

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the September 15, 2011 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Young called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carrillo, Delaney Hayssen, Smith (arrived at 8:05 a.m.), Starrett and Young.

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

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that 10 complaints had been received since the August 2011 meeting, which included complaints related to the Wings over Wine Country Air Show.

1. Pam Mullen – low overflight
2. Rebecca Speer – low overflight
3. Cindy Roberts – “jumbo” jet overflights
4. Penny Moore – military overflight
5. Richard Hart – aircraft towing banner circling area
6. Kirby Bobo – aircraft towing banner circling area
7. James Obrien – multiple helicopter overflights
8. Phil Anacker – helicopter overflights
9. Gloria Hubble – low jet overflight
10. Millie Bissel – aircraft repeatedly “dive bombing” home

B. Tower Report

Allie Metcalf, Tower manager, had no new news to report.

C. Airline Update

Stout reported that Horizon’s passenger numbers were up 7.2% compared to August 2010 and up 13.2% for the year to date. The Las Vegas flight does not fit Alaska Airline’s marketing strategy, but it continues to have good passenger loads. Since Horizon’s flights to Mammoth are seasonal, ending in the spring, STS has proposed to Alaska Airlines that they use that aircraft to add a third LAX flight for STS during the summer.

Stout said the Small Community Air Service grant awards should be announced in October 2011.

D. Projects Update

- Security System – the gate conversion is complete.
- Terminal Hold Room – as part of the terminal upgrade, the hold room is being repainted and new flooring installed.

- Operations Specialist Trainee Position – the position has been posted as a result of the retirement of one of the operations specialists.

E. Neighbors Meeting

The Airport neighbors' meeting was held at Mesa Beverage Co., Inc. on August 24, 2011. The emphasis was on the environmental document for the Master Plan. A follow-up meeting with one property owner will be scheduled.

F. EA/EIR Update

Stout reported that the Public Comment period closes on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 5 p.m. and that 69 comments have so far been received. The Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) meeting is scheduled September 19, 2011. The Airport offered to conduct a presentation to the City of Santa Rosa, which has been declined. The Sonoma County Alliance has expressed support and would like a presentation at their October meeting. Stout added that the Town of Windsor has concerns regarding water and night time flight restrictions.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Grass Strip

Stout handed out a description of the concept of creating a turf runway and associated facilities on the area currently occupied by the Airport track. The Commission expressed its support for the concept. Stout said it will be some time before this idea is explored.

B. Green Flight Challenge

There are five participants scheduled to compete.

C. Becker Blvd. Name Change

Stout reported that the Pacific Coast Air Museum has decided to stay on and expand its current site and that they would like to change the name of Becker Blvd. to something relating to the museum. The Commission supported changing it to a more aviation related name, but was not supportive of using PCAM in the name. A meeting with commercial tenants using a Becker Blvd. mailbox will be scheduled to discuss this possibility.

D. Airship Ventures

Stout reported that Airship Ventures, operators of a Zeppelin, are interested in basing a couple of flights per month at STS. This would entail closing runway 1/19 while they are parked.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Josh Hochberg, owner of Sonoma Jet Center, announced that they are holding an open house on October 15, with hot dogs provided by PCAM, Young Eagle flights and the flight schools offering discovery flights.

Jim Duvander, member of the EAA, announced the EAA's 50 year anniversary as an organization.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Hayssen announced that flight instruction workshops are scheduled on September 21st 6 p.m. at Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) with a program on special use airspace. TSA representatives will be present.

Hayssen asked about the tenant letter regarding obtaining clearance to take off during the Air Show. Young suggested that it might be possible for the tenant to look into other options.

Smith complimented STS on the Press Democrat advertisements. Stout said the Airport had worked out a trade for billboard space for 4 months of advertising.

ADJOURN

Delaney moved with support from Hayssen to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Stout, CAE, AAE
Airport Manager