

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 1, 2009
MINUTES

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Rick Flam. Members present: Ron Merkin, Wayne Williams, Gerald Silver, Harold Sullivan, James Wildman, Laurence Rabe, Rick Flam, Wendy Saunders, Harold Lee, and Don Schultz.

Members Absent: Bob Jackson, Chris Nassif, Bob Frazier, Audrey Madrigal, Ken Miller and Dave Sotero.

The Council vacancies as of September 1, 2009 are as follows: one appointment from the Office of Councilmember Alarcon and one appointment from vacant Council District 2.

The minutes from August 4, 2009 Council meeting were unanimously approved. The Chairman stated that the minutes tend to run very long and they do not have continuity therefore in the future he wants them to be summarized. We will endeavor to bring the minutes to a more concise format.

1.) STAFF REPORTS

Presentation of WebTrak system to view flight activity and noise monitoring around Van Nuys Airport – Discussion/Action

Mr. Scott Tatro stated that the WebTrak presentation is a public portion of what has been under contract for four years and a six year effort that cost \$3.5 million. The system is a replacement for the internet web tracking system LAWA had previously. Using WebTrak you can track the flight activity in and out of Van Nuys. The system also provides information on each aircraft's flight ID, airports, aircraft type and altitude. Mr. Tatro stated that LAWA has developed tools for complaint responses and it has all been integrated into one system. The WebTrak system is located on LAWA's website; www.lawa.aero and www.lawa.org. Once you go to the LAWA website and click on the Van Nuys Airport link on the right side at the bottom of the page there will be a link for Quick Links which will take you to Noise Management then to Van Nuys WebTracks. At the request of one member of the CAC who found it challenging to get to the WebTrak system LAWA put an icon on the front of the Van Nuys Airport page on the LAWA website. Mr. Tatro demonstrated the WebTrak system.

Mr. Schultz asked if there is a way to capture flights that transit a certain GO point.

Mr. Tatro stated that isn't available on the web. The Van Nuys's WebTrak has as much functionality as any other airport.

Mr. Silver asked what LAWA does with the complaints they receive.

Mr. Tatro answered they do the best to investigate and send letters to aircraft operators when appropriate. If it is a disturbance they can identify they respond back to the complaint and explain what they believe happened. Mr. Len Kruegler from the Noise Management will investigate if the pilots weren't following protocol or what exactly transpired to cause a complaint.

Mr. Williams stated that 60% of the time the flight that he clicks on does not have essential data that would make Mr. Kruegler's job easier. He wants to know what the drop is in the system that is making that data is unavailable.

Mr. Krugler stated that these pilots are flying using visual flight rules; they often file their flight plan after leaving the area.

Mr. Tatro stated that sometimes the data comes in later. When we are streaming it live on the web it will not be perfect. If it happens over night then sometimes the data is processed the next day.

Mr. Williams stated he knows how much it took to get the WebTrak system built and installed and he appreciates it.

Mr. Silver asked about the military flights.

Mr. Tatro stated that private military airplanes that fly out of Van Nuys can be identified; however, for security and safety reasons the FAA has a list for planes that airports are not allowed to capture.

Mr. Silver asked if the data is captured but not released.

Mr. Tatro stated that if it is on the list not to display then we will not get any information.

Mr. Tatro thanked the CAC for their time.

B. Propeller Park update – Discussion/Action

Ms. Monica Milos from the Van Nuys Real estate division gave an update on the propeller park. She stated from the beginning of the development of the RFP it has truly been a team effort and they are still in negotiations. They expect the CEQA process to be ready for public comment by the end of this month. She stated they went through a couple of reviews very carefully and they expect a negative declaration. After the comment period is over it is circulated again through out LAWA for a response and after it is finalized it goes to the Board and the Council along with the lease. The lease for the park is for a 30 year ground lease to develop approximately 350,000 square feet of new hangars and offices along the west and southern side of the site, and accommodate existing displaced and qualified aircraft hangars along the eastern side of the site. The development of the subject parcel is contemplated in the Van Nuys Airport Master Plan (Alternative J) and the Environmental Impact Report, dated June 1997 EIR. Ms. Milos stated the park is for the exclusive use of propeller aircraft of less than 12,500 lbs. gross take-off weight and former military aircraft older than 1950. The facilities will include space for propeller aviation related businesses such as aircraft repair and maintenance facilities and flight schools. The tenants of the proposed park will primarily be drawn from existing tenants and users of the Van Nuys Airport. Jet and helicopter traffic will not be generated as a result of this Project. The operations resulting from the development of the Park will be attributable to propeller aircraft. Ms. Milos stated the number of operations conducted from the Project site should not materially increase the total number of operations of the Airport on a daily or monthly basis, nor change the time of day when such operations are conducted, since existing users will continue to adhere to their historic schedule of operations even after moving to the Park site. The Park will integrate sustainability principles in the development. In addition, the development will be designed to meet the minimum requirements to qualify as a "Built Green" project. The project will also be registered with the U.S. Green Building Council and the City to qualify as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for new Construction (LEED-NC) Certified project.

