

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 7, 2014
MINUTES

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Don Schultz. Members present: Don Schultz, Ron Merkin, John Parker, Gerry Silver, David Rankell, Laurence Rabe, Harold Lee, Wayne Williams, David Bernardoni, Kathy Delle Donne, Cindy Goodfellow, Roger Oeland

Members Absent: Elliot Sanders, Wendy Saunders, Roger Ortiz, Vahid Khorsand

The Council vacancies as of October 7, 2014 are as follows: Two appointments from the Mayor's Office.

The minutes from the September 2, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

1.) STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Romo stated there was a request to go through the Year in Preview Report in more detail.

A. Year in Preview Report – Discussion/Action

Mr. Romo discussed the Year-in-Preview Report (attached).

Mr. Romo, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Goodfellow, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rankell, Mr. Parker, Mr. Rodine (member of public), Mr. Eric Steinhauer (Prop Park) further discussed this item.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Romo about the situation with Hoover's Hangars.

Mr. Romo stated that LAWA served Basenet a 30-day lease termination notice to quit the premises, and he indicated the 30 days should be up tomorrow or Thursday. Mr. Romo stated he saw a document between the Bob Hoover group and Basenet indicating the relationship was severed. The Bob Hoover's Hangars signage is gone. Mr. Romo stated he can't speak in detail on this issue because he doesn't know and also because of the potential for litigation. He also indicated there is some presence on site by the Basenet team.

Mr. Schultz asked if there were any tenants of that leasehold present at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Oeland indicated he is a former tenant and detailed some of his experience on the leasehold.

Mr. Oeland indicated that his wife, Jenny, is battling cancer.

Mr. Merkin asked Ms. Sanchez for the phone number for public inquiries regarding CAC meetings or for information regarding VNY events. Ms. Sanchez indicated the number for Public Relations is 818-442-6526.

Mr. Merkin thanked Mr. Romo and Ms. Sanchez for the Year in Preview and indicated it was the best they've ever put together as it provides a lot of valuable information as well as a complete events calendar.

Mr. Romo indicated the Year in Preview was a group effort but that Diana deserves the thanks as she puts the document together.

Mr. Schultz thanked the staff also.

2.) REPORT FROM CHAIR

As acting Chair, Mr. Schultz requested, per his discussion with Mr. Sanders, any motions that emanate from the council, and pass, are presented in writing by the motion maker and given to the CAC Secretary.

A. Working Group Reports – Discussion/Action

Mr. Silver and Mr. Rankell presented slides 19-79 of the PowerPoint presentation regarding VNY Noise Issues. Mr. Silver deferred the remaining portion of the presentation to a later date. This presentation was emailed to all CAC members in its entirety on August 25, 2014.

Mr. Williams indicated he emailed Mr. Sanders about deferring the discussion on helicopters to a later date. He hopes to do a presentation at the November CAC meeting, but he would like to meet with Mr. Rankell and Mr. Bob Anderson first.

Mr. Silver indicated that Mr. Anderson has a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Williams indicated that is the presentation he hopes to include at the November meeting or possibly in January. Mr. Schultz, Mr. Rankell, Mr. Silver, and Mr. Williams discussed this further.

3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

Mr. Romo discussed the BOAC items pertaining to VNY from the September 18 and October 2, 2014 Board Meetings. All the items are listed below:

September 18, 2014 BOAC items:

2. Award of a three (3) -year Contract to Southwest Escrow Corporation: For escrow services for Los Angeles World Airports, for cost not to exceed \$182,100 (Debbie Bowers, 424 -646 -7142)
4. Award of a Contract to Frontier Ford Inc.: For eight (8) utility trucks, fueled by compressed natural gas for Los Angeles World Airports, for total cost of \$420,973 (David Shuter, 424 -646 -5111)
5. Three (3) -year Service Authority with the State of California Department of Justice: For fingerprint information processing for Los Angeles World Airports, for cost not to exceed \$1,925,000 (Patrick Gannon, 424 -646 -5045)

All items were approved.

October 2, 2014 BOAC items:

3. RESOLUTION NO. - Award of a three (3) -year Contract to Vista Paint, Inc.: For purchase of glass reflective beads for airfield paint for Los Angeles World Airports, for overall cost not to exceed \$1,314,000
4. RESOLUTION NO. - Join City of Los Angeles Contract 59592 with Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation: For construction equipment and heavy truck rental for Los Angeles World Airports, for overall cost not to exceed \$2,505,000
9. RESOLUTION NO. - Award of a three (3) -year Contract to Dooley Enterprises, Inc: For purchase of ammunition for the Airport Police Division at Los Angeles International Airport, for cost not to exceed \$600,000

All items were approved.

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

Mr. Rodine, member of the public, indicated, in regards to Mr. Silver's presentation, Dr. Schultz' report was not done on aviation noise exclusively. It was done for the Federal Interagency Commission on noise and included trains, planes, buses, motorcycles, highway vehicles, etc., and the goal was to ascertain the point of irritation. Mr. Rodine also stated the one thing that has been criticized is that perhaps Mr. Schultz did not consider enough issues. He went on to say the one reality is Mr. Schultz demonstrated that people get significantly irritated at 65 decibels irrespective of the source of the noise.

