



MINUTES

Airport Noise and Safety Committee

Thursday, May 28, 2009 – 5:00 p.m.

Fullerton Council Chamber

303 W. Commonwealth Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

Member Jones assumed the Chair position by mutual consent and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fullerton Andrew Ellis
Michael Johnson
Ashok Patel

Buena Park Tom Atkins, Alternate Chair
Dottie Jones, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Buena Park Heidi Oliveira

STAFF PRESENT:

Rod Propst, Airport Manager, Fullerton
Susan McGraw, Administrative Assistant, Fullerton

Chair Jones introduced and welcomed Mr. Andrew Ellis as the newest member to the Airport Noise & Safety Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of December 4 2008, were motioned for approval by Member Ashok, seconded by Member Michael Johnson, and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

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

OPERATIONS

Airport Manager Propst stated operations have remained stable in spite of the recent downturn in the economy. The count for the 12-month period ending in April is 69,770,

Dottie Jones, Chairperson
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Andrew Ellis Michael Johnson Heidi Oliveira
Ashok Patel

including over flights (those that don't land or take off but are still in Class D) at 5,000. Airport FBOs are also stable and fuel sales are up by 50,000 gallons from last year.

Manager Propst reported 39 complaints since the December 2008 meeting - 18 helicopter, 17 fixed-wing, 3 type unknown 24 of these complaints were generated from 3 specific events - magazine photo shoot, TV news event, and new helicopter business on the Airport.

1. Fullerton - Commonwealth/east of Harbor a helicopter was circling at approximately 2:35 A.M. The Watch Commander advised there was a stabbing at local bar. A phone message was left.
2. Fullerton concerned about two aircraft flying in formation – She was happy with response that FAA controls air space.
3. 9 complaints were regarding two small planes in dangerously close formation, which were involved in magazine photo shoot. Contacted the Flight Standards District office who stated they would call them in to discuss the incident; however, there were no violations.
4. Fullerton - Helicopters headed north then west toward airport; explained arrival and departure routing. Helistream is a new business on the field. They train civil service pilots and is consequently generating more activity, i.e., ops counts, fuel sales. They are generating more complaints from the east end. A subsequent meeting was held with all helicopter operators to discuss and re-emphasis routing and Airport 'Good Neighbor' policy.
5. Fullerton complaint regarding helicopter at night. Complainant was satisfied when advised it was most likely the Anaheim Police helicopter. Anaheim was included in scheduled meeting.
6. 9 complaints from the La Habra area – when "Octomom" brought her babies home, there were a number of media helicopters to film the event. Discussed with La Habra City Manager and advised him there is nothing that can be done since FAA regulates airspace. Damage or physical harm would be only recourse to preventing aircraft from new filming in the area.
7. Michael Holiday complained of a low-flying (below 1,000 feet) airplane on approach along Fern Drive. Explained FAR and the need to be 2000 feet in residential areas, but as low as 500 feet when in landing approach.
8. Ms. Patricia Conrad in Fullerton concerned about the increased helicopter noise. Explained the increased arrivals and departures are because of new business, Helistream, as well as OCFA, Anaheim PD, CHP.

Responding to a question from Member Ashok, a law is in effect for disclosure to prospective real estate purchasers. The FAA has complete control of air space and any noise ordinances passed by local cities would be unenforceable as related to air traffic. The best option for the Airport is to maintain the "fly friendly" policy and continue bringing it to the attention of airport helicopter users; and the Noise & Safety Committee acts as a buffer between the City Councils and airport users. Additionally, the only control of the aircraft is when it is on the ground, not under Air Traffic Control. This led to a further question as to the purpose of this Committee if there is no control over questionable operations.

9. Fullerton complaint in the vicinity of Gilbert/Malvern regarding low-flying aircraft. Voice message was left explaining arrival/departure routing, but no response.
10. Email received regarding increased helicopters off Brea Blvd. Responded by email that the helicopter was in line with the runway and most likely on instrument approach. No further correspondence was received.
11. On May 9, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary hosted an open house at the Airport. Approximately 1500 people were in attendance. At around 2:00 p.m., a P-51 WW II fighter plane did some low approaches at about 260 knots. The pilot had been warned on a previous action. This was such a significant event that the Flight Standards District office was contacted and they brought him in but couldn't do anything to enforce a violation because they didn't see him, but he knows he is being watched.
12. A resident complained of a low-flying helicopter across the street from Coyote Hills Country Club dropping golf balls. Did they have permission? On private property and permitted by owner, it is permissible. She was not happy.
13. A La Habra resident complained about a low-flying aircraft coming into the airport from the north. Explained the flight pattern from the north. If low enough to read the N number, something could be said to the pilot once they are on the ground. Member Atkins asked if the public could be notified in the newspaper to look for the aircraft number. Manager Propst advised there is no regulation on location or size of numbers.
14. A complaint of a large helicopter leaving the Airport. Explained helicopter operations at Fullerton. She was not happy and was given the FAA 800 number and the Flight Standards District office number in Long Beach.

2. AIRPORT MONTHLY SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

- One recurring complaint is the gate left open on the north side at the Air Combat operation. They will be moving to south side in the near future and this issue will become moot.
- It was also mentioned about the checkered fence at the northeast end of the runway. As part of the master plan, this was included so that pilots are made more aware that there is no overrun, no where to go. It is best to go around.
- Concerns about painting and crack sealing which are being scheduled for the summer months because of time involved to accomplish these tasks.

3. MANAGER'S AIRPORT UPDATE

The large 7-hangar project on the north side is nearly complete; waiting to receive certificate of occupancy permit.

4. 2009/10 BUDGET - INFORMATIONAL

Manager Propst presented the Proposed FY 2009-10 and 2010-11 budget. Member Patel asked why this Committee could provide no input. Rod says purely informational

and this committee has no authority for comment. The Airport Advisory Committee was originally allowed comments, but since it no longer exists, it is brought to this Committee as a courtesy. Chair Jones requested a consensus to hear the report or move to the next item. The report was not received.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS TO MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, AND DECEMBER.

After discussion, it was decided to accept the new quarterly meeting months dependent upon Council Chamber availability. The Secretary stated that a September meeting date is not available.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Member Ashok stated that over three years on the Committee – at least 12 meetings – he has seen maybe one or two members of the public. Mr. Propst speaks and the Members have no control over noise factor or input on any issues. He would like to request a meeting to address how relevance of this Committee can be established. The recommendation would be made to the Fullerton and Buena Park City Councils to restructure the Committee to allow some action from its Members.

Member Atkins suggested that the Members submit their comments to Manager Propst for a report to the Committee at its next meeting. New Member Ellis is an active flyer, and stated this Committee should have more involvement with the community

Responding to Member Atkins question, Manager Propst advised that the KFI tower looks big, is more identifiable, but with the sun behind it in the afternoon haze, it disappears.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. to the next quarterly meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2009. Member Tom Atkins will Chair the meeting and Member Ashok Patel will serve as Alternate Chairperson.