

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 5, 2011
MINUTES

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Rick Flam. Members present: Rick Flam, Don Schultz, Elliot Sanders, Harold Sullivan, Wayne Williams, Gerald Silver, David Rankell, Laurence Rabe, Roger Ortiz, Bob Frazier, David Bernardoni, Ron Merkin

Members Absent: Chris Nassif, Wendy Saunders, Harold Lee, Roger Oeland, Bob Jackson, Ken Miller

The minutes from March 1, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved with one minor correction.

1.) STAFF REPORTS

A. Van Nuys Golf Management Partners (VNGMP) – Discussion/Action

Ed Sause, President and Craig McDonald, Director of Golf Operations, of Van Nuys Golf Management Partners made a PowerPoint presentation regarding their vision of the Van Nuys Golf Course. (Presentation attached)

Mr. Schultz asked if there will be a restaurant at the Van Nuys Golf Course.

Mr. Sause stated that there will be a limited food and beverage operation, not a full service restaurant. He stated that there has been an issue with getting a full service restaurant because of the super living wage requirement.

Mr. Schultz asked if there will still be 9 hole, par 30 executive course and 18 par, 3 hole driving range.

Mr. Sause stated that yes in the 1st phase. There is currently no 2nd phase.

Mr. Schultz asked if there will be changes to the golf rates and discounts for seniors.

Mr. McDonald stated that the rates are the same and there are no changes planned in the near future. He also stated that the senior rate will remain the same also.

Mr. Schulz stated that the rates are very good at this time.

Mr. Flam asked what other local courses they manage.

Mr. Sause stated they are a partner in Westchester Golf.

Mr. Bill Mouzis, member of the public, asked if they have any plans to improve the fairways and greens.

Mr. McDonald stated they will be airfying the greens and fairways.

Mr. Mouzis stated they not forget about the seniors.

Mr. McDonald stated they will not forget the seniors and how important they are to Van Nuys Golf.

Mr. Rankell asked what the hours of operation will be.

Mr. McDonald stated Monday to Friday 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and the same for Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Rankell asked what the living wage is.

Mr. McDonald stated it is \$10.30 + \$4.50.

Mr. Rankell asked if the parking is sufficient so as not to have problems with the neighbors.

Mr. McDonald stated that parking is sufficient and the only update they will be doing is restriping the parking spaces.

Mr. Flam stated that he wished them well and is pleased that the project is off the ground.

Mr. Williams asked if they have looked at installing solar panels on the driving range roof.

Mr. McDonald stated they can't because the roof is not a hard top but is mesh.

Mr. Schultz stated that the Billingsley's Restaurant was pushed out after LAWA implemented new policies. He asked if a new restaurant can be brought to the Van Nuys Golf Course.

Mr. Sause stated they will try to bring back a restaurant.

B. Status of Maguire Aviation lease – Discussion/Action

Mr. Mike Molina, LAWA Deputy Executive Director of External Affairs, stated that the Maguire lease is current and active at this time. He stated that the issue is that within the leasehold there are certain timelines that LAWA expected to see Capital Improvements made upon the property. He also stated that LAWA's intention is to work with tenants, especially in a post-recession economy, in identifying ways that issues could be resolved. LAWA is in communication with Maguire to identify ways to mitigate the issue and default is the last resort for LAWA. He stated there will be continued dialog with anticipation that a resolution will be found in the not so distant future so that we can consider the lease as whole and current rather than its current status of being out of compliance as a result of the timeline. He also stated that he can return for future meetings to update the CAC on Maguire's status.

Mr. Flam asked if Maguire is the largest tenant at VNY.

Mr. Romo stated they are.

Mr. Flam asked if Maguire occupies over 40% of leasable space at VNY.

Mr. Molina stated yes they do.

Mr. Flam asked what steps are being taken in benefitting VNY for exchange in granting Maguire forbearance. He also invited the new BOAC President to the May or June meeting to discuss how the BOAC and CAC can work together on issues.

Mr. Molina stated that is a good idea.

Mr. Flam created an Ad Hoc Committee that includes Wayne Williams, David Rankell, and Elliott Sanders to work on communication between the CAC, LAWA, and BOAC.

Mr. Molina stated that he looks forward to that dialog.

C. Fly Friendly Presentation – Discussion/Action

Mr. Scott Tatro of LAWA Environmental Services Division introduced Mr. Ted Baldwin and Mr. Eric Cox of Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. (HMMH), a noise consulting service to airports.

Mr. Baldwin made a Power Point presentation regarding the Revised “Fly Friendly” Target Noise Level Program. (Presentation attached)

Ms. Sanchez asked for the CAC members to vote on a name for the “Good Performer” awards program for pilots/operators that follow the Fly Friendly program.

Mr. Tatro stated that this is a program that they want to rollout and dates that were given on the presentation are firm. He also stated that during the first six months of the program, the CAC will not receive the regular noise reports. He asked that any comments or questions need to be addressed at this time.

Mr. Rankell stated why they won't receive the reports.

Mr. Baldwin stated that they want to give the operators a six month period to get used to the revised program before publishing the results.

Mr. Silver asked if they still base it on physical and FAA theoretical averages.

Mr. Baldwin stated no because they have so much data it is based on empirical data.

Mr. Silver asked if LAWA could give the operators a fuel credit for flying quietly.

Mr. Baldwin stated that since fuel is bought by so many different people and LAWA is not the FBO, fuel supplier, they could not give a fuel credit. He stated however LAWA does charge a fuel flowage fee.

Mr. Silver asked if LAWA does receive these funds and perhaps using it to credit the operators.

Mr. Romo stated that the fuel flowage fee is part of the revenue LAWA receives.