Mr. Craig Woltzbacher, member of the public, presented a letter he received from LAWA in response to his noise complaint he submitted on the tracker on July 14, 2014. Mr. Woltzbacher pointed out that the letter states, "Investigations are currently limited to five complaints (one event of disturbance per complaint) per individual per month." He went on to say he has done numerous complaints since May or June of this year, and his concern is the fact that if only five are being counted it may be suppressing the issue. He is concerned that if only five out of a possible 20 complaints are being counted, then the rest of his and his neighbors' complaints are being ignored. He also expressed concern that LAWA is "cherry picking" complaints and directly manipulating or suppressing the issue. Mr. Woltzbacher requests that the CAC board members consider a motion to ask LAWA to acknowledge all "early turn", "noise", or "over flight" complaints regardless of who submitted them. He would specifically like LAWA to consider all complaints in areas south of Sherman Way all the way to Victory; and east of Valjean all the way to the 405.

Mr. Schultz informed Mr. Woltzbacher that if he is asking the CAC to take a position, they can't because it's not on the agenda. Mr. Schultz indicated there is no reason the advisory council cannot open up some dialogue with someone from the community or the airport that has an issue. He also stated this is not the first time he has heard of this complaint. Mr. Schultz stated he thinks the CAC should agendaize this issue in the future. He will speak with Mr. Sanders about this.

Mr. Silver indicated that the Brown Act does not allow the council to take a position or discuss substandard matters; however, it does permit them to discuss agenda items at length. Mr. Silver stated there is no point in bringing an agenda item up that says the airport should be able to take all complaints from anybody and as many as they want. That would require a lot of staff. He suggested to agendaize a proposal or motion for a special analysis of noise for a given parameter and fixed length of time where all complaints would be considered.

Mr. Schultz stated, with Mr. Silver's help, he will speak with Mr. Sanders about creating an agenda item that will address this issue.

Mr. Romo indicated he does not see the complaint letters generated through the Noise Management office, although his name is on the letter. He stated he will work with the LAX based Noise staff to get a better understanding of their reporting process.

Mr. Silver indicated that of the five letters he received in response to his five complaints, one of them was an actual violation. He would like information on what steps are taken when there is an actual noise violation.

Mr. Schultz stated they can discuss this further when it becomes an agenda item.

Mr. Rodine stated he was appointed to the VNY CAC by Mayor Riordan. He went on to explain his experience as a member in relation to his communication with the Mayor's office. He stated he communicated regularly with members of Mayor Riordan's office; however, he never heard from either Mayor Hahn's or Villaraigosa's office until he was let go in 2007. He stated he believed he was let go because Mayor Villaraigosa didn't want what appeared to be a very direct and objective observation about the issues of the airport.

Mr. Mel Roberts, a member of the public, indicated he commented at the last meeting and thought it would be discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Silver indicated Mr. Roberts, who is head of the Encino Neighborhood Council Airport Committee, approached Mr. Silver with about the issue. Mr. Silver indicated he made a recommendation to place this item on the next agenda. He stated Mr. Sanders wanted to defer it.

Mr. Schultz stated he does not recall why but that it was deferred.

Mr. Silver and Mr. Schultz discussed this further. Mr. Schultz indicated he will speak with Mr. Sanders about this issue.

5.) NEW BUSINESS

A. CAC Members reporting – Discussion/Action

Mr. Schultz stated Mr. Sanders requested a brief discussion tonight on the CAC's reporting system whereas information is passed on to the elected officials who appointed them. He asked the members if they are reporting to the people who appointed them or through a different entity, or are they taking the information and waiting for the next meeting.

Mr. Silver stated he has met with staff of Councilman Paul Koretz' office and has invited them to attend meetings. He sends updates to their office all the time, but he's not sure if any action is taken.

Mr. Merkin stated he is not sure that reports that come from the CAC reach any councilmember. He feels that as appointed members, they should have a reporting system. He went on to say that you have to go through a certain protocol and you can't expect to go directly to the appointed official. He expressed that you have a relationship with the office, but that does not guarantee the councilmember is going to hear what they need to hear.

Mr. Williams stated he believed most of the members were appointed by their appropriate entities to act on their own and not to represent or dictate the perspectives of the councilmembers. He went on to say that during times he felt an issue needed an action and he needed the support of the council he would approach them and set up a meeting to discuss it. Mr. Williams stated the CAC members should determine the appropriateness of an issue before bringing it to their elected official.

Ms. Delle Donne indicated this is her third CAC meeting. For the first two meetings she sent a brief overview to Mr. Blumenfield and his legislative deputy. Ms. Delle Donne indicated the council office wants to know the main issues (e.g. Early Turns).

Ms. Goodfellow indicated she agrees with Mr. Williams. She also stated the minutes are available for anyone to read.

Mr. Rankell stated their intent is to highlight significant issues (e.g. removal of seven noise monitors) versus operational issues (e.g. taxiway rehab).

Mr. Silver suggested adding the council members to the distribution list for the CAC agenda and minutes.

Mr. Schultz asked Mr. Romo what the distribution is currently.

Mr. Silver asked if a dozen names could be added to the list.

Mr. Romo stated this could be done.

Mr. Merkin stated that time is a valuable resource in every councilmember's office and they will not allocate anyone to read the CAC's minutes. He suggested a monthly or bi-monthly memo from the CAC to their councilmember's office indicating hot topic issues.

Mr. Bernardoni stated there needs to be a discussion on the By-Laws and what the purpose of the CAC is. He went on to say their purpose is to review issues affecting the airport and to provide advice and recommendations to the BOAC, the Mayor's office, the City Council and other appropriate entities. He stated that as CAC members it is their responsibility to report back to whoever appointed them on the important issues specifically.

Mr. Silver asked Ms. Levitan if she perceives that the minutes, if sent to the council offices, will "go over their heads".

Ms. Levitan stated Ms. Ghoukassian (CAC Secretary), sends her everything (i.e. minutes, agendas, etc.).

Mr. Silver, Ms. Levitan, and Mr. Schultz discussed this further.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

A. Early Turns – Discussion/Action

Mr. Woltzbacher stated he was hoping, after last month's CAC meeting, there would be a difference in the flights. He indicated things seemed better for two days following the meeting; however, there has been no change since. He determined the majority of the early turns are flight instructors. He believes Encore is the major culprit. He indicated that he once called the control tower and asked them to stop the early turns. He spoke with a supervisor who allegedly stated he doesn't know why the culture has changed. The supervisor promised to speak with the controllers and apologized for interrupting Mr. Woltzbacher's weekend. Mr. Woltzbacher also indicated he called Encore directly and spoke with the manager who promised to speak with the pilots. There has been no change in the flights.

There was some discussion between Mr. Schultz, Mr. Rankell, Mr. Romo, Mr. Merkin and Ms. Goodfellow on whether the FAA will return to the CAC for an update in November 2014 or January 2015. Mr. Romo asked Ms. Sanchez to confirm with Mr. Scott Tatro the definitive date.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Romo about the limit on noise investigations and whether all complaints are compiled whether investigated or not. He asked if LAWA has a log of complaints.

Mr. Romo stated they are logged, but they may be subcategorized. He indicated everything is captured.

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

No items were discussed.

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

Mr. Rankell stated he appreciates the work from the neighborhood effected by the early turns and thanked Mr. Woltzbacher. He also indicated the noise website has been updated so that you can now log on from mobile devices. He recommended making a motion at some point and setting some parameters on the map in order to look more closely at the designated area in relation to the early turn issue. He stated that what they really want is to be able to identify the operators causing the issue and it needs to be investigated further. He stated the FAA may take a while to get back to the CAC and expressed that LAWA needs to take responsibility and do some outreach. He stated LAWA, as operator of the airport, has more of a liability than they're letting on.

Mr. Schultz thanked the council members for their patience while he filled Mr. Sander's shoes as CAC Acting Chair.

Mr. Merkin thanked Ms. Levitan for her commitment to the CAC and stated he wished other council offices would do the same.

Mr. Parker indicated he enjoyed Mr. Silver's presentation. He also stated he is delighted customs may open soon. He feels confident and hopeful after Mr. Bill Washington's attendance of last month's meeting that things might change.

Ms. Goodfellow commended Mr. Schultz as Acting Chair. She also expressed that she was sorry for Jenny Oeland's challenges and sends her love. Ms. Goodfellow stated she will personally investigate the early turn issue a little further. She is happy about customs and stated it is an amenity to the leasehold operators and to the airport. In regards to reporting back, Ms. Goodfellow expressed that she understands there is a protocol and thanked Ms. Levitan for educating the CAC on that issue.

Mr. Williams expressed concern about the U.S. Customs facility in regards to aircraft coming in from long distances to fuel up and then fly out early in the morning without any concern for noise. He hopes that will not be the case and that it will be good for business as well as a positive experience. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Woltzbacher for coming in and keeping the CAC aware of what is going on. He indicated he believes the problem is in the tower that it's the culture of the tower. He believes the regional director of the FAA needs to step in and take responsibility for the change that is taking place and disrupting people's lives. He indicated that he and Mr. Rankell will make a concerted effort to see if they can pursue an alternative solution in the short term that might resolve the problem. He indicated he believes someone is telling the pilots what to do and it must stop.

Ms. Delle Donne thanked Ms. Sanchez for her tour of Van Nuys Airport.

Ms. Rabe thanked Mr. Schultz and sent her best to Jenny Oeland.

Mr. Silver indicated it was a good meeting and thanked Mr. Schultz for Chairing.

Mr. Oeland indicated that aircrafts don't need to come to VNY for customs and there are many more places they can go. He also indicated that the lighting in the Sherman Way tunnel is still very dark.

Mr. Romo indicated trucks were working in the tunnel this week and it is brighter now. Ms. Rabe concurred.

9) ADJOURNMENT:

9:17 p.m.