

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Jason Price. Members present: Wayne Williams, Mel Roberts, Robert Rodine, John Parker, Marykate Harris, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Leonel Fuentes, Wendy Saunders, Roger Oeland, Cindy Goodfellow, Harold Lee, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson and Eliot Cohen.

Absent: Laurence Rabe and Kathy Delle Donne.

The minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting were approved with one correction.

The Chair announced the appointment of the new CAC member, Mr. Eliot Cohen and thanked Mr. Silver for his time on the council.

I. STAFF REPORTS:

A. Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager:

Ms. Margheritis welcomed Mr. Cohen to the council and extended an invitation for a one-on-one meeting and airport tour.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on VNY staff, patrons and stakeholders. Most VNY staff have returned to the office and LAWA has continued to work diligently to ensure a safe, clean and healthy work environment. Ms. Margheritis stated that VNY continues to maintain workplace safety protocols with proper physical distancing in offices, employee use of face coverings, and following all guidance provided by public health agencies, as well as strict LAWA policies implemented to ensure employee safety. Ms. Margheritis shared the unfortunate news that LAWA had its first COVID-19 death of an employee. Both LAX and VNY employees know how critical it is to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Ms. Margheritis commended LAWA staff for adhering to safety measures and doing their part to flatten the curve to protect each other and surrounding communities. LAWA's policy continues to be that people must work from home if they can, but must report to work if they are in an essential class.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations. In June 2020, LAX passenger traffic was down 87% compared to June of last year. Ms. Margheritis stated that just over one million passengers went through the gates at LAX in June, down from eight million in June 2019. At VNY, where aircraft operations are tracked as opposed to passenger counts, averages for June 2020 compared to June of last year show a 19% decrease in all aircraft operations; a 35% decrease in jet operations, and nighttime jet traffic was down almost 35%. Ms. Margheritis stated that LAWA believes they will continue to see drastically reduced passenger numbers at LAX for many months compared to last year. As an organization, LAWA will continue to be diligent about expenditures and reducing costs wherever possible. Ms. Margheritis noted that VNY appears to be recovering a little better, when you compare the June VNY average operational numbers of this year to last. She shared the FAA data for June: VNY conducted 19,164 aircraft operations, which represents a 2.87% decrease in operations compared to June 2019; this brings VNY's YTD 2020 operations totals down to 3.42% compared to YTD 2019 totals.

Ms. Margheritis shared that the July operational figures for VNY will be presented at the September CAC meeting. She stated that because operational levels are not back to

normal, the VNY Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) continues to operate with reduced hours. Ms. Margheritis noted that the businesses at VNY continue to struggle due to the COVID-19 crisis, causing all eyes and ears to focus on the next coronavirus relief package. Senate Republican leaders have released a proposal for another round of relief aid that includes a desperately needed \$10 billion to help airports deal with the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Margheritis stated that the airport industry will be watching as congressional leaders negotiate a final relief package in the days ahead.

Ms. Margheritis gave an update on the Metroplex/SFV Task Force:

Ms. Margheritis briefed the Chair on her update from last month. The FAA's initial response letter to the Southern SFV Noise Task Force (TF) Recommendations, dated June 11, 2020, was posted on both the VNY and BUR Airport webpages. Ms. Margheritis urged the CAC members to read the letter. Since the July 7, 2020 CAC meeting, the FAA sent a second interim response. The FAA letter states that they are giving each of the recommendations thorough consideration and that their goal is to provide the TF with "comprehensive and clear responses to all of the recommendations by August 31, 2020". Ms. Margheritis stated that a letter serving as a formal response was sent to the TF last week from Congress members Adam Schiff, Brad Sherman, and Ted Lieu with their evaluation of the TF recommendations to federal legislators. This letter is also posted on both the BUR and VNY webpages. Although representatives for these Congress members served on the TF in a non-voting capacity, they were identified as the responsible entities to address four of the sixteen recommendations to address community noise concerns. These four recommendations required their review, assessment and implementation, if feasible. It is stated in their letter that implementing these proposals would require action by congress and that they will work to advance the TF recommendations. The TF recommendations will be sent to the federal legislator's center on nighttime aircraft noise and insufficient noise mitigation and will require federal legislation. Ms. Margheritis urged the CAC members, as representatives of the community, to go on the BUR/VNY webpages to remain informed on the TF status.

LAWA also issued its formal response to the TF on July 21, 2020. Three of the approved recommendations required LAWA review, assessment and implementation, if feasible. Ms. Margheritis stated that LAWA will continue to urge the FAA to respond to the TF recommendations and will continue to press FAA on the PPRRY waypoint matter. LAWA's response to Recommendation 4 on conducting a study to determine how to obtain the lowest noise levels from aircraft departures and Recommendation 14 on maintaining and updating LAWAs Noise Exposure Maps and Noise Compatibility Program can all be found on the BUR/VNY webpages. Recommendation 10, which asks LAWA and Customs Border Protection (CBP) to restrict the hours of the CBP office at VNY was feasible and CBP has informed LAWA that they will implement a temporary schedule to close the CBP office at VNY by 10 p.m. nightly; this was effective August 3, 2020. The next steps are to work with CBP to revise the existing MOA to reflect these new closing time hours.

Ms. Margheritis stated that she expects the formal responses to the TF from Burbank Airport, Congress member Cardenas, Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris will be in soon. The BUR/VNY webpages are the best source for up-to-date information. Ms. Margheritis reminded the council to visit the websites to stay informed.

Ms. Margheritis gave an update on the VNY Quieter Nights Program:

Ms. Margheritis noted that Ms. Sanchez, VNY Director of Public and Community Affairs was going to present and update the council on all of the Quieter Nights Program (QNP) outreach efforts. Ms. Margheritis announced that unfortunately Ms. Sanchez may be out of the office for some time. Ms. Sanchez will make the presentation when she returns to the office.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the Chair as it relates to the QNP information presented at the July CAC meeting. Ms. Margheritis noted that she did remind the council that outreach on the QNP began right before the COVID-19 orders; that it was to inform tenants/operators of the program, and as operations recovered, VNY would be in full swing. Operations are recovering, and the Quieter Nights Program remains a top priority for VNY Airport. Ms. Margheritis reiterated the program highlights, which are: that jet aircraft operators are encouraged to avoid flying between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., including both jet arrivals/departures, and that law enforcement, military, emergency and life flight operations are exempted. She stated that Ms. Sanchez had also shared with the council that the program was posted on the VNY webpage and that formal letters were sent out to aircraft operators and FBOs urging compliance with this program. At the July 7, 2020 CAC meeting Ms. Sanchez also shared a picture of the blast fence located at the north-end of the airport. The blast fence now serves as a reminder for Jets to avoid flying between 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. to keep the message at the forefront of operator's minds. Ms. Margheritis stated that LAWA is distributing program information on the VNY webpage, social media, and is working to get program information in pertinent aeronautical publications. Staff has created posters, flyers, and will be updating the VNY Noise Brochure. Staff will also be promoting the program through virtual meetings and events as appropriate. Ms. Sanchez will provide more specifics when she makes her presentation upon her return in the near future. Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA staff will be providing Quarterly updates to the BOAC. Ms. Margheritis stated that she will provide the same updates to the CAC meetings to share feedback on the program and report on the program's effectiveness.

B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations

Ms. Margheritis gave an update on behalf of Mr. Moreno. Ms. Margheritis updated the council on the Taxiway Alpha Rehabilitation Project. The project has advanced without any incidents, and construction work performed on the southwest corner of the airfield was completed on July 20, 2020. Ms. Margheritis noted that the runway was restored to its full length of eight thousand feet the morning of July 23, 2020. All construction updates and pictures can be found on the VNY webpage.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the California fire season and the important role VNY plays. She stated that the LA County Fire Department will be stationed again at VNY this year for fire support. LA County Fire will set up on the northeast corner of the airport on August 15, 2020 and the Super Scoopers (Canadair CL-415) are expected to arrive on August 29, 2020.

C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations

In the absence of Diana Sanchez, Ms. Margheritis noted that there were no Public and Community Relations updates for the CAC.

D. Len Krugler, Environmental Specialist

Mr. Krugler provided the council with a briefing on the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Departure programs for July 2020. 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 under the Noise Management Section.

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

Lt. Lau addressed the council as it relates to changes in Airport Police staff. Lt. Lau reported there have been no significant safety or security issues to report since the last CAC meeting on July 7, 2020.

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, July 7, 2020 there were virtual BOAC meetings held on Thursday July 16, and 30, 2020, and there were no specific items discussed pertaining to VNY at these meetings. There was a special closed session meeting of the BOAC held on August 3, 2020.

The regular BOAC meeting scheduled for August 6, 2020 has been cancelled. The next BOAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

No items were discussed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Quieter Nights Program – Discussion/Action

The chair opened the motion for public comment.

