

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the July 17, 2014 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Young called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carrillo, Delaney (left at 9:08 a.m.), Hayssen, McCord, Smith, and Young.

AIRPORT STAFF: Stout introduced Arielle Kohn, the Office Assistant II for the Airport.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Hayssen moved with support from Delaney to approve the June 19, 2014 Aviation Commission Minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that 40 aircraft related complaints were received since the June meeting, with 102 year-to-date, a 52% increase. The majority were due to the closure of Runway 14/32, which moved all traffic to Runway 2/20 and increased traffic over new neighborhoods. Delaney asked what the response had been when neighbors have been called back about complaints. Kohn replied that for the most part they have appreciated the information. Stout said that Runway 14/32 should reopen in October.

Stout reported that there were 6 other complaints regarding cancelled flights, parking and Airport security screening.

1. Gilles LeFevre – loud “hard” landing
2. Dennis Reynolds – low overflights
3. Dennis Reynolds – too many touch-and-goes
4. Roy Robustelli – low overflight
5. Dennis Reynolds – too many touch-and-goes
6. Rhonda Whiteside – too many overflights
7. Scott Griffin – 2 loud jet overflights
8. Marilyn Standley – low overflight
9. Dennis Reynolds – too many touch-and-goes
10. Dennis Reynolds – too many touch-and-goes
11. Bill Foss – low overflight
12. Jeremiah Taylor – 2 aircraft nearly collided
13. Patty Copus – frequent helicopter overflights
14. Marilee Ruggles – too much air traffic
15. Kari Olson – Alaska Airline overflights
16. Kim Hunt – increased air traffic
17. Diana Biegel – too much air traffic
18. Jim Mallie – increased air traffic
19. Don Albini – increased air traffic
20. Don Albini – low overflights
21. Kari Olson – increased air traffic
22. Trudy Macchia – increased air traffic
23. Jim Lundgren – increased air traffic
24. John Balcomb – loud military aircraft overflight
25. April Rowley – increased air traffic and low overflights

26. Liz Brock – increased air traffic
27. James Lomanto – low overflights
28. Anonymous – loud overflights
29. Evelyn Stillwell – increased air traffic
30. Nancy Sanchetti – increased air traffic
31. Andrew Moleday – increased air traffic
32. Megan Freeman – increased air traffic
33. Art Hernandez – helicopter overflights
34. Carmen Calzada – increased air traffic
35. Anonymous – increased air traffic
36. Meredith Gross – increased air traffic
37. Carrie Mibelli – increased air traffic
38. Patricia Bines – increased air traffic
39. Pierre Marisco – increased air traffic
40. Rick Modlin – loud overflights

B. Tower Report/Update

Stout reported that there were 7,239 operations in June 2014, a 10.3% increase over June 2013. Year to date there were 30,754 operations, a 1.4% increase over 2013.

Robin Greisen, tower manager, was not present, however, Lange reported that there were no problems with the runway project and tower operations. Work is still being done on sign changes during the project, and Stout explained some of the name changes. The Airport is coordinating with the tower on painting movement lines on Taxiway Echo.

C. Airline Update

Stout said that June passenger numbers were 21,843, an increase of 2.7% over June 2013. Passenger numbers year-to-date were 108,501, a 2.8% increase. Stout added that passenger numbers might show a decrease in July due to disruptions caused by the runway project.

Stout reported on the Jumpstart Conference. American Airlines is interested in Phoenix, and the Airport is working on providing additional market research. United Airlines was not positive that STS would meet their profit margin requirements.

Hayssen asked which market was the strongest in terms of demographics, Denver, Phoenix or Salt Lake City. Stout replied that it depends on the connections at each airport.

Stout met with Allegiant, and they are still interested in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas connection does not fit with Spirit. Southwest's model does not work at this time.

Alaska Airlines is still evaluating Hawaii, which would require splitting days with another city to support less than daily flights as well as a ramp upgrade at STS to support regular 737 landings.

Young asked for more details regarding the flight cancellations due to the ASOS outage. Stout explained that the FAA has tightened its requirements for weather reporting so that other methods of weather reporting could not be used. In the future the tower will inform both the Airport and the airline if there is a planned ASOS outage, but this event was due to unforeseen software problems.

Hayssen asked about the problem with the runway lights, and Stout explained that the FAA had not included the office in charge of certifying runway lighting when coordinating flight checks. As a result one Alaska flight was affected. The lights have been certified, and the Airport and the FAA are coordinating with the office in Oklahoma City to coordinate future flight checks.

D. Projects Update

- Rubberized mulch – mulch is still being applied in areas that were lawn in order to conserve water.
- SIDA box – the additional SEA flight will require parking for an aircraft for up to 5 hours a day. Mead & Hunt is working on a layout plan, and the Airport is meeting with both Sonoma Jet Center and Vine Jet to discuss the proposed layout.
- Tree removal – work is continuing on tree removal and topping; the LIDAR survey will be used in the future.

E. Runway Safety Project Update

Stout said that the Airport is working on a Phase 4 construction flyer, which will include a map of the temporary airfield configuration, to be sent out to Airport tenants and users. There will be approximately 40 night closures during this phase.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Social Media Update

Gina Stocker, Airport Marketing Coordinator, described the various social media activities the Airport has been utilizing, including Twitter and Facebook. Stocker said the Airport has been working to reach out to the aviation community and tenants to promote general aviation and that suggestions and feedback would be welcome.

Stout explained that the County has changed the standards for County websites, which will probably require the Airport to change its website.

B. Hangar Leases/Incentives

Stout said a draft of the hangar lease will be available at the next Commission meeting for review. Young, Smith and Carrillo will be on the Commission subcommittee; Airport tenant, Larry Wasem, agreed to be on the subcommittee, and staff will contact Airport tenant, Wes Daniels, to also serve on the subcommittee.

McCord suggested evaluating the various hangar categories regarding condition and pricing before working on an incentive plan.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Delaney asked if there were plans for roof maintenance this year, and Stout replied that it would be postponed until there are enough operations staff.

Carrillo asked about the recent closure of Airport Boulevard for the bicycle race. Stout said that the Airport had not been notified of this closure. PRMD had issued the permit, and the Airport will work

with them in the future to make sure that both the Airport and the airline are notified of any road closures in the area.

ADJOURN

McCord moved with support from Carrillo to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager