

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 3, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair, Jason Price. Members present: Wayne Williams, Robert Rodine, John Parker, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson, Ryan Sanders, Kimberly Chan, Marykate Harris, Eliot Cohen and Wendy Saunders.

Absent: Leonel Fuentes, Harold Lee, Kathy Delle Donne and Heren Molina.

The minutes from the June 1, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

I. STAFF REPORTS:

A. Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager:

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on VNY staff, patrons and stakeholders. With COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations rising throughout the region, LAWA is strongly encouraging all employees at LAX and VNY to get vaccinated. LAWA is providing free vaccinations at three locations at LAX, which makes it easier for employees to obtain their vaccine. Additionally, travelers can also obtain vaccines at LAX, there are three on-site locations: Terminal 1 Arrivals Level, adjacent to Parking Structure 6 (next to the COVID-19 test lab) and Tom Bradley International Terminal Arrivals Level. These LAX locations are open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Ms. Margheritis noted that the health and safety of LAWA employees continues to be a priority for the organization. At VNY, staff continues to abide by public health guidance, including the use of face masks. Unfortunately, the recent increases in COVID-19 cases are impacting the airport industry and this continues to have impacts on LAWA. There are still travel restrictions when traveling abroad to certain countries or even when traveling into the U.S. from other countries, which is affecting LAX's international passenger numbers; this continues to cause financial impacts for LAWA. On a more positive note, recently, CEO, Justin Erbacci announced that LAWA reached the milestone of 150,000 COVID-19 tests provided at LAX since LAWA opened its onsite lab; this has greatly helped the traveling public and has also provided 6,343 vaccines to LAX travelers and employees.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to LAWA Organizational changes. She announced the retirement of Deputy Executive Director (DED) for Public Safety and Security, Dave Maggard. Chief Maggard was also previously the Chief of Airport Police for both LAX and VNY. Ms. Margheritis stated that he was always very engaged with VNY safety and security matters and noted that the airport tenants appreciated the attention he gave the airport. Chief Maggard will be missed and VNY wishes him well. CEO, Justin Erbacci recently announced the appointment of Dave Jones as the DED for LAWA's Commercial Development Division. In addition to LAX, Mr. Jones will be overseeing all leasing related matters at VNY and he will be reporting directly to DED Samantha Bricker.

Ms. Margheritis informed the council that the passenger numbers continue to increase at LAX which will help strengthen LAWA's financial position. The 4th of July weekend was very busy with an average of 67% of the daily traffic during the same time period in 2019, and these were the largest daily numbers LAWA has seen since March 2020. She noted that there is still a long way to go before reaching total recovery but LAWA does expect passenger numbers to grow.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations: For the month of June, VNY conducted 27,657 aircraft operations. This represents a 44.32% increase in operations as compared to June 2020. VNY's YTD 2021 operations totals are currently up by 44.25% as compared to YTD 2020 totals. Ms. Margheritis noted that VNY will show huge percentage increases when compared to 2020 because of the pandemic. In June 2019, VNY conducted 18,629 ACFT Operations which if compared to the June 2021 totals is still an almost 48% traffic increase. Based on the Noise and Operations Monitoring System, in June 2021 there were approximately 5830 jet operations. These totals are up compared to both June 2020 and June 2019. For comparison, in June 2020 a month impacted by the pandemic, VNY had 3,462 jet operations and in June 2019, there were approximately 4,437 jet operations. When comparing June 2021 to June 2019, this is a 31% increase in jet operations.

B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations

Mr. Moreno announced the completion of the Taxiway Alpha Rehabilitation Project. The project took fifteen months to complete. The work expands the taxiway pavement life for 20 years, enhances safety, and meets new FAA design standards. Rehabilitation of the 8000-foot taxiway was accomplished in 12 phases and included full depth asphalt taxiway reconstruction, installation of LED lights, with updates to signage and pavement markings. Mr. Moreno stated that he will invite HNTB to provide an update to the CAC at a future meeting.

Mr. Moreno gave a brief update on the Quick Reaction Force Program. The Program is a partnership between The Los Angeles County Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority, Ventura County Fire Department and Southern California Edison to deploy four CH-47 helicopters and associated ground support to assist firefighting efforts in California this summer. A CH-47 helicopter will be stationed at VNY and staffed 24/7 throughout this fire season. In addition, the LA County Fire Department will also receive two CL-415 Canadian aircrafts, also known as Super Scoopers.

C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to the virtual briefing on the proposed re-design of VNY Airport departure procedures scheduled for August 9, 2021.

D. Ryan Page, Airport Superintendent of Operations

Mr. Page provided the council with a briefing on Noise Comments and the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Jet Departure programs for May 2021. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental reports (attached).

Updates and information can also be found on the LAWA website at www.iFlyVNY.com under the Noise Management Section.

E. Lt. Dennis Lau, Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

In the absence of Lt. Lau, Sgt. Beacom provided an update on safety and security at Van Nuys Airport.

Sgt. Beacom addressed the council as it relates to the completion of the new police facilities at LAX.

Chief of Airport Police, Cecil Rhambo recently announced his bid to run for LA County Sheriff and will continue to serve as Chief during that campaign.

Sgt. Beacom noted that VNY officers recently worked with an outside agency in an investigation that resulted in a large narcotics seizure.