Mr. Silver asked how they evaluate two different operators with the same type of plane at different times of day and conditions.

Mr. Cox stated there is no way for the system to recognize or distinguish aircraft in this type of situation.

Mr. Williams asked if they have considered a “Razzies” oriented program.

Mr. Baldwin stated no because commending the good pilots works better than advertising the violators. He also stated the reports are will also show the violators.

Mr. Mouzis asked why the “Fly Friendly” Program can’t be mandatory.

Mr. Baldwin stated that it would not pass in HMMH’s opinion, the FAA does not like new use restrictions.

2.) REPORT FROM CHAIR

Mr. Flam stated he has not received a response from the FAA regarding the 45-day test period for the diversion of helicopter activity from the Bull Creek route (corridor) to Balboa Boulevard route (corridor).

Mr. Tatro stated a response was sent from the FAA and the letter was emailed to the CAC on March 31st. (Letter attached)

Mr. Rankell and other CAC members stated they received the letter via email.

Mr. Flam stated he had not checked his emails on Thursday and read the letter during the meeting.

Mr. Williams stated if the FAA would not let them prove that the problem exists by running this test then maybe the CAC could talk the pilots into flying a different route for the 45-day period.

Mr. Tatro stated the FAA is still the one that assigns the routes.

Mr. Silver stated the FAA will not support a program that may shift noise. He asked how the FAA would feel if the shift creates a 1% increase in noise in 1% of the population and a 99% benefit.

Mr. Romo referred to the last line in the 2nd to last paragraph in the letter that states “Keep in mind, ATO may not support the change due to the complexity of air space around VNY.” Mr. Romo stated that even if you get beyond shifting the noise, there still remains an operational obstacle to work with the Air Traffic Organization (ATO) of the FAA.

Mr. Silver stated 15-20 years ago the eight routes were established in a Letter of Agreement with pilots, FAA, and LAWA as a voluntary program. He asked if it’s possible to do that again.

Mr. Flam stated the answer to that is “No” because of the complexity of the airspace and the shifting of noise. He also stated that they need to look at establishing a compact with the FAA and advise them this is how it was created and this is how we want to amend it.

Mr. Schultz asked if the FAA is aware that this is request is for a 45-day test only.

Mr. Tatro stated yes they are aware.

Mr. Flam stated the document is saying “No” this cannot be done. He also stated there is nothing encouraging within this letter to pursue this request.

Mr. Silver stated they should have a voluntary agreement with the LAWA, FAA, and pilots.

Ms. Rabe stated maybe they could get helicopter pilots to select the Balboa route.

Mr. Flam stated this letter is a “No” with respect to their request for a trial period and that they should go with Mr. Silver’s suggestion.

Mr. Flam stated he and Mr. Schultz have advised Mr. Argubright to pick-up the pace in terms of getting back to the City. He also stated that Mr. Martin advised him that the Prop Park and outside council are talking.

Mr. Flam stated Bob Frazier will be working with Bob Rodine regarding VNY Financials.

Mr. Flam stated the Van Nuys Airport Association (VNAA) is sponsoring a Job Shadow Day on April 14. This event will provide adult students preparing to enter the workforce exposure to both traditional and non-traditional airport occupations, ranging from aircraft mechanic to accounting. Mr. Flam encouraged participation for this event. The flyer for the event was made available to all attendees of this CAC meeting.

3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

No items were discussed.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Mouzis, member of the public, stated the FAA is not seeing a difference between helicopters taking Bull Creek versus Balboa. He stated the difference is more lighting on the Balboa route; therefore, helicopter pilots are straying from the Bull Creek route and taking Balboa for better visibility. He deferred further comment to the May 3rd meeting.

5.) NEW BUSINESS

A. Congressional Bill H.R. 842 (Valley Wide Noise Relief Act of 2011) – Discussion/Action

Mr. Flam stated the House rejected HR 842, night time curfew at VNY and Burbank.

Mr. Silver stated the Agenda refers to HR 842 but the memo he received from Congressman Brad Sherman’s Office refers to HR 658. He asked if these are the one and the same.

Mr. Molina stated the original stand alone bill was HR 842, three Congress members added it as an Amendment 29 to the FAA Reauthorization Bill HR 658. HR 842 died as soon as it became an Amendment.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action

1. Air Operations Report by Aircraft Type – Discussion/Action

This item was deferred to the May 3rd CAC Meeting.

2. Status of Prop Park Development – Discussion/Action

Mr. Molina stated the Prop Park will be agendized for Closed Session at the April 18 BOAC Meeting.

Mr. Jim Bickhart, of the Mayor’s Office, stated that the Mayor’s Office took immediate action and there has been progress with the FAA. He also stated the Mayor’s Office wants to get this project done.

Ms. Linda Levitan, Field Deputy for Councilman Cardenas, stated there is a “united front” in moving this project forward. She stated she believes LAWA is trying their best to move this forward.

Mr. Schulz asked if there is a danger that other negotiators could make a bid for the Prop Park.

Mr. Molina stated without going into the details of lease negotiations it is always a constant concern that they want to keep as close to the spirit of the original proposal as possible because there is always a concern that the City Attorney may say you are going off course and may need to re-solicit it. He stated they are keeping the City Attorney close through the negotiation so this does not happen.

7.) EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA – Discussion/Action

No items were discussed.

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

Mr. Silver stated he does not think the Prop Park project won't go through, however, he thinks the long term concern is if VNY cannot make a profit from it, it will be almost be like a default and they may do something better or more profitable with the area.

Mr. Williams stated he will not attend the May 3rd meeting.

Mr. Schultz stated Ms. Sanchez answered his question regarding the April 4th BOAC Agenda.

9) ADJOURNMENT:

9:16 p.m.