

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 5, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Wayne Williams. Members present: Robert Rodine, John Parker, Marykate Harris, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Wendy Saunders, Roger Oeland, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson, Laurence Rabe, Kathy Delle Donne, Cindy Goodfellow, Harold Lee and Eliot Cohen.

Absent: Jason Price and Leonel Fuentes.

The minutes from the October 6, 2020 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. Ms. Margheritis stated that 2020 will go down as one of the most challenging years for the entire aviation industry. She commended VNY and LAWA for adapting and operating in ways never done before. Ms. Margheritis noted that in 2021, we will remain focused on recovery and that LAWA is in good hands with CEO, Justin Erbacci, leading the way. LAWA's priority continues to be the safety of employees and the traveling public. With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the LAWA management team continues to remind staff to take precautions to prevent the spread. For those employees that must report to the office, it is mandatory to use a COVID-19 screening APP each day they report to work. Employees who do not pass the screening cannot physically report to their work station. Additionally, LAWA's Airport Police Division, in partnership with LAFD, has been hosting free COVID-19 tests for LAX and VNY employees.

Ms. Margheritis announced that Sunday, December 13th was a very moving day for everyone with the arrival of a FedEx Airbus-300 aircraft containing the first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccines onboard. LAWA was very proud that LAX had a role in the distribution process and watching the FedEx aircraft brought many a lot of hope. In a recent message that CEO Justin Erbacci sent out to employees, he shared that LAWA's executive team is working with public health officials to ensure that frontline workers are included in early rounds of vaccinations.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to Mayor Garcetti's travel compliance. Mayor Garcetti announced that all travelers arriving at LAX or VNY from another state or country must fill out an online form acknowledging that they have read and understood California's travel advisory. Van Nuys Airport worked with FBO's and other master tenants to ensure that passengers traveling through their facilities were aware of this form, to comply accordingly, and self-quarantine for 14 days after arriving from out of state or country. The VNY Public Relations team worked with airport tenants to place signs throughout their facilities and the FBOs were advised to post travel information on their websites to inform passengers of this travel requirement.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the newly opened COVID-19 testing lab at LAX. The lab will offer rapid testing options to both passengers and airport employees. Results from the rapid testing lab will be available in 3-5 hours. This lab is located across from Terminal 6. Two other labs located at Terminal 2 and Tom Bradley

International Terminal (TBIT) will provide test results within 24-hours. Appointments are highly recommended for all three locations, although some walk-up appointments may be available at the in-terminal locations based on demand. The fee for a test is \$125.00. Ms. Margheritis encouraged the council and community to share this information with family and friends that travel out of LAX.

Ms. Margheritis thanked the council members who were able to join the virtual appreciation event held via Zoom on December 1, 2020. She stated that she hopes to go back to an in-person appreciation dinner in 2021 as has been done historically in the month of December.

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

Ms. Margheritis noted that at the October 15th BOAC meeting, LAWA's DED Samantha Bricker gave a presentation to the Board that included an update on Metroplex. The Metroplex update centered on the TF recommendations and FAA's response. She noted that the Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP) Gateway Request update focused on LAWA's request to the FAA for a revision to the RNAV departure procedures at VNY and a request for an interim procedure to bring immediate relief to the surrounding communities. Since this update, LAWA did receive a response from the FAA. Ms. Margheritis noted that Ms. Kathryn Pantoja from LAWA EPG would provide more details in her staff report.

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

Ms. Margheritis noted that there was also a QNP update presented by Ms. Bricker at the October BOAC meeting which focused on the program's highlights and VNY outreach efforts. Ms. Margheritis noted that Diana Sanchez, VNY Public and Community Relations Director, will give a summary of those outreach efforts during her staff report. Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA is using 2019 as the baseline for comparison. The pre-launch of the QNP was in the 1st quarter of 2020 which was consistent with the baseline numbers. The QNP was officially launched in April (2nd quarter) and LAWA saw a significant drop due to an overall decrease in jet operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When comparing the 2020 3rd quarter to the 2019 3rd quarter baseline, LAWA saw a 43% drop in nighttime jet operations.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to aircraft operations:

Ms. Margheritis noted that while at LAX the passenger levels continue to be at historic lows, VNY continues its strong recovery. In November 2020, VNY conducted 20,403 aircraft operations. This represents a 12.09% increase in operations when compared to November 2019. VNY's November YTD 2020 operations showed totals were up by 5.40% when compared to November's YTD 2019 totals. The jet operations numbers as provided by VNY Noise office staff show that of the 20,403 operations approximately 4,466 were jet operations, about 21% of total operations. This figure continues to remain consistent for the jet operations at VNY where of the total number of all aircraft operations, about 20 – 25% are jet aircraft operations. Ms. Margheritis noted that the average daily takeoffs and landings are based on flight track information and provide a clearer picture of what is happening at VNY. For November 2020, the VNY average daily takeoffs and landings showed a 3.4% decrease in all aircraft operations and a 4.1% decrease in jet operations at VNY when compared to November of 2019.

Ms. Margheritis stated that she will present the council with the total 2020 operational numbers at the February CAC meeting.

B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations

Mr. Moreno updated the council on the Taxiway Alpha Rehabilitation Project: work area nine is in progress, which should be completed later this month. The project is on time and on budget with a scheduled completion date of June 2021.

All construction updates and pictures can be found on the VNY webpage.

C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations

Ms. Margheritis welcomed back Ms. Diana Sanchez.

Ms. Sanchez thanked everyone for their well wishes while she was out.

Ms. Sanchez gave a brief presentation on the VNY Quieter Nights Program outreach efforts.

