

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 10, 2019

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jason Price. Members present: Mel Roberts, Cindy Goodfellow, Gerald Silver, Wayne Williams, Roger Oeland, Kathy Delle Donne, David Rankell, Laurence Rabe and Araz Parseghian, and Robert Rodine.

Absent: John Parker, Wendy Saunders, Leonel Fuentes, Harold Lee

The council observed a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Ron Merkin who passed away on July 24, 2019.

The minutes from the August 6, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction adding Mr. Robert Rodine to the list of staff present at the August 6, 2019 meeting.

I. STAFF REPORTS:

A. Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager:

Ms. Margheritis expressed her condolences for the passing of Mr. Merkin.

Ms. Margheritis introduced Milene Minassians, Field Deputy for Council District 4.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the VNY statistics: She reported that in July 2019, VNY conducted 19,498 aircraft operations; this represents a 9.5% decrease in operations as compared to July 2018. VNY's YTD 2019 operations totals are currently down by 18.06% as compared to YTD 2018 totals.

Ms. Margheritis announced the arrival of the Super Scoopers on August 30th. Ms. Margheritis stated that the Super Scoopers are scheduled to be at VNY through the end of December and possibly until January depending on the number of fires around the area. Ms. Margheritis stated that the typically contracted Erickson Air Crane would not be at VNY this fire season as the Los Angeles County Fire Department did not secure a contract.

Ms. Margheritis gave an update on the roof top solar projects at VNY. Ms. Margheritis stated that Western Jet Aviation began the installation of solar panels in July 2019 with an expected completion date of September 2019.

Ms. Margheritis stated that the following tenants have submitted requests to LAWA for approval to install solar panels on their rooftops: Castle & Cooke Aviation, Clay Lacy Aviation and the Propeller Park.

Ms. Margheritis stated that LAWA remains supportive of these sustainability projects as they contribute to LAWAs efforts to be more environmentally friendly and more can be learned from LAWAs Sustainability Report for 2018.

Ms. Margheritis announced that VNY has met all the necessary requirements to upgrade to a Level 3 Optimization of the Airport Carbon Accreditation Program. The official announcement will be made at the Airports Council International Conference in September 2019. VNY is one of 259 airports engaged in addressing the impacts on global climate change.

Ms. Margheritis shared the Metroplex update given by Deputy Executive Director, Samantha Bricker, at the BOAC meeting on September 10, 2019. The presentation points were:

- FAA presented a solution to the PPRRY Waypoint on August 6, 2019 to the VNY CAC after researching proposed solutions for the last five months.
- The proposed changes would remove/add new waypoints for the RNAV flight paths departing from VNY. The changes attempt to have the RNAV flight paths mirror, as closely as possible, the conventional procedures that were flown pre-Metroplex and continue to be flown by 40% of traffic today.
- The changes would occur close in to VNY, moving the RNAV flight paths slightly farther north, and flights would continue to be vectored north by air traffic controllers as soon as is safe and practicable.
- The potential change at VNY would not affect BUR procedures or any potential changes to those procedures.
- The flights would also continue to be dispersed, though not as widely as conventional procedures.
- There were several questions and concerns raised by community members at this meeting. The questions pertained to the proposed change itself, timeframe given by the FAA for implementing the proposed changes, and whether the FAA could do anything to provide relief in the interim.
- Before it will begin the formal design process on these proposed changes, the FAA must receive a formal request from LAWA. Even after the formal design begins, there would be several opportunities for community engagement.
- LAWA staff has been in frequent communication with the City Council offices, which have indicated that they would want to do a motion instructing LAWA to submit a formal request to the FAA before such a request is initiated.
- LAWA anticipates that the FAA will present the proposed change at the third meeting of the new joint task force, to be held in October, so that all task force members – including the relevant City Councilmembers – are able to consider it in that forum.

- The first meeting of the Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force was held in Burbank on August 28, 2019. The Task Force is comprised of 13 members. This includes Councilmembers from Council Districts 2, 4, 5 and 6.
- Technical advisors from the FAA, BUR, and LAWA/VNY staff are present to provide technical explanations and to assist with the progress of the Task Force. LAWA does not have voting representatives on the Task Force.
- The purpose of the task force is to address community concerns regarding aircraft noise resulting from aircraft departing from VNY and BUR. Meetings are led by an independent facilitator.
- The task force provides a forum for community members to share concerns regarding noise impacts and to discuss potential solutions. The task force would evaluate proposed solutions and could present a final set of recommended changes for approval and submittal to the FAA. Any determinations as to what is technically and operationally feasible will be made by the FAA.
- The first Task Force meeting was attended by several hundred community members and interested constituents, as well as staff from the FAA, BUR, and LAWA/VNY.
- The Task Force elected Emily Gabel-Luddy, Mayor of Burbank, as the Chair and Councilman Krekorian as Vice Chair. The Task Force got through the administrative portion of the agenda and then heard testimony from approximately 70 individuals. Most of the complaints were pertaining to noise from BUR flights but there were also complaints regarding the change in the waypoint at VNY.
- The Task Force asked that community groups make presentations at the next meeting which will be held on Sept. 11 at 6:30 in Burbank.
- Each community group will be allotted a set amount of time to make a presentation which could include recommendations for task force consideration.
- The third Task Force meeting, to be held on a date to be determined in October, is expected to have additional community presentations as well as FAA presentations.