Mr. Williams asked about the monies invested.

Ms. Milos noted they have committed to \$21 million invested within the first three years.

There was discussion regarding the environmental issue regarding the Prop Park made by Mr. Silver and Mr. Williams. Ms. Milos stated this project is not projected to have a negative impact on the environment.

Mr. Williams asked if the developer has acquired the capital.

Ms. Milos stated they have asked them to give an update on their financials.

The Chairman asked what the hangar rates were.

A member from the public stated the rates haven't been set yet.

The Chairman asked when it is likely that the rate structure would take form.

Ms. Milos stated the proposer is working with various tenants and are in a negotiation process. The proposer's rent is at \$15, 686/acre/year. (\$0.36/sf/yr.)

The Chairman stated the reason he is concerned about this is because the goal was to have a viable propeller park and liability has a lot to do with cost for perspective users.

There was further discussion on the liability and the cost between Ms. Birk, the Chairman and Mr. Silver.

The Chairman asked if he can tell an adhoc liaison to get information from Ms. Milos regarding this issue.

Ms. Milos answered, yes.

The Chairman stated this project is very well supported but the question is; are we going to be able to bring about what we want to bring about. He also stated that his impression from Mr. Argubright, the proposer, is that he is very in tune with the environmental issues and other issues that have come up during this project.

Mr. Rodine from the public stated that Mr. Argubright has been to Van Nuys Airport Association meetings every month and has reported regularly on the status of his project. He stated that Mr. Argubright's plan is not to have his project a 100% rented; he has a commitment for a 10% of land that will not be rented out to allow flexibility in the design. He stated the CAC should invite Mr. Argubright to a meeting so he can show what his model really entails because the CAC would take a comfort in what he would say.

The Chairman stated they will invite Mr. Argubright to make a presentation on the model and the projection he has and how he sees the short terms and long terms for this project.

2.) REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Ms. Birk talked about a question that came up at the last meeting regarding the reader's choice awards and their voting system for their favorite airport in the Daily News.

Ms. Sanchez stated as the CAC knows the Van Nuys Airport was picked as the favorite airport by the reader's. She stated the Van Nuys Airport was not on the voting ballot; it was written in along with Burbank, Long Beach and LAX and we received the most votes out of all of those.

Ms. Sanchez mentioned that PR Staff member, Brandon Nunn will be taking photographs of this meeting and she asked the CAC members to sign a photo release form.

The Chairman moved to unfinished business item D. Amendments to By-Laws Council Role with LAWA – Discussion/Action.

The Chairman believes there is no need to amend the statement of purpose in the current CAC Bylaws.

After a brief discussion the Council agreed unanimously.

3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

A. Castle and Cooke Aviation – Discussion/Action

Ms. Birk stated that Ms. Karen Hoo, who does the Environmental review for leases, is here to answer questions.

Ms. Birk stated, on the proposed consolidation, there are several separate leases that are adjacent to each other and as part of the consolidated lease they are requesting to become a fixed based operator (FBO), which means they will be required to provide a list of services, one of which is fuel.

The Chairman stated this was a lease where there was an existing tenant who was staying on and Castle and Cooke were building space for this existing tenant who had a ground lease for one of the parcels.

Ms. Birk stated, yes.

After a lengthy discussion between the Chairman and Mr. Silver about an economic benefit to the airport when it comes to this matter Ms. Birk stated that for the past five years language has been added to leases where there is some benefit that LAWA gets when businesses are sold or transferred and there is a lease assignment. Van Nuys recognizes the value of that business transfer.

The Chairman asked Ms. Birk to send him a copy of sample language in old leases and the current leases. He also mentioned that Mr. Silver inquired about the disk that was distributed at the last CAC meeting.

Mr. Silver stated he requested cut off date for the comment period; however it was cut off before we received the disk. That was an only issue.

Ms. Hoo stated the cut off date was June 25th.

The Chairman apologized for taking up Ms. Hoo's time.

Ms. Hoo thanked the CAC and stated she is always available for any questions or concerns.

4.) NEW BUSINESS

A. Federal proposed action: SEC. 508. Prohibition on operating certain aircraft weighing 75,000 pounds or less not complying with stage 3 noise levels– Discussion/Action

Mr. Silver stated that the proposed language in SEC. 508 will prohibit the operation of aircraft under 75,000 lbs. if it does not comply with Stage 3 noise levels. This will have significant impact at Van Nuys Airport and the airports through out the country. In the year 2000 the Feds phased out all Stage 2 aircrafts over 75,000 lbs. however, the lighter aircraft under 75,000 lbs. such as a Gulfstream were exempted. This effort is going forward now to the Congress and since in the past the CAC took a position in supporting this as long it was done across the country he would like to move that the CAC supports this effort and specifically draft a letter that will go to the Senate supporting this decision. Mr. Silver also stated that this is in line with the CAC's Bylaws in the paragraph regarding other agencies. If we really want to see the noisy Stage 2 phase out across the country this is an opportunity to support that position. He would like to move that the CAC adopts support for this position.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

The Chairman accepted the resolution. He stated that on behalf of the CAC he will draft a letter to Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer and to the Chairman of the Senate Committee and the Subcommittee that are viewing this matter.

Mr. Silver noted his motion is not to support the entire bill but specifically Sections 508.

Mr. Williams stated he would like to suggest that the CAC does not limit themselves to just sending the letter to the Senate's offices. We should send the letter to all members of the California House delegations such as Congress member Brad Sherman, Congress member Howard Berman and Congress member Adam Schiff.

The Chairman stated he suggests that the CAC go on record supporting the Section 508 and he will prepare a letter stating that position and submit it to the two senators and members of California Congressional delegation.

Mr. Silver mentioned that the CAC took a position a year and a half ago that they would support a Stage 2 phase out if it occurred nationally.

Mr. Jim Bickhart from the Mayor's office stated that the CAC should consider targeting their support for Section 508 to the Mayor, Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) and the City Council and recommend to them that they take favor in supporting this bill. This way the CAC is formally asking the City to take this position and also communicating the request to the Senators and the House of Delegations. This way the CAC is staying within the requirements of City Law and also communicating to the other parties.

The Chairman stated the proposal is that he writes a letter to the Mayor, the City Council and BOAC that they take position in favoring the Section 508 in the reauthorization bill and also copying the other parties.

Mr. Silver stated that we need to specifically draft a letter supporting the SEC. 47534 of the U.S. Senate's proposed FAA Reauthorization bill.

After a lengthy discussion between Mr. Silver and the Chairman regarding the letter supporting the SEC. 47534 of the U.S. Senate's proposed FAA Reauthorization bill; Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

The Chair called in question.

The CAC voted unanimously. This motion passed.

5.) PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Discussion

Mr. Bill Mouzis from the public proposed that VNY CAC propose new helicopter routes.

Mr. Bob Rodine stated that the CAC needs to identify what information they need to have when they are evaluating a proposed lease transaction. He recommends that CAC tells LAWA staff in advance what information they want.

Mr. Kenny Ortega from the public introduced himself to the CAC. He stated he has met the VNY staff and everybody is really friendly and helpful. He stated he is here to give the CAC his support.

6.) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. New cashless fare system for the Van Nuys FlyAway transit system – Discussion/Action

The LAWA staff person who was supposed to give this presentation is ill. This item is deferred until a future meeting.

7) EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA – Discussion

None

8) ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Silver stated that the distribution of the noise complaint packet is considerably improved. The report now shows the City block where that complaint emerged from.

The Chairman thanked LAWA staff who made very thorough presentation.

9.) ADJOURNMENT:

9:02 p.m.