

**VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, May 3, 2011**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Don Schultz. Members present: Don Schultz, Elliot Sanders, Harold Sullivan, Wayne Williams, Gerald Silver, David Rankell, Laurence Rabe, Roger Ortiz, David Bernardoni, Ron Merkin, Harold Lee, Roger Oeland, Chris Nassif

Members Absent: Robert Frazier, Rick Flam, Wayne Williams, Ken Miller, Bob Jackson

The minutes from April 5, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

**1.) STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Romo stated that he and VNY staff continue to work on the budget for fiscal year 2012 (FY12) and are trying to spend wisely. Based on the projected revenues before depreciation, VNY is looking at running in the "black".

Mr. Romo stated Runway 16R will be closed for repairs in June on two successive Saturdays. Notices have gone to users regarding this closure.

Mr. Romo stated VNY has the Capital Project reconstruction of Runway 16R and it may happen in FY 12 or FY13. Van Nuys Airport staff met with the major tenants a few weeks ago to discuss this project and the possible impact to tenants.

Mr. Romo stated VNY has been identified for a new FAA Control Tower. Representatives from VNY are attending a planning meeting in the East Coast to discuss this project. There is no exact site identified yet.

Mr. Schultz asked if there is any compacting being done to the runway.

Mr. Romo stated during the repairs there will only be grinding and patching of the runway.

Mr. Schultz asked what the estimated cost of the reconstruction of 16R will be.

Mr. Romo stated based on discussions with Engineers the cost is estimated at \$20 million. He also stated that the airport will seek federal funding for the project.

Mr. Silver asked at what point the \$20 million will be amortized.

Mr. Romo stated typically for a runway, at least 40 years for the portion LAWA has to pay for.

Mr. Rodine asked if the taxiway is grated to drain into Bull Creek or does it run to the south.

Mr. Romo stated there are a series of catch basins that channel water and take it to the storm drain system.

Mr. Rodine asked if there is any way to mitigate water from flowing to tenants on the far south end of the field.

Mr. Romo stated as a non-Engineer, he trusts they will try their best to have the water drain correctly.

Ms. Sanchez discussed the May 6, 2011, Van Nuys Airport Aviation Career Day at the Syncro Hangar. Van Nuys Airport is holding the event in conjunction with The Office of Tony Cárdenas, Syncro Aircraft Interiors, and The Valley Economic Alliance. This event will allow students to meet experts who currently work in a variety of fields within the aviation and aerospace industries and visit and observe presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits.

Mr. Sanders stated the event is a closed program, however volunteers are welcome.

Ms. Sanchez stated although volunteers are welcome, if anyone wishes to attend, they could call VNY Public Relations and make that request.

## **2.) REPORT FROM CHAIR**

No items were discussed.

## **3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

Mr. Romo stated there was only one item on the May 2, 2011 BOAC Agenda that pertained to VNY. The item was for Los Angeles City Contract No. 59191 with Maneri Sign Company, Inc.: For a term of three (3) years, for traffic signs and sign hardware for Los Angeles International Airport, LA/Ontario International Airport and Van Nuys Airport.

Mr. Merkin thanked staff for emailing the BOAC Meeting link and agenda to the CAC members.

## **4.) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Bill Mouzis, member of the public, made a statement (attached).

Ms. Rabe responded to Mr. Mouzis' statement regarding helicopter routes. She stated that they should go to the helicopter pilots and have them request the Balboa route individually. She suggested Mr. Williams go to the helicopter pilots directly.

Mr. Merkin asked Mr. Mouzis what got him to meet with the Fire Department.

Mr. Mouzis stated the public was being ignored and he asked to talk to the LAFD as a concerned resident of the community.

Mr. Merkin asked Mr. Mouzis to share the details of his meeting with LAFD with Mr. Williams.

Ms. Fran Reichenbach, President of the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association, made a statement (attached) regarding the impact of low-flying, hovering, buzzing aircraft have on their community.

Mr. Silver asked Ms. Reichenbach how she knows these are tourist helicopters.

Ms. Reichenbach stated a resident in her area has a high powered telescope to identify the helicopters.

Mr. Silver asked if this noise is something new.

Ms. Reichenbach stated it has been going on for 15 years.

Mr. Merkin asked how she found out about the VNY CAC.

Ms. Reichenbach stated she has known Mr. Silver for years and reached out to him.

Mr. Schultz asked Ms. Reichenbach who her City Councilperson is.

Ms. Reichenbach stated Tom LaBonge.

Mr. Rankell stated this is all about altitude and that's a Federal issue. He also stated there is not a lot that the CAC or LAWA could do in this case. He suggested she speak to her Congressman.

Mr. Sanders stated Film LA and the California Film Commission issue film permits. He suggested she call them regarding this issue.

Mr. George Abrahms, a Beachwood Canyon resident, stated he works from home and the excessive helicopter noise is a problem. He stated there should be some kind of technology that could be retrofitted to helicopters to make them quieter. He also stated the penalties for the pilots should be more severe when they violate noise levels.

Mr. Sullivan stated when helicopters first came to VNY they used to meet with the helicopter station managers to discuss issues on a monthly basis.

Mr. Silver asked Mr. Abrahms if he is aware of the VNY Noise Complaint number or the VNY Noise Tracking System.

Mr. Abrahms stated they recently found out about the Noise Complaint number but are not aware of the Noise Tracking System.

Mr. Schultz stated how they know the helicopters are coming from VNY.

Mr. Abrahms stated they don't know for sure.

Mr. Schultz stated they should reach out to Film LA and the California Film Commission to find out if these are the four helicopters.

Olivia Duke, a Beachwood Canyon resident, stated she has lived in the area for 23 years. She reached out a couple of months ago due to the helicopter noise issues. She has called the four companies and they advised her it is them operating these helicopters. She stated the helicopters are coming out of multiple airports including VNY, Camarillo, Fullerton, Hawthorne, Torrance, Long Beach, Whiteman, and Burbank. She stated nobody is monitoring them so they are doing whatever they want to.

Mr. Schultz advised her and the other residents to reach out together to a representative from their Councilman's Office.

Ms. Duke stated she has reached out to the Councilman's Assistant but had no luck or support.

Mr. Schultz stated they not stop at his Assistant.

Mr. Alexander von Wechmar, Board member of the Oaks Homeowners Association, made a statement (attached) regarding the significant increase in helicopter and small aircraft noise in the area he lives.

Mr. Sanders stated they may need to approach Burbank Airport.

Mr. Merkin stated generally helicopters are directed to use the freeway routes to avoid noise issues for residents.

Commissioner Aredas stated he does not believe Film LA or California Film Commission regulates film/tourism permits for helicopters but the residents might want to bring this issue to their attention. He also stated some of the helicopter traffic, in the evening, at least in his area, is law enforcement related.

Mr. Rodine encouraged the residents to attend a Trade Commerce and Tourism Committee (TCT) Meeting and speak about this issue during the public comment, and speak to the Councilman during or after the meeting.

Mr. Oeland stated since there is new technology that decreases noise on aircraft; he will ask engineer firms about current helicopter technologies.

#### **5.) NEW BUSINESS**

No items were discussed.

#### **6.) OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action**

###### **1. Status of Prop Park Development – Discussion/Action**

Mr. Romo did not have an update at this time.

Mr. Argubright stated during a conference call last Thursday between LAWA and the Prop Park attorneys, bank, and LAWA staff, all agreed in principle on everything that has to be done. He is confident they will come away with a lease.

Mr. Shultz asked if he has a timeframe.

Mr. Argubright stated maybe 30-days from a lease now and after that it goes for BOAC approval.

Mr. Schultz what the timeline is after the BOAC approves it.

Mr. Romo stated assuming it gets Board approval, Board office sends the package to clerk after the 5 City Council Meeting dates have passed. This starts the 30 calendar day clock running. It must go to Trade Commerce and Tourism committee then full council within this 30 day period. If not, it is deemed approved per the Charter.

Mr. Oeland stated there are many building vacancies around VNY and this Prop Park needs to get going.

###### **2. Prop Park approval letter requested by LA City Planning Dept. – Discussion/Action**

Mr. Schultz stated the LA City Planning Department has requested an approval letter from the CAC regarding the Prop Park.

Mr. Schulz introduced a motion as follows:

**“The Citizen’s Advisory Council reaffirms their position in full support of the proposed Propellar Park to be located at the Alternative J designated location on Van Nuys Airport.”**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Schultz requested the letter be sent to Mr. Marc Woersching, LA City Planner, with a copy to the Mayor, BOAC, and all six City Council members that have appointees on the CAC.

#### **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 would like to propose an agenda item for the next meeting regarding the helicopter noise issue in the Beachwood Canyon area. He thinks the CAC should address the issue here and at least provide them with information and not refer them to other agencies. Mr. Silver stated the Agenda item as follows: LAWA/VNY prepare a brief report on the kinds/types and number of helicopter operations that impact the Hollywood Hills and the sources (VNY, Burbank, or other airports/helipads).

Mr. Romo stated since Mr. Silver's request was made during Public Comment, this is not a request for VNY staff to do anything as it involves a wider geography and a lot more issues. Mr. Romo stated he would like there to be discussion before we make any commitment because he does not know what kind of resources this would require and will not take this as any direction from the CAC.

Mr. Silver stated he agrees with Mr. Romo's response. He also stated the CAC should advise these people how to obtain noise information, maybe in a flyer format that tells them how to track aircraft and noise complaints.

Mr. Merkin stated the residents need to attend the CAC meetings and meet with Mr. Wayne Williams' Committee, and have Mr. Williams' make a report to the CAC regarding their issue.

Mr. Schultz stated the CAC needs to update Mr. Williams' on this issue and ask him to meet with the residents and then he could agendize the item.

Mr. Silver stated he does not want to see this item dropped or forgotten.

Mr. Merkin stated that will not happen and the CAC appreciates the people who have attended this meeting.

Ms. Rabe stated she is waiting for the Prop Park to be built.

Mr. Oeland stated he will discuss helicopter technologies with Engineers he works with.

Mr. Silver requested VNY staff comment on the economic future of VNY and the April 10<sup>th</sup> Daily News front page article "Once-booming Van Nuys Airport flies into Stormy Skies".

9) ADJOURNMENT:  
8:30 p.m.