B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations

Mr. Moreno updated the council as it relates to the Taxiway Bravo rehabilitation project. Mr. Moreno stated that work area 6 will be completed this weekend and work area 7 will begin on Sunday, September 15th. Work area 7 is expected to be completed by October 20th. Mr. Moreno stated that runway 16L/34R will continue to be closed until mid-December. The project is scheduled for completion in March 2020.

C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations

Ms. Margheritis gave a staff report on behalf of Ms. Sanchez.

Ms. Marheritis requested that the council hold the date of December 3rd for the Annual Appreciation Dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The location is to be determined.

D. Len Krugler, Environmental Specialist

Mr. Krugler provided the council with a briefing on the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Departure programs for August 2019. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental handouts (noise reports attached).

Mr. Krugler stated that this information can also be found on the LAWA website at www.iFlyVNY.com in the Noise Management section.

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

Lt. Lau announced the appointment of Sgt. Clint Beacom as the assistant officer in charge at VNY.

Lt. Lau reported there was one incident at VNY since the last CAC meeting on August 6, 2019. Lt. Lau also stated that the VNY Airport Police continues to work collaboratively with the airport tenants to ensure safety at the airport.

Ms. Margheritis announced to the council that the current CAC Secretary is transferring to LAX and this is her last meeting. Ms. Margheritis stated that Ms. Maria Barba has been at the airport for 13 years working as her Administrative Assistant and as Secretary for the last year and a half. Ms. Margheritis announced that Lynda Herrera would be the Acting CAC Secretary.

II. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY-DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A.** Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the following BOAC meeting(s): The August 15, 2019 BOAC meeting was cancelled; the September 5, 2019 BOAC meeting was cancelled; the September 10, 2019 Special BOAC meeting, in which there were four items pertaining to VNY and one management report pertaining to an update on the VNY Metroplex issue; the next Special BOAC meeting will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at LAX.

III. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Emergency Preparedness – Presentation

Ms. Anna Burton from LAWA’s Emergency Management, introduced Mr. Justin Pierce the new LAWA Director of Emergency Management.

Ms. Burton gave a presentation on emergency preparedness. (attached)

B. By-laws Amendment, Council District 4 Representation – Discussion

Mr. Price stated that an ad hoc committee has been created to collect information regarding the process of amending the by-laws and the goal will be to present this information to the council. Mr. Price stated that the last by-law change was in 2007.

Mr. Price announced that Kathy Delle Donne would be the chair of this ad hoc committee. Ms. Delle Donne will select two members of the council to be part of this committee.

Mr. Price informed the council that the first amendment for consideration would be the addition of Council District 4 representation.

Ms. Minassians, Field Deputy for Council District 4 read a letter to the council on behalf of Council Member Ryu, Council District 4. This letter was regarding agenda items III. B and IV. A (copy attached)

Mr. Silver suggested that if the council adds members it should be an odd number of total members for voting purposes.

Mr. Rodine stated that Council Member Ryu's district is largely in the city not in the valley.

Mr. Rodine informed the council that three of the CAC council members live in the district. Ms. Rabe, Mr. Rankell and himself. Mr. Rodine suggested to the council that the ad hoc committee consider where the council members come from not who appointed them.

Mr. Rankell stated to the council that there is no requirement on where the member lives. The appointing authority could appoint a member even if they do not live in the area.

Mr. Rankell stated that he is concerned about any by-law changes due to council district lines changing every 10 years. Mr. Rankell suggested that if the council decides to add a council district they should consider removing a council district.

Mr. Rankell stated that he is not in favor of any changes to the founding by-laws. Unless there is overwhelming evidence that compels the changes to be made.

The Chair opened the public comment period for agenda item III. B

The following community members commented on agenda item III. B:
Lisa Petrus, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council/Transportation Committee
Kira Durbin, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council
Donna Materna, Sherman Oaks Resident
Tom Materna, Sherman Oaks Resident

C. By-Laws Amendment, Council District 4 Representation – Discussion

Mr. Price recommends an amendment to Article II of the CAC By-Laws, adding a line indicating that no action would be taken which would result in the shifting of noise from one community to another.

Mr. Rankell agrees with Mr. Price's recommendation to amend the CAC By-Laws. Mr. Rankell stated that the council refrain from changing flight patterns and moving noise from one area to another would be a fair and balanced approach for all communities involved.

Mr. Silver stated he is concerned about the process to amend the CAC By-Laws.

Mr. Williams stated that aircraft patterns for the past three years were not in the south end of the valley. Mr. Williams clarified that the aircraft pattern in question is one that has moved in last two years; therefore, the consideration is not to move noise to an area that never had it before.

Mr. Roberts stated consideration should be given to the elevation of the area of the pattern in question.

Mr. Rodine suggested the council simply reference noise not specifically tie it to one thing.

