

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the October 20, 2011 Meeting

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carrillo, Hayssen, Smith, Starrett and Young.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Carrillo moved with support from Starrett to approve the September 2011 Aviation Commission Minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that 27 complaints were received since the September 2011 meeting. There were 9 complaints related to a military U2 practicing a low approach over the Airport.

1. Anna Levinger – low overflight
2. Alan (no last name) – low overflight
3. Judy Fessler – loud overflight
4. Rich (no last name) – multiple loud and low overflights
5. Rich (no last name) – loud, low jet overflight
6. Marilyn Stanley – low overflight
7. Rich (no last name) – loud, low overflight
8. Duane Canaga – low overflight
9. Jim Bartem – multiple helicopter overflights
10. Jim Bartem – helicopter overflight
11. Jim Bartem – helicopter overflight
12. Rich (no last name) – loud, low jet overflight
13. David (Scott) Griffin – loud jet overflight
14. Dana Acquerro – loud jet overflight
15. Mrs. Bollman – loud overflight
16. Rich (no last name) – loud, low overflight
17. Phil Aniker – loud aircraft at the Cloverdale Airport
18. Brad Eldow – loud jet overflight
19. Christina Raymond – loud jet overflight
20. Mrs. Bollman – loud overflights
21. Bob Battles – loud overflight
22. Sandi LaMantia – loud jet overflight
23. Renee Carriere – loud overflight
24. Kendra Skys – loud jet overflight
25. Romana Beltran – loud overflight
26. Loren Fong – loud overflight
27. Jessica Padrone – increase in aircraft overflights and noise from the Airport

General, non-aircraft related, complaints have been added to the packet.

1. Ashley Olson – problem locating the ADA restroom in the terminal

B. Tower Report

Allie Metcalf, Tower manager, was not present. Stout said that air traffic as of August 2011 was up 4.3% over 2010.

C. Airline Update

Stout reported that Horizon Air's passenger numbers were up 12 ½% for year to date. STS has continued talking to Alaska Airlines about service to San Diego a third LAX flight during the summer; the Airport is putting together a potential incentive package for these flights.

Stout announced that STS was awarded the Small Community Air Service grant. Frontier Airlines has stated they will not be available to discuss possible service to STS until November or December 2011, after they complete their fall schedule changes.

D. Projects Update

- Becker Blvd. Meeting – Stout met with Becker Blvd. tenants about the name change, and the tenants were generally neutral regarding changing the name of Becker Blvd., except for one tenant who was strongly opposed. The Commission had no suggestions regarding the name change and agreed the Airport should proceed.

- Security System – the badge and gate switch over went well.

- Terminal Hold Room – the hold room has been painted, and the floor has been repaired.

- Localizer Approach – the Airport is working on bids to top trees in the localizer approach area.

- Taxiway D – tree cutting is on the agenda for this area.

- Rental Car Return Area – an area in the southeast corner of the short term parking lot has been delineated for rental car returns in order to open additional spaces in the employee parking area.

- Land Acquisition – the Airport has acquired 3 ¼ acres on Shiloh and Windsor Roads as part of the approach protection zone.

- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – the Airport is working the General Services to install 6 Stage II charging stations for electric vehicles, 4 for the rental cars, 2 in the short-term lot and 6 Stage I charging stations in the long-term lot.

E. EA/EIR Update

Stout reported that the draft response to comments must be completed and presented to the Planning Commission before it can go the Board of Supervisors for final approval. In response to a court case in the Bay Area, County Counsel has recommended additional study of traffic impacts for the final EIR.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Auto Gas

Stout stated that Dragonfly Aviation was able to locate a vendor to supply 91 octane ethanol free auto gas, but that the fuel is based in Nevada and would have to be transported. The company working with Dragonfly has also offered use of a truck for storage. Dragonfly has proposed using a fuel truck as a semi-stationary tank, which would remain on the leasehold. Aircraft owners would be able to purchase fuel in advance, and Dragonfly would store it. Young compared this to a fueling co-op, rather than a self-fueling operation, which is not allowed by the Airport Minimum Standards. Stout explained that County fire requirements would still have to be met.

Bob Archibald, owner of Dragonfly Aviation, submitted an article from “Aero-News.Net” regarding protests by a group calling itself the Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution against the Santa Monica Airport, which also mentioned the use of leaded avgas used by piston aircraft. As a “green” issue, Dragonfly would like to find away to provide unleaded ethanol-free fuel.

Following discussion regarding the necessity of meeting FAA standards and inspection requirements, the possibility of modifying the Minimum Standards and the effect on other fuel operators, Stout proposed formation of a sub-committee to study these issues and come up with some options. Larry Carrillo, Don Smith and Marlon Young will meet with the County Fire and Emergency Services to clarify County requirements to be followed by a meeting with Dragonfly Aviation and Sonoma Jet Center.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Pizzo, a Gun Club hangar tenant, would like to be able to buy ethanol-free auto gas.

Josh Hochberg, owner of Sonoma Jet Center, said their open house was a great success and that the Young Eagles provided 67 flights. He also thanked Melinda Gay, Airport Marketing Coordinator, for providing publicity for the event.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Hayssen asked for information on the 9 noise complaints regarding one aircraft, and Stout explained that it was a U2 practicing a low approach.

ADJOURN

Smith moved with support from Carrillo to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager