

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the July 19, 2012 Meeting

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Delaney, Hayssen, McCord, Smith, and Starrett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Smith moved with support from Starrett to approve the June 2012 Aviation Commission Minutes. 4 Ayes, 1 Abstention (Hayssen). Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that there were 13 aircraft related complaints since the June 2012 meeting.

1. Lisa (no last name) – helicopter repeatedly flying over home
2. George Tuttle – loud aircraft taking off
3. David Scott Griffin – loud jet overflight
4. Patricia Vandenberg – helicopter circling
5. Bill Foss – low jet overflight, landing
6. Jennifer West – loud jet overflight
7. Mark Spaulding – low jet overflight
8. Diane Beagle – too much air traffic over area
9. Diane Beagle – fourth aircraft just flew over
10. Sandi LaMantia – loud overflight
11. Cheryl Lane – loud overflight
12. Melanie McNulty – helicopter circling
13. Betsy McMann – too much air traffic over one area

Stout said that year to date there were 20 more complaints than in 2011. The 2011 Annual Complaint Summary was distributed to the Commission for review and comment.

B. Tower Report

Allie Metcalf, Tower manager, was not present. Stout reported that year-to-date operations were up 6% over 2011.

C. Airline Update

Stout reported that Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air June passenger numbers were up 2.4% over 2011. Alaska Airlines is please with the route changes. The third LAX flight will continue to operate until November 4, 2012. The Airport will be having discussions with Alaska Airlines regarding the possibility of a second San Diego flight and a third LAX flight for summer 2013.

Stout plans to meet with Skywest in early August to discuss possible service to Denver.

D. Projects Update

- Stout announced the retirement of one of the operations specialists and explained the County procedure for hiring someone for that position. Two extra help employees have been hired to help keep up with Airport maintenance.
- Rental car operating agreements are in the process of being updated and rewritten.
- The vehicle charging station by the terminal is nearly complete.

- Vehicle charging stations for the rental cars will be installed after upgrades to the electrical transformer have been completed (anticipated in 4 to 6 weeks).
- The restaurant electric panel is being separated from the rest of the terminal.
- There is a PG&E program to finance energy saving electric retrofits, and the Airport is looking into upgrading security lights to take advantage of this program.
- The FAA has a grant program to fund voluntary airport low emissions' projects, which may be used to install solar power for the runway vault, the terminal and the administration building.

E. EA/EIR Update

Stout said that chapters of the EA are currently being revised to meet FAA Regional requirements, which differ from those of the San Francisco Airports District Office. In addition, U.S. Fish and Wildlife still need to provide a written opinion. Stout explained that the Regional office will probably fund the project with two grants: environmental mitigation in March 2013 and construction and design in April 2013.

Stout said that the Airport has made offers to three property owners and that two additional owners have indicated an interest in selling their property to the Airport.

F. Auto Gas Update

Joshua Hochberg, owner of Sonoma Jet Center, explained the difficulty in finding a meter acceptable to County Weights and Measures.

G. Minimum Standards

Stout said the subcommittee has made good progress. Once the edits are complete, the Commission will have the opportunity to review the entire document. It will then be available for public comment before being sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

H. Neighbors Meeting

Stout reported that the semiannual Airport neighbors' meeting has been scheduled for Monday evening, August 27, 2012.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Airport Advertising Policy

Stout explained that a media company is interested in placing advertisements on the side of the Vine Jet hangar, which is prohibited by the current Airport advertising policy. A copy of this policy was provided for Commission review and comments regarding a possible amendment. Stout also said that staff is currently contacting other airports regarding their policies and possible revenues from such advertising. The Commission requested that this item be brought back for discussion after data from other airports has been compiled.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rob Drew, representing Vine Jet, said he would report back to Vine Jet on the advertising discussion.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Starrett requested an update on Dragonfly Aviation, and Stout reported that another potential buyer is in discussions and that Dragonfly has requested an extension on the termination notice in order to work out purchase details. Counsel has extended the deadline to September 30, 2012.

McCord commented that Loveland Airport, located close to Ft. Collins, Colorado, has air service to Hawaii. Since this is a very small airport, he expressed the opinion that air service to Hawaii from Sonoma County Airport seemed quite possible. Stout responded that the Airport has presented Alaska Airlines with passenger forecasts and that the STS market area generates approximately 20% of the Hawaii passengers for Alaska Airlines out of Oakland.

ADJOURN

Delaney moved with support from Starrett to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager