoor mask requirements.

H. Job Fair

We are hearing from our partners on the Airport (both businesses and contractors) hiring is extremely difficult. We are working with them to put together a Job Fair on the Airport. Fair will promote working on the Airport and for Airport related businesses. We are hosting the event on behalf of our partners. The event will be held in the Vine Jet hangar. We are looking at the week of July 12th, and will be held in the afternoon/early evening.

I. Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) Update

It has been several years since the ALUC has met. They will be meeting Friday, 6/19/21. They sent a referral for a project at the corner of Airport Blvd and Laughlin Road for a proposed hotel on the site. The proposed hotel will be 85' tall, five stories, if design review committee approves. It will have a restaurant and deck on the upper level. Project has been in the works for several years, it was slowed by Covid. Young will attend the ALUC meeting as member of general public.

ACTION ITEMS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Aviation Commission Meeting Format – Virtual/Hybrid/In Person

Stout requested direction from the Commission regarding their preference on meeting format as we transition out of Covid; virtual, hybrid, or in person.

Zoom is convenient and efficient. Hybrid meeting would include use of Airport conference room, broadcasting via Zoom. A staff member would need to moderate and support the Hybrid meeting. The Airport would not be able to start in person or hybrid meetings until OSHA makes determination on office workspace rules. Conference room is currently limited to 6 people.

After discussion, the Commissioners recommendation going forward: for remainder of calendar year, meetings will remain virtual, continuing on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sebastopol resident (Celeste): Celeste states she has submitted quite a few noise complaints. Noticed significant increase in number of aircraft since April. On May 23 recorded a dozen planes flying directly over her property in one hour. Noise is troublesome.

Mark Vogler: Believes he is one of the three who puts in a lot of complaints. Sees an increase in air traffic over Silk Road. He wonders if the increase is due to flight school activity.

Brian Boleman: Lives on Wellington Circle. He is in a citizens group on the west side of Windsor. What are the obstacles to pilots using a more westerly approach that would avoid our neighborhood? Is there a review in progress that is looking at the way planes descend?

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Hayssen commented planes over Sebastopol are not on the Victor airways. Planes coming from Portland/Seattle, instructed to land north/northwest, are instructed to circle for a safe approach. We are in the process of re-evaluating flight patterns.

Young clarified: the term "circle to land" means a 90d to 180d turn, versus a circle.

McCord commented the job of Air Traffic Control is, first and foremost, the safety of aircraft, keeping aircraft property separated, sequenced, and spaced.

Duste brought up the existing Noise Subcommittee. Committee includes Stout, McCord, Hayssen and Young. They meet regularly.

Young reiterated Stout's conclusion that every area around the Airport is a noise sensitive area.

ADJOURN:

McCord moved with support from Starrett to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Stout, AAE, CAE
Airport Manager