Sgt. Beacom reported that there have been no significant safety or security issues to report since the last CAC meeting on June 1, 2021.

II. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, and due to continuing concerns over COVID-19, the BOAC has continued to meet via teleconference. Since the last CAC meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 there were three virtual BOAC meetings.

At the meeting held on June 3, 2021 there was a VNY Airport Noise Update management report presented by DED Samantha Bricker; this report is available on the LAWA website. Along with this update, there was one VNY related item under consent for BOAC Action: A resolution for a 65-month lease with Stockton Architects, Inc., for office space at Aviation Plaza.

At the meeting held on Thursday, June 17, 2021 there was one item under the consent items for action and that was for a resolution to establish new aeronautical land and building rental rates at VNY for the 2020-2025 time period, as required by the Los Angeles City Charter.

The regular BOAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 1, 2021 was cancelled.

The meeting held on Thursday, July 8, 2021, had one consent item which was for a resolution for the acceptance of grant offers and execution of grant agreements with the FAA for the purposes of securing federal grant funds for economic relief provided from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides some economic relief for both LAX and VNY. Under regular Items for board action there were two items. The first was a resolution to establish a three-year contract with NAPA Integrated Business Solutions for automotive parts and heavy-duty equipment parts, accessories, and services for LAX and VNY. The second was a resolution for the Board to adopt a single-use plastic water bottle phase-out policy. The policy will require LAWA and businesses operating at LAX and VNY to stop selling or distributing single-use plastic water bottles for consumption at the airport, effective June 30, 2023.

The regular BOAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2021 was cancelled.

The regular BOAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 2021 was cancelled.

The next BOAC Meeting will be held via teleconference and is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Chair opened the Public Comment Period (item V.)

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. Miguel Almaguer, Resident
Ms. Clementina, Resident
Ms. Shawn Robinson, Resident
Mr. Dean, Resident
Ms. Robin, Resident
Ms. Marie, Resident
Mr. David, Resident
Ms. Shoshana, Resident
Ms. Susan Collins, Resident
Mr. Ari, Resident
Ms. Kim Jamez, Resident
Ms. Penny Alpers, Resident
Mr. Charles, Resident
Mr. David Rankell, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

IV. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Department of City Planning, Community Plan Update/VNY Airport Plan – Discussion/Action

Ms. Kathline King, LAWA Senior Airport Planner, and Ms. Erika Cui with the Department of City Planning conducted a presentation.

The Chair thanked Ms. Cui and Ms. King for their presentation.
The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Materna addressed the council as it relates to annual updates to the VNY Master Plan in comparison to LAX updates.

Mr. Cohen stated he finds the presentation over glossed and unacceptable.

Mr. Rodine noted that LAX has a continual reconfiguration with modifications to terminals and construction projects. He stated that the council should focus on getting the operational rules out of the Master Plan and into an operational guidelines policy that could help the community with their requests.

Mr. Williams addressed the council as it relates to compliance in the Master Plan. He emphasized that the community is under attack due to LAWA and BOAC's lack of compliance. Mr. Williams stated that the CAC has done all it can do as an advisory council and reminded the public to contact their Congressional representatives to assist them.

The Chair addressed Mr. Williams as it relates to the Airport Noise and Capacity Act (ANCA) and compliance. The Chair reminded the council that they are there to advise the BOAC and other entities and noted that federal law does not change at the advisory council level.

Mr. Materna stated that LAWA should share their 10-year plan with the community.
Mr. Materna noted that the council should receive reports on all VNY voluntary programs.

Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to unsafe aircraft jet operations.
Mr. Cohen stated that VNY is operating under unsafe conditions.

The Chair stated that as an aviation expert he can verify that the air traffic control facility at VNY and surrounding communities is one of the best in the nation.

Ms. Kathryn Pantoja addressed the council as it relates to restrictions that were proposed under the airport plan. She noted that LAWA did conduct analysis and initiated a Part 161 Study for restrictions at the time. LAWA focused on obtaining a phase out of older, noisier Stage 2 aircraft, which the FAA approved by giving this policy “grandfather” status under the 1990 ANCA (Airport Noise and Capacity Act), ahead of the national phase out. Ms. Pantoja stated that staff have taken many efforts and have always advocated for what is feasible. Ms. Pantoja noted that a presentation from 2010 can still be found on the CAC webpage that highlights what was done at that time to address all items that are included on the Master Plan.

Mr. Parker noted that it’s time for another Part 161 Study.

Ms. Saunders agreed with Mr. Parker and noted that the 2010 presentation could be shared with the CAC members for more insight.

Mr. Materna addressed the council as it relates to air taxis.

Mr. Materna noted that he looks forward to making recommendations for the Master Plan in a motion to the BOAC and LAWA.

Ms. Petrus stated that the VNY Master Plan is being discussed at the neighborhood council level.

Ms. Petrus addressed the council as it relates to the communities affected by aircraft noise.

Mr. Rodine moved to table the discussion to the next CAC meeting.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

The Chair moved to defer all other items to the next CAC meeting in September.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

V. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

No items were discussed.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

No items were discussed.

VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Membership

No items were discussed.

VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA

No items were discussed.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

No items were discussed.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

9:29 p.m.