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Ms. Gina, Resident

Mr. John V., Resident

Mr. David Rankel, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

Mr. Materna read the proposed motion from the July 7, 2020 meeting, “Quieter Nights Program” (attached).

The chair opened the motion for discussion.

Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA Deputy Executive Director of Environmental Programs, Samantha Bricker, presented to the BOAC back in March that LAWA would provide quarterly reports. Ms. Margheritis stated she would give the same reports to the CAC after the BOAC received its formal report first. Ms. Margheritis noted that the Quieter Nights Program (QNP) needs time to work. LAWA’s noise office staff needs time to assess the nighttime operations data and the effectiveness of the program. Ms. Margheritis noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, jet operations during the nighttime hours were down by 70% in the month of April. Ms. Margheritis noted that the plan is to keep the nighttime jet

operators informed of the QNP and to continuously remind them that the program is in effect and to avoid departing or arriving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Ms. Margheritis reminded the council that the QNP is voluntary and due to the Airport Noise Capacity Act (ANCA) of 1990, VNY cannot make this program or any sort of a curfew mandatory without undertaking a Part 161 study. The only mandatory curfew in effect at VNY is the partial mandatory departure curfew, which was in effect before 1990 and was grandfathered into VNY. This curfew prohibits some of the oldest and loudest aircraft from departing VNY during the nighttime hours.

Mr. Materna stated that the council should receive the same data that is given to the BOAC on a monthly basis. Mr. Materna stated that LAWA or CAC members should take it upon themselves to notify operators that they are going against the community's request not to fly at night.

The Chair noted that LAWA stated that they are going to be reaching out to operators.

Ms. Margheritis stated that LAWA has been reaching out to operators.

Mr. Materna stated part of the motion is for LAWA to show the CAC their outreach efforts towards operators.

Ms. Margheritis stated that staff is reaching out to operators and FBO's at VNY to promote the program. Ms. Margheritis stated that the BOAC will receive quarterly updates first, followed by the CAC.

Ms. Goodfellow urged that the CAC members should not be reaching out to operators.

Ms. Saunders asked for clarification for what the motion is requesting that LAWA is not already doing.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the QNP outreach plan, which includes meeting with tenants and operators to encourage compliance, posting the program on the VNY webpage and social media page, displaying the key message on the blast fence, and other outreach efforts. Ms. Margheritis noted that Ms. Sanchez will share more specific information in her future presentation. The success of the program depends on the jet operator's willingness to comply and that we need to remember that this is a voluntary program.

Mr. Parker addressed the council as it relates to proper protocol for a motion.

Mr. Williams noted that the motion was proposed and seconded at last month's meeting.

The Chair noted that the motion was tabled to the current meeting.

Mr. Parker addressed Ms. Margheritis as it relates to the motion's requests and LAWA's capabilities.

Ms. Margheritis stated that LAWA staff will always carefully consider all CAC requests, but must also consider staff time and available resources when addressing a request.

She noted that Notices to Airmen (NOTAM) are strictly used to report airport safety conditions and are not intended to be used for noise abatement information.

Mr. Parker stated that the motion may be an overreach of the CAC to ask of LAWA.

Mr. Materna stated that the motion was requested at the last CAC meeting before LAWA acted.

Mr. Cohen asked Ms. Margheritis what the consensus was amongst operators who are now learning of the Quieter Nights Program.

Ms. Margheritis noted that so far, the operators have been supportive towards outreach, but the proof will come once the program has had time to work.

Mr. Williams stated that the original request submitted to the BOAC over a year ago for a Quieter Nights Program was cut down to the current program. Mr. Williams voiced his support for the motion and encouraged the council to vote in favor.

Mr. Rodine stated that operators are being informed of the QNP and reminded the council that they are an advisory council only.

Ms. Goodfellow stated that they need to give the program a chance to work and operators the opportunity to comply.

Ms. Goodfellow asked for clarification of the program being a test program.

Mr. Williams noted that the program is a temporary, one-year test program.

Mr. Williams asked the council to consider the communities that live under the flight paths.

The Chair addressed Ms. Margheritis as it relates to the programs term.

Ms. Margheritis stated that she believes that LAWA is investing too much time and many resources for the program to be just temporary.

Mr. Robinson stated that the council's responsibility is to find a balance between the interest of VNY and the communities.

Mr. Roberts thanked the council and Ms. Margheritis for their work.

Mr. Roberts voiced his support for the motion.

Ms. Saunders stated that the motion is asking for more accountability; however, she believes LAWA is doing their best.

Mr. Materna stated that most Airport voluntary programs are successful because of accountability. Mr. Materna stated that there have been no QNP quarterly reports.

Ms. Margheritis stated that she would confirm the details of the program, but to her knowledge it was not temporary. Ms. Margheritis stated that she and the management team would determine if LAWA has the staff or resources to comply with any additional CAC requests.

Ms. Petrus noted that it is a voluntary program and LAWA is already doing everything they can do to encourage compliance with the program.

The Chair noted that the blast fence was painted before the motion was presented to him. The Chair conveyed that informational requests can always be communicated to LAWA and should not require a motion.

Mr. Williams stated that the motion is what caused staff to put forward efforts towards the program.

Mr. Robinson stated that it would be a benefit to receive monthly updates and thanked Mr. Materna for his work.

Mr. Materna stated that the program is six months in and he would like to see the reports.

The Chair called for a rollcall vote on the Quieter Nights Program Motion submitted by Mr. Materna.

The council opposed the motion (attached) recommended by Mr. Materna with a rollcall vote of six “affirmative” votes (Mr. Roberts, Mr. Williams, Ms. Harris, Mr. Materna, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Cohen); and ten “no” votes (Mr. Parseghian, Mr. Oeland, Mr. Rodine, Ms. Saunders, Ms. Goodfellow, Mr. Parker, Mr. Price, Ms. Petrus, Mr. Lee, Mr. Fuentes).

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Ms. Gina, Resident

Mr. John, Resident

Mr. Gil, Resident

Mr. David, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

No items were discussed.

VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Membership – Cindy Goodfellow, Chairperson

Ms. Goodfellow stated that she reached out to the offices of Councilmembers Martinez and Rodriguez. Ms. Goodfellow stated she may reach out to Ms. Margheritis to help her with outreach.

The Chair noted that he could help her with outreach also.

VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA

No items were discussed.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Harris welcomed Mr. Cohen and thanked the CAC Secretary.
Ms. Harris thanked Mr. Materna for his work on the motion and noted her disappointment that the motion did not pass.

Mr. Fuentes welcomed Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Williams addressed the council as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and tourism.
Mr. Williams wished Ms. Sanchez well and thanked Ms. Margheritis.

Mr. Cohen thanked the council for their warm welcome.
Mr. Cohen stated that he is committed to working on the noise problems facing the surrounding communities.

Mr. Materna welcomed Mr. Cohen.
Mr. Materna thanked Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Margheritis.
Mr. Materna requested a motion to place an item on the agenda for the September meeting.

Mr. Rodine stated that a motion is out of order but a request is appropriate.

The Chair stated that a motion is out of order and that agenda requests can be emailed directly to him via the CAC email address.

Mr. Parker stated that the council members comments period was for council member closing comments.

Mr. Materna stated that he hopes the council can get some data for the Quieter Nights Program.

Ms. Petrus addressed the council as it relates to her comments and the correction requested for last month's meeting minutes.
Ms. Petrus stated that not everyone was in favor of all of the TF recommendations.
Ms. Petrus addressed the council as it relates to decorum at the CAC meetings.

Ms. Saunders stated that she strongly supports the Quieter Nights Program but she is also in support of the CAC and LAWA. Ms. Saunders wishes Ms. Sanchez well and looks forward to her presentation when she returns.

Mr. Parseghian addressed Ms. Goodfellow as it relates to outreach for CAC membership.
Mr. Parseghian addressed the council as it relates to decorum at CAC meetings and LAWA support. Mr. Parseghian welcomed Mr. Cohen and thanked Mr. Materna and Mr. Williams.

Mr. Parker welcomed Mr. Cohen and thanked Mr. Silver for his time and dedication to the CAC.

Mr. Rodine welcomed Mr. Cohen.
Mr. Rodine thanked the Chair, council and Ms. Margheritis.

Ms. Goodfellow thanked the council, LAWA staff and wished Ms. Sanchez well.

Ms. Goodfellow welcomed Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Oeland addressed the council as it relates to commerce and support of VNY Airport.

Mr. Roberts welcomed Mr. Cohen and thanked Mr. Silver for his time and work on the council.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Cohen.

The Chair announced the voting of the Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting.

The Chair moved to change the September 1, 2020 meeting to September 15, 2020 due to LAWA scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Parker recommended to go dark in September.

Mr. Rodine moved to switch the September CAC meeting to September 15, 2020.

Ms. Petrus seconded the motion.

The council unanimously approved the motion to move the next CAC meeting to September 15, 2020.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

9:41 p.m.