Mr. Rodine stated that general characterization in the language would give the council greater capability to deal with noise and where it changes.

Ms. Rabe stated to the council that if changes are made to the by-laws, it should be for everything or not at all. Ms. Rabe addressed Ms. Delle Donne and suggested that she pay attention to the influencers in order for this process to be fair.

Mr. Price stated that the purpose of this ad hoc committee is to provide a firm and structured foundation to move forward with the by-law amendment process.

D. Election of Officer Discussion/Action

Ms. Rabe nominated Mr. Williams for Chair.

Mr. Roberts seconded the nomination of Mr. Williams for Chair.

Mr. Williams accepted the nomination for Chair

Mr. Rodine nominated Mr. Price for Chair.

Ms. Goodfellow seconded the nomination of Mr. Price for Chair.

Mr. Price accepted the nomination for chair.

Mr. Silver addressed both Mr. Price and Mr. Williams concerning a potential conflict of interest regarding the California Government Code 1000 and Los Angeles City Charter 222. Mr. Silver asked whether either of them have a financial interest in the airport issues.

Mr. Williams stated that he does not have any financial interest involving the airport.

Mr. Price stated that he does own a business at the airport; however, if there were ever an item to be voted on where he would have financial interest he would abstain from that vote.

The following council members voted in favor of Mr. Price as Chair:

Mr. Oeland, Ms. Delle Donne, Mr. Parseghian, Ms. Goodfellow, Mr. Rankell, Mr. Price, Mr. Rodine.

The following council members voted in favor of Mr. Williams for Chair:

Mr. Silver, Ms. Rabe, Mr. Williams, Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts nominated Mr. Williams for Vice Chair.

Mr. Williams accepted the nomination for Vice Chair.

Mr. Silver seconded the nomination of Mr. Williams for Vice Chair.

Ms. Goodfellow nominated Mr. Rankell for Vice Chair

Mr. Rodine seconded the nomination of Mr. Rankell for Vice Chair

The following council members voted in favor of Mr. Rankell for Chair:

Mr. Oeland, Ms. Delle Donne, Mr. Parseghian, Ms. Goodfellow, Mr. Rankell, Mr. Price, Mr. Rodine.

The following council members voted in favor of Mr. Williams for Vice Chair:

Mr. Silver, Ms. Rabe, Mr. Williams, Mr. Roberts.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION / ACTION

Voluntary Noise Curfew, Ad Hoc Committee Update – Discussion/Action.

Mr. Parseghian stated that he has been working in collaboration with Mr. Williams and after some research, supporting documentation, and raw data from LAWA, he believes the ad hoc committee has put together a strong presentation on the voluntary noise curfew.

Mr. Parseghian thanked the ad hoc committee for their work.

Mr. Silver stated that it appears the earlier lengthy and repetitive presentation was deliberately to stall an adequate presentation on the voluntary nighttime curfew.

Mr. Williams gave a presentation - "The case for a Voluntary Nighttime Curfew" (attached).

Mr. Rodine gave a presentation – "Observations on Issues Relative to a Contemplated Voluntary Curfew at VNY" (attached).

Mr. Williams proposed a motion to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Price seconded the motion to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m.

The council unanimously approved the motion to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Rodine updated the council on the process of a motion and substitute motion.

Mr. Price stated that the main motion was proposed by Mr. Silver and seconded by Mr. Williams. (attached)

Mr. Price stated that the substitute motion (in italics below) was proposed by Mr. Rodine and seconded by Mr. Rankell.

"I move that the Van Nuys CAC reject the motion for a voluntary curfew and that the CAC support the work being done by the FAA and other associated actions."

Ms. Delle Donne requested copies of the presented information for further research.

Ms. Delle Donne addressed Ms. Margheritis for information on the process to implement a nighttime curfew.

Ms. Margheritis explained that if the voluntary noise curfew motion were to pass, the written motion would be forwarded to Board of Airport Commissioners.

Ms. Margheritis further explained that any action taken would be at the direction of the Board of Airport Commissioners

Ms. Margheritis stated that it is her and LAWAs position to maintain a balanced approach that considers the needs of the communities, operators and users of the airport.

Mr. Rankell stated that the voluntary noise curfew is not the solution as it creates false expectations. Mr. Rankell informed the council that there would be no enforcement penalties. It is up to the aircraft owner and/or the person who charters the aircraft to comply.

Mr. Rankell also stated that he believes the voluntary noise curfew will distort and distract from the real issues.

Mr. Silver raised a point of order stating that the public must comment in order to take an action. Mr. Silver purposed a motion to table this discussion until the next CAC meeting to allow for public comment.

Mr. Williams seconded Mr. Silver's motion to table this discussion until the next CAC meeting.

The council voted unanimously to table this discussion until the next CAC meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. Waldman, President of VICA

Mr. Imber, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

Mr. Jim Esterle, Encino Neighborhood Council

Mr. Susan Ashley, Resident Sherman Oaks

Mr. Silver called a point of order requesting the chair to notify the public to address their comments to the Chair.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

No items were discussed.

VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Membership – Leonel Fuentes, Chairperson

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:

9:31 p.m.