

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 17, 2019 Meeting

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Larry Carrillo, Art Hayssen, Del Starrett and Marlon Young.

Absent: Jim McCord, Scott Ahrens, Tim Delaney,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Art Hayssen moved with support from Larry Carrillo to approve the September 19, 2019 Aviation Commission Minutes. **All Ayes:** Motion Carried.

AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT:

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported there were 67 aircraft related complaints in September, and an additional 3 non-aircraft related. September's 67 complaints constitute an increase of 223% compared to 30 complaints in September 2018. Year-to-date there have been 295 complaints in 2019 compared to 82 in 2018, an increase of 259%. In 2019 we have received the second highest number of complaints per year, with 2017 seeing the highest number of complaints. Currently, we are working with County Supervisor Gore to schedule a Windsor town hall meeting. We are also working to invite citizens to set up a working group and a subgroup of the Aviation Commission to then work on updating the noise abatement guide as well as optimizing approaches.

A discussion ensued about planes turning sooner or options for improved tracking via radar. Some options talked about were obtaining ASR, Brite Screen, and a Fusion System. Mount Tam has Center Radar with 12-second sweeps. ASR is about 4 to 4 ½ seconds. The Fusion System has the capability of 1-second updates. There are possible options of teaming up with Napa to gain ASR somewhere in the middle, combining funding. Maybe climbing faster could help.

Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Stephanie Blair	Overflight/noise
Joe Denisson	Overflight/noise
Unknown	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Chris Soother	Noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Kelly Germolous	Overflight
Anna Ransome	Overflight

Linda Wyer	Overflight
Elroy Steele	Overflight/noise
Kelly Germolous	Overflight/noise
Patricia Callahan	Overflight/noise
Imogene Jones	Overflight/noise
Sarah Thornton	Overflight
Mark Walsh	Overflight
Katherine Henderson	Overflight
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Robert Shiperly	Overflight/noise
Lisa Meeker	Overflight

Cindy Shiperly	Balloons too low
Lois Fisher	Overflight/noise
George Tuttle	Overflight
Dave Oliver	Overflight/noise
Phil Anacker	Overflight/noise
Gwynn O’Gara	Overflight/noise
Paula Pietromonaco	Overflight/noise
Robert Catterton	Overflight/noise
Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Mark Spaulding	Overflight/noise
Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Holly Trivan	Overflight/noise
Robert Catterton	Overflight/noise
Elisabeth Bollman	Overflight/noise
Sharon Unknown	Overflight/noise

William Wackerman	Overflight/noise
James McGowan	Overflight/noise
Lisa McCalley-Sprague	Overflight
Jill Segalas-Springer	Overflight/noise
Laura Sprague	Speed
Lisa McCalley-Sprague	Overflight/noise
Paula Pietromanaco	Overflight
Paula Pietromanaco	Overflight/noise
Gwynn O’Gara	Overflight/noise
Susan Zimmerman	Overflight/noise
Barbara Wolfe	Overflight/noise
Ryan Kelly	Overflight/noise
Deborah Burger	Overflight
Nancy Mills	Overflight
Charles Unknown	Overflight

B. Tower Report/Update

There were 8,567 operations in August 2019, compared to 7,855 in August 2018; an increase of 9.1%. Year to date there have been 49,575 operations compared to 49,826 in 2018, a decrease of 0.5%. Lucas confirmed the tower now has fiber to the tower but not completely installed. The tower is still having internet issues. There is a new controller in the tower. He has 9 years military radar experience, but the tower is new to him. He will come on board in the next week or two. Young thanked the tower for helping during the Air Show. Hayssen thanked the tower for their participation and providing more opportunities for women in aviation. The tower will participate in the next career fair. Hayssen provided the historical background that in the 1970s, STS was a leader providing opportunities for women in aviation. In the 1990s, the participation of Women in aviation dropped.

C. Airline Update

September 2019 Total Passengers number was 52,962, compared to 43,480 in September 2018; a 21.8% increase. The YTD Total Passengers number was 361,981 for September 2019, compared to 334,160 for September 2018; an 8.3% increase. September set a monthly record for passenger volume.

Stout reported attending a recent meeting with Alaska at their headquarters. The topic of discussion was schedules for next year. Looking at adding an additional flight to San Diego for 2020. There is some interest going back to Las Vegas, plus seasonal trips to Palm Springs, but not in 2020. Meetings are set with American and United in November. No date has been set to meet with Sun Country yet. Los Angeles American flight is suspended at the end of December and Dallas suspends in January.

D. Projects Update

- **Painting Projects:** Centerlines and lead offs have been painted. There will be no edge line painting until spring 2020. Painting efficiency has improved due to experienced painters on Operations staff.

- **Hangar Roof Work:** Over the next two weeks, roof work on hangars will be completed by maintenance and extra-help. Roof repair work takes four people to comply with fall protection requirements.
- **Modular Tent Expansion:** Should start in December or January, and be completed by July.
- **Solar Panels in Parking Lot B:** Currently working on tower glare analysis. The team took photos from the tower at a time when glare was likely. The tower will work on a letter to the FAA in support of the location. Solar panels will save 1,000 metric tons of Green House Gas emissions per year. We are also exploring kiosks in the terminal, for travelers to contribute towards reduction of GHG, and we are working with the County's Energy and Sustainability Department (ESD) to bring these online next year with certified validation of projects.
- **Airport Management Software:** Interviews to be conducted next Monday, hoping for a decision and start of implementation by end of year, to be operational by July 1st. Young will be one of the panelists.
- **Parking Lot Management:** Management draft agreement going to the BOS in November. A switch over will likely occur February 1st.
- **Spot 2 Repairs:** Not completed yet. Just prior to repairing, we detected a new deflection, due to moved parking. The area needed further repairs. The contractor did not prepare for a 50% increase in the job. We are currently looking at permanent repairs to occur in January or February.

E. Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) Update

None. Stout reported Mead & Hunt is working on geometry and the modification to standards requests.

F. Runway Approaches

Stout reported that we have been working on optimizing the Runway 14 approach. With the number of complaints, we should look at all approaches, and review the full picture. Members of the public expressed their unhappiness with the current approach. Stout and Hayssen expressed that not all pilots are using the correct approaches and that pilot education is a big factor. Some approach factors include: western approach has staggered drops, sub optimal power settings on various approaches, terrain interference on various approaches, some safety issues with other approaches, low altitude turning causes more noise, and multiple factors regarding a straight-in approach.

G. Sheriff's Garden/Jail Facilities

Stout reported there was a meeting a week ago to discuss when the garden will be abandoned. Stout is anticipating twelve months from now the start of hangar development and rental car facilities development. There will be cost savings for the Sheriff moving green houses to other locations and giving up land. Stout reported that it was a very productive meeting. Young asked if the Sheriff is currently paying. Stout responded that the decision is still with the County Administrators Office. The Sheriff is looking at a budget adjustment. Young asked about Commissioners assisting. Stout confirmed not at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Airport Department Structure Update:** Young reported he would meet with Delaney. He also reported that based on discussion with San Luis Obispo Airport, they recommended not changing structure during large projects. We need an initial meeting, but we should not pursue a change until after the Airport construction projects. We should continue in the future to look at discussions. The Board of

Supervisors had the incorrect idea that the Airport was looking at becoming an Airport Authority, and we need to make sure the BOS understands that the goal is to review the possibility of the Airport becoming its own Department in the County system.

- B. Terminal Modernization Project:** *(This discussion occurred prior to the Airport Managers Report to allow for a presentation from Mead & Hunt).* Stout confirmed that the Airport is at about 50% design. Staff from the design team composed of Mead & Hunt and the Construction Manager at Risk team from Q&D Construction were present at the meeting. Tim Dacey from Mead & Hunt walked through plans, phasing and drawings of the terminal modernization project. Phase 1 of the terminal design would consist of the expansion of the current tent structure to enable moving terminal facilities to a temporary location prior to Phase 2. Once construction of the tent expansion is complete we would break ground to move the security checkpoint to the tent. The overall look and feel of the expanded terminal will be “entering wine county” using wood beams, high ceilings, viewing windows, cement and steel. Hayssen asked about location of car rentals. Stout confirmed plans for car a rental facility to the South of the terminal. Hayssen mentioned that the location of the restaurant’s patio area would have obstructed viewing of the aircraft. Dacey confirmed that is true but that the baggage claim area would have ample viewing angles. Starrett asked about the phase for the final checkpoint. Dacey confirmed the third phase. Starrett expressed his concern that people are still confused about where to check in even though there are current directional signs. Dacey confirmed that construction required building a new structure first before moving specific stations around. Dacey also confirmed construction would add 300 seats. Carrillo commented that he liked the window treatments and high ceilings. Hayssen commented that arrivals seem more integrated. Young asked about the ARFF relocation. Stout answered, plans have changed per the FAA review and we are currently looking for a new site, with a goal of 3 years. Young asked about furthest response time from the ARFF and Stout confirmed needs to be located within 3 minutes of the midpoint of Runway 20. We are working with Sonoma County Fire to review the possibility of a joint station.
- C. Noise Abatement Guide:** Stout reported that we are looking at a deeper review of complaints. We are undergoing some staff shortages at this time. The goal will be to determine the various modes of flight so that we can update based on impacts and find problem areas in the next few weeks. A new Administrative Aide will start on 10/22, and she will assist. Hayssen read a note from McCord (absent at this meeting) confirming he will work with Hayssen to help with the Noise Abatement update. Stout will work with Tim McNab, Town Manager, to attend a Windsor Town Council meeting in November. Young confirmed that he would also attend the Windsor Town Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public expressed their concerns that neighbors were moving out of the neighborhood because of an increase in noise. One member of the public expressed that noise problems are predominantly coming from 14. The noise is so loud it is rattling windows. He believes a western approach rather than an eastern approach would make all the difference. Neighbors are organizing to express their concerns and this member of the public is willing to volunteer to serve on the working group mentioned. Discussion with the Commissioners and Stout continued, including a debate of various approaches and possible solutions. Stout expressed that consistency is important. Young confirmed that more detailed data helps to determine trends to inform a solution. Members of the public asked what has changed to increase traffic. Stout confirmed that the number of flights has not changed, but there was changes in the fleet mix, with the CQ400 replaced by the E175, which does have a different sound.

The public was concerned that planes were now flying lower. Stout provided correction: pilots were not consistently using an optimized approach-- not following their instrument-- but instead using visual approaches. Stout confirmed working groups including working with the airlines could review these types of issues and arrive at solutions.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Young reported that he visited Napa. Napa is conducting an RFP for FBOs now.

Hayssen appreciates input from the many neighbors who attended this meeting and looks forward to resolution.

ADJOURN

Hayssen moved with support from Starrett to adjourn.

All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Stout
Airport Manager