

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 15, 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: *Smith moved with support from Hayssen to approve the November 2011 Aviation Commission Minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that 11 complaints were received since the October 2011 meeting.

1. Rich (no last name) – low, loud jet overflight
2. Bill Foss – low, loud overflight
3. Rich (no last name) – low overflight
4. Rich (no last name) – multiple overflights
5. Rich (no last name) – overflight
6. Rich (no last name) – loud overflight
7. Robert Chavez – low, loud jet overflight
8. Bill Foss – low overflight
9. Dorothy Willows – helicopter hovering over home
10. Rich (no last name) – loud overflight
11. Rich (no last name) – low overflight

General Complaints

1. Tammy Mulligan – canceled flights at STS and LAX

B. Tower Report

Allie Metcalf, Tower manager, reported that there will be 5 trainees next year. Paul Heck, an Airport tenant, complimented the Tower's handling of air traffic on a current busy weekend. Stout said that air traffic is up 6% for the year.

C. Airline Update

Stout reported that Horizon Air's November passenger numbers were slightly up over 2010, with a year-to-date increase of 10.7%. The Airport is still in discussions with Alaska Airlines regarding a San Diego flight and an additional flight to Los Angeles during the summer.

Stout will contact Frontier in late December to discuss its fleet availability for the summer of 2012. If Republic Airlines sells Frontier Airlines, the Small Community Air Service Grant funds could be used for another airline offering eastbound service.

Frontier Airlines has requested additional data on parking and passengers going through screening on a daily basis in order to evaluate the market in Sonoma County.

D. Projects Update

- Tree topping – trees have been topped on the 32 approach.

- Lowering greenhouse gas emissions – the Airport is working on a grant to install several solar arrays and electric vehicle charging stations as part of an FAA program grant called “Voluntary Airport Low Emissions”, which is designed to lower emissions at airports and would include:
 - Apron F – a ground based solar array which could generate up to 90% of the electric needs.
 - Terminal – a roof top based solar array which could generate up to 40% of the electric needs.
 - Administration Building – a rooftop based solar array which could generate up to 90% of the electric needs.
 - Runway lighting system – a rooftop based (potentially on the Old Shade Hangars) solar array which could generate up to 90% of the electric needs.
 - Electric Vehicle Acquisition – as part of the grant, the Airport would acquire up to 6 electric vehicles and install 3 charging stations.

In addition to the FAA grant request, the Airport is working with General Services, which has a grant to install electric vehicle charging stations, to potentially install electric vehicle charging stations at the Airport: possibly 4 for the car rental companies, 2 for the public and 6 in the long term parking lot.

- Smart phone applications – the County is working on a smart phone application, which will show electric charging stations throughout the County.

It is estimated if these solar arrays are installed, it would reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by approximately 93 tons per year.

E. EA/EIR Update

Stout reported that the Planning Commission approved the EA/EIR on December 1, 2011, with a 4 to 1 vote. A hearing at the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for January 10, 2012, and if it is approved with a “straw vote”, the Board certification would be on January 24, 2012.

Runway construction could start in July 2012. The Airport will hold stakeholder meetings to plan how to minimize disruptions. There are 3 property parcels which still need to be acquired. The Airport is working with the FAA on a GPS approach and upgrades to the approaches on runway 1 and 19, which should be ready to be published in October or November 2012.

Stout also reported that the City of Santa Rosa had submitted a letter in support of the runway extension.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. & B. Rules & Regulations & Minimum Standards

Gloria Cote, Airport Administrative Aide, reported that all but three of the 2008 committee members had responded and agreed to remain on the subcommittees. She was directed to try to contact those three one more time.

C. Becker Blvd. Name Change

The Pacific Coast Air Museum received approval from Fire and Emergency Services to re-name the “stub” road and requested a fee waiver from the County through Mike McGuire, 4th District Supervisor, who suggested that they request help from the Airport. Since the museum has not completed plans for improving its current site and is still interested in acquiring the Dragonfly Aviation site, the Commission agreed that the name change should be put on hold until site plans are in place.

D. Auto Gas Update

Stout reported that Sonoma Jet Center has contacted a couple of suppliers and is working on a proposal for storage. Glenn Barrett, general manager of KaiserAir, said that they are also interested in supplying auto gas. Stout said a user survey showed that 26% of those contacted would use auto gas if it was available and that 75% of those respondents would be willing to purchase it at Sonoma County Airport.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pau Heck, an Airport tenant, asked for an update on the proposed grass strip, and Stout explained the concept. Jim Duvander, member of the EAA, said that the EAA will be celebrating its 50th year in 2012 and is planning a celebration in the spring or summer. They are looking at ways to create more of a community in order to provide support for young people interested in aviation.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Hayssen asked for clarification on the termination notice sent to Dragonfly Aviation. The Commission did not make any recommendations at this time regarding this matter.

ADJOURN

Starrett moved with support from Smith to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager