



MINUTES

Airport Noise and Safety Committee
Thursday, August 28, 2008 – 5:00 p.m.
Fullerton Council Chamber
303 W. Commonwealth Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

Member Patel assumed the Chair position by mutual consent, and called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fullerton	Jeff Harris, absent Michael Johnson Ashok Patel, Alternate Chair
Buena Park	Tom Atkins, Chairperson Dottie Jones Heidi Oliveira, absent

STAFF PRESENT:

Rod Propst, Airport Manager, Fullerton
Susan McGraw, Administrative Assistant, Fullerton
Jay Saltzberg, Buena Park

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of February 28, 2008, were motioned for approval by Member Jones, seconded by Member Atkins, and approved unanimously.

1. NOISE AND OPERATIONS REPORT/AIRPORT INCIDENTS - Public comments on individual complaints.

Operations since the February meeting were 41,000, down from the previous 12 consecutive months, conceivably due to cost of fuel, etc.; however, numbers could reach 82,000 by year's end.

Chairman Ashok inquired about the risk of financial difficulties. Manager Propst stated that 18 of the new hangars are not rented and seems to be stuck there.

Committee Member Johnson inquired about the financial status and the rumor regarding sale of the Airport. Manager Propst stated that an internal audit of the Airport

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Fund is being conducted and reviewed by staff and essentially focusing on the franchise fees which are paid annually, which includes fees for police, fire, administrative services, primarily accounting, and City manager oversight. The Airport has never, in 26 years, been able to pay the entire franchise fee. While it is true the Airport is in a public use zone and pays no property taxes, our FBOs and businesses pay possessory interest tax, tenants as well, and does pay some property tax to the City.

Committee Member Johnson inquired if the Airport could be shut down, to which Manager Propst responded that the FAA unequivocally will not permit this airport to be shut down. Fullerton is a designated reliever for John Wayne with national implications, and closing would cause pressure on to John Wayne, backing up to LAX to nationwide.

When completed, the final report will most likely leave Fullerton Airport more solid.

Responding to Committee Member Tom Atkins, hangar/tie down tenants are on 30-day month-to-month contracts, with 30 days' notice to vacate by either party. Long-term leases, i.e., selling of hangar 'space', or pay 12 months up front and giving two months free are viable options and will be presented to the City Council for its consideration.

Committee Member Atkins asked how many controllers are in the Tower operation. There are five contract controllers if fully staffed - one from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., two until approximately 5 p.m., and one until closing at 9:00 p.m.

Chairperson Patel inquired if the study would fall under purview of this committee. Manager Propst stated probably not since the Noise & Safety Committee is not an Airport advisory committee. The results of the report could be placed on the agenda as an information item. Chairman Patel stated that this Committee should have the opportunity to be involved in the airport in its entirety, including participation as ambassadors for the community, the Airport, and Airport staff. Manager Propst concurred and gave a brief history of the Airport Master Plan which had established the Noise & Safety Committee. He further agreed that staff would be supportive of a 'conduit'-type body between the Airport and the City Council if the Council is receptive.

Manager Propst went on to discuss overflights – aircraft that come into Fullerton's Class D airspace. The tower operators have to talk to them, give altimeter settings, and have to call traffic for them. These flights are now being logged and subsequently bring the flight operations closer to 90,000 by year's end. This is more than sufficient numbers to bring us to the 1.0 benefit cost ratio that the FAA requires to keep the tower open. We can also count approximately 1200 night flights by the Anaheim PD that are not counted.

Complaints – There were 11 from Fullerton and 1 from Buena Park. Most of the complaints were regarding airplanes rather than helicopters.

March

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1. Mr. Clark - An airplane was flying too low east of airport on Commonwealth Avenue. Called and left message, wrote letter and no response.
2. Maryann Orloff - Aircraft noise caused by Air Combat. Responded to caller who was happy to get an explanation, although did not like the information.
3. A caller from Buena Park, refused name or address, lives by Emery School to the north. He stated airplane noise is constant wanted the traffic pattern changed; not happy with response.

April

4. Sherry Sherard left a message with the exchange stating that she knows there is a 2,000 foot ceiling; left a phone message and no response.

May

5. Harry Price, Buena Vista Dr., complained that an airplane was circling around Muckenthaler Museum taking pictures; checked with ATCT chief who stated the aircraft was taking pictures of the car show at the Museum. There was no way to contact pilot, but responded to Mr. Price with information.
6. James Sinclair, West valley View, had the same complaint.
7. Patrick Shields had the same complaint; left a phone message, but no response.

July

8. Michael Holliday, Barris Drive, complained of low flying aircraft; discussed FARs and arrival procedures, but the caller was still unhappy.
9. Ken Kie, Bastanchury and Parks, unhappy with low flying aircraft; explained arrival procedures, FARs, and the Airport "Fly Friendly" program; was satisfied with information.
10. Peter Knoble, West Avenue, complained about low-flying aircraft over his house; explained about arrival procedures and routing to Los Alamitos Air Force base; he was satisfied with response.

August

11. David Erb, Ash Avenue, complained about helicopter noise and an oval track over his neighborhood; explained that the helicopter was doing GPS mapping under contract to Raytheon; caller was satisfied with response.

2. AIRPORT MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTIONS

March – Committee Member Dottie Jones completed inspection and questioned the fact there is no camera on the Pritchard gate. She is concerned with people jumping the fence to get onto airport; dogs getting onto the field; trash, debris, laundry on the fence. Manager Propst explained that the gate is not being using used and a camera costs \$6000; animal control is called when dogs get through; and Community Preservation (code enforcement) is working to clean up the area outside the fences.

April – Chair Person Patel had a satisfactory inspection.

May - Committee Member Oliveira's inspection was satisfactory.

June – Committee Member Harris' inspection was satisfactory with the exception of the fuel trucks not be grounded. AFI will be notified accordingly.

July – Committee Member Atkins' inspection was satisfactory, and noted that the fence on departure on Runway 24 needed. Fence has since been painted.

Committee Member Johnson inquired about the Anaheim facility with gates left open as well as Air Combat. Manager Propst stated is it constant with Air Combat; however, it would nearly impossible to get into Anaheim's fenced area.

Incidents

There were four flat tires during months of February, March, and April – all blew on landings with no injuries or property damage.

On June 27, an airplane blew a tire on landing causing significant damage to the left wing, cowling, and the propeller.

Two more airplanes blew tires on landings in July and August, both with no injuries or property damage.

3. MANAGER'S AIRPORT UPDATE

Manager Propst showed photos of the new KFI tower; the strobes are white during the day and red at night; 684 feet high – 84 feet lower than the one knocked down in 2004.

In June the City Council approved the \$1.9m Airport budget, which is up \$700k from previous year due to hangar revenue; the bad news is that funds are spending fast to pay off the 15-year note at 4.25%, payments in arrears.

The City Hangar project is finished and being occupied.

The FBO on the north side is well under construction, building seven hangars.

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Airport Day is September 13; Opening Ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. Chairperson Patel inquired about the objective of this event, to which Manager Propst responded that it is an event to demonstrate to the community what public services are available at the airport, as well as an opportunity to see an airplane up close. It is NOT an air show. The revenue impact is neutral since the FBOs all contribute financially. The public is notified by newspaper, signs, word of mouth; Commander Chuck Street will host the day; Council Members from both Fullerton and Buena Park will be invited; and plenty of displays, rides, and food for everyone.

Committee Member Jones said she would be present and was advised that a canopy with tables, chairs, wing pins, etc., will be available, and that the Committee Members will receive parking passes.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, it was suggested that the next meeting date be rescheduled. Chair Patel made a motion to move the meeting to November 20, 2008. Member Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Chairman Patel thanked the Secretary for having to make no recalls to email notices.

Member Johnson commented on the number of controllers in the tower. Manager Propst advised there used to be nine controllers, three per shift. Presently there are four controllers working for a privately-owned company.

Responding to a request from Member Johnson, Manager Propst advised that a tour of two or more could possibly be arranged for the Committee Members with advanced notice. He will have staff inquire as to how much lead time is necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting of the Noise and Safety Committee adjourned at 6:02 p.m. to November 20, 2008.

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