

# SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the August 19, 2010 Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Hayssen called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Delaney, Hayssen, Smith, Starrett, and Young (arrived at 8:07 a.m.).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Smith moved with support from Starrett to approve the July 2010 Aviation Commission Minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

## **AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **A. Complaint Update**

Stout reported that there were 12 complaints since the July 2010 meeting.

1. Scott Griffin – loud overflight
2. Carolyn Estrada – helicopter circling area
3. Bill Foss – aircraft doing touch and go operations
4. Carrie Samuels – loud overflights
5. Silvia Ibarra – middle of the night landing
6. Bill Sullivan – helicopter overflights
7. Bill Sullivan – helicopter overflights
8. Oscar (no last name) – aircraft with object attached to tail
9. Chuck Thae – unidentified aircraft with unusual lights
10. Geri Cross – loud, low jet overflight
11. Sandy Torxel – helicopter overflight
12. Mark Paulichek – helicopter overflight

Stout said that there have been no comments received regarding the annual complaint summary. Hayssen noted that there seems to be an increase in complaints about helicopter operations.

### **B. Tower Report**

Allie Metcalf, Tower manager, was not present. Stout reported that June 2010 operations were down from both June 2008 and June 2009. Hayssen commended Metcalf on her presentation to the aviation safety program that was held at the Sonoma County Office of Education with approximately 110 attendees.

### **C. Airline Update**

Stout reported that Horizon Air passenger numbers were up 3% over July 2009 and that August passenger bookings were also doing well. Advanced bookings for September are also showing an increase from 2009. Stout added that Horizon Air is changing its business model and coordinating more with Alaska Airlines, but at this point there are no changes planned for STS. Las Vegas is the only market that could be impacted with the new changes with Alaska Airlines.

There are no other airlines to report on at this time.

Stout added that the Airport is currently preparing a grant application for small community airports to request approximately \$200,000 to support an inbound passenger

marketing program. STS is currently considered a local rather than a tourist destination for passengers, with 55% outbound and 45% inbound passenger numbers. These numbers should actually be reversed based on our strong tourism draw.

#### **D. EIR/EA Update**

Stout reported that the FAA has required the Airport to use two forecasts for the environmental documents. The EIR will be based on numbers from the current draft master plan, and the EA will be based on the FAA terminal area forecasts. The passenger numbers are the major difference. The consultant has therefore begun the traffic analysis, noise contours and other required studies that are based on forecast numbers.

#### **E. Projects**

- Terminal Remodel – construction should be complete by the end of this week with another 2 weeks to complete the punch list.
  - Landscaping around the restaurant is being done by Airport staff.
  - Bids are in for carpeting, which should be complete by the end of September.
  - Signage will be added.
  - Trash and recycle bins will be obtained through the Refuse Division of Public Works with CRV funding.
  - Open house is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
  - Senator Boxer has tentatively scheduled a tour on August 28, 2010, as part of a tour looking at economic stimulus projects.
- Obstruction Removal – the tree removal is going well, and the property owner is pleased with the work done. It should be complete in another week. Regional Parks will work with the owner to landscape the cleared area.
- Taxiway Z – work will start next week. Phase 1 will be the intersection of Bravo. Phase 2 will be from approximately the northern edge of the airline box to the Charlie intersection.
- Taxiways D & Y – the lowest bidder was unable to obtain the necessary bonds; the bid will therefore go to the second lowest bidder. The project includes a seal coat and enhanced taxiway markings.
- VASI – the FAA will pull new power cable to the VASI, west of 14/32 next week.

Hayssen asked when the signage recommended by the Runway Safety Committee would be in place. Stout replied that the recommendations are under review and should be combined with the runway project next year.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Dragonfly Aviation**

Stout explained Dragonfly Aviation's history of frequently paying its ground rent and monthly percentage rents late. Young recused himself from voting, since he has done legal work for North Coast Air.

Bob Archibald, owner of Dragonfly Aviation, explained the flight school profit margins are very low and that Dragonfly cannot provide additional services, such as light sport aircraft maintenance and fueling, which would help its income.

Hayssen requested volunteers for a subcommittee to review this issue. Smith and Starrett will join Hayssen on this subcommittee. Starrett suggested that Archibald create a 5 year business plan. In addition, have the Airport Manager meet with Dragonfly and current maintenance providers to discuss the potential for Dragonfly to be granted a specialized operating permit to conduct light sport aircraft maintenance. After discussion of these items, it was proposed that this item be included on the November 2010 Aviation Commission agenda to review recommendations from the subcommittee and the results of the meeting with current maintenance providers for a recommendation for the Airport Manager.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Taxi Ordinance**

Stout reported on recent incidents, including violent behavior by taxi drivers, which have led to possibly banning taxicab staging on Airport property. Jim, a driver for George's cab, stated that banning staging at the Airport does not interfere with taxi services.

Mark Mispagel, Airport legal consultant, reviewed the draft Airport ordinance changes since the last meeting. Lidia Herbert, Airport staff, reviewed the proposed penalties and rates and charges.

Stout said that Commission comments and suggestions are needed by the end of August, so that a final draft of the commercial vehicle ordinance can be ready to mail out to operators in early September for discussion at the September Aviation Commission meeting. Stakeholders and Airport tenants will be invited to that meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business at this time.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Duvander, EAA president, asked when the ban on staging would be implemented. Stout said that after the Air Show the taxi parking spaces will be returned to restaurant and car rental return parking. Stout added that the Sheriff will assist the Airport and Republic Parking in enforcement.

## **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

There were no Commission comments at this time.

**ADJOURN**

*Young moved with support from Delaney to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Jon Stout, CAE, AAE  
Airport Manager