Ms. Sanchez reminded the council and members of the community that written public comment opens online when the agenda is posted for the meeting 72 hours in advance. All written public comment received by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting day will be sent to the council members for review. Additionally, all comments will be received until the end of the meeting and will then be posted on the VNY website with the meeting minutes. Ms. Sanchez encouraged the public to submit their comments by the referred 12:00 p.m. time. She noted that the community also has the option to call in their comments during the meeting. Members of the community have until the item is reached on the agenda to call and speak for that specific item.

Ms. Margheritis encouraged the council to become familiar with the public comment format to avoid confusion.

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to the UC Davis Noise Symposium.

Ms. Harris volunteered to attend the Noise Symposium.

The Chair confirmed that Ms. Harris will attend on behalf of the council.

D. Joanne Choi, Environmental Specialist

Ms. Choi provided the council with a briefing on the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Departure programs for November 2020. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental handouts (noise reports attached).

Ms. Choi addressed the council as it relates to the VNY Friendly Flyer Awards.

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

Ms. Kathryn Pantoja provided the council with an update on the IFP Gateway request. The request to amend three of the RNAV procedures at VNY was submitted in early October 2020. A response letter was received from the FAA, dated December 10, 2020. The letter acknowledged the feasibility of the request submitted by LAWA and they provided an outline of the next steps process in the gateway review process. The next step would be to schedule a full work group for further request review, project scope, procedure design and consensus. Ms. Pantoja noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FAA is not sure when they will be able to schedule the work group but hope to do so in

early 2021. She noted that the FAA will not implement any interim procedures to provide immediate noise relief to affected communities. Ms. Pantoja stated that LAWA sent a response letter on December 21, 2020 to request more detailed information on the timeline and process. LAWA also requested that the FAA continue to find a solution for the noise issue as they wait for the IFP request to go forward. All letters and information can be found on the LAWA website.

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 reported that there have been no significant safety or security issues to report since the last CAC meeting on October 6, 2020. Sgt. Beacom stated that Van Nuys Police continues to work with the surrounding communities to ensure safety.

Sgt. Beacom addressed the council as it relates to a vehicle pursuit that crashed through a VNY access gate. The incident caused some damage to the VNY police vehicle but no one was hurt and the suspect remains in custody awaiting trial.

Chair comments on staff reports

The Chair thanked the council and VNY staff for their continued efforts in the QNP.

Ms. Margheritis commended the collaboration of tenants and tenant association for their continued support.

Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to stage 3 jets.

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, October 6th, there were several virtual BOAC meetings.

At the meeting on October 15, 2020, Ms. Samantha Bricker, presented a management report with several noise related updates; the full report is available online. There were also two regular items for board action: the first item was a resolution for an award of a 7-year contract to ABM Aviation Inc. to cover smart parking services at LAX and VNY. Ms. Margheritis noted that the smart parking solution for LAX and the FlyAway terminal at VNY will enhance the airport parking experience and will provide guests with a more efficient and customized parking service. Multiple parking improvements are planned such as: contactless payment, clear wayfinding to open spaces, plentiful electric vehicle charging, and other services. The goal is to be more seamless and to offer a more digital and touch-free experience. Ms. Margheritis stated that she is working on getting someone to present to the CAC to provide more details on the smart parking solution. The second item was a resolution for an award of three 3-year contracts to Ocean Blue Environmental Services, Inc., to cover hazardous waste materials clean-up and disposal services at LAX and VNY in order to maintain the health and safety of airport visitors and employees, and comply with state and federal regulatory requirements.

The November 5, 2020 meeting was cancelled.

The November 12, 2020 meeting was designated as a BOAC Audit Commission Special Meeting. Items covered were the Fiscal Year 2020 External Auditor's Report and the Quarterly Internal Audit Report of Concessionaires, Permittees, Licensees and Tenants for the period of July to October 2020.

The November 19, 2020 meeting had one item pertaining to VNY under the consent items for BOAC action. This item was for a resolution for a Memorandum of Agreement with the Mayor's Office of Public Safety, to secure Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program funds as grant reimbursement for the one-time purchase of equipment, supplies, and web/data services specific to Coronavirus prevention, preparation, and/or response efforts at LAX and VNY.

The meetings for December 3rd and 17th were cancelled.

The next BOAC Meeting which will be held via teleconference is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Signature Flight Support Development Update – Presentation

Mr. Curt Castagna from the Aerolease Group at VNY conducted a presentation titled "Signature Flight Support VNY Development" (attached).

The Chair thanked Mr. Castagna for his presentation and opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Materna asked how many more jets will the project bring to VNY.

Mr. Castagna stated that the facilities are meant to house existing aircraft already established at VNY.

Mr. Cohen asked what is the average life of the solar panels being used for the project.

Mr. Castagna addressed the council as it relates to the solar systems approved through DWP; the requirement is a 20-year life for the panels.

The Chair opened this item for public comment.

There were no public callers for this item.

B. Whiteman Airport – Discussion/Action

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to the occurrence of an aircraft accident that happened on November 12, 2020 when a small aircraft belonging to the Civil Air Patrol crashed on approach to Whiteman Airport (WHP). Following this accident, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez from Council District 7 (CD 7) presented a motion on this matter and a resolution calling for the closure of Whiteman Airport which was unanimously supported by the Los Angeles City Council. Ms. Margheritis noted that the Council voted in support of state or federal legislation to close the airport and called for a report on the November 12th accident; an environmental analysis of WHP's impact on the surrounding community; and an economic analysis for other potential uses for the site, among other considerations.

However, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, who has authority over Whiteman Airport as it is an LA County Airport, voted for the County's Department of Public Works to meet with local stakeholders, residents, businesses and others to help develop a master plan for WHP. Ms. Margheritis stated that she believes the spirit of the plan is to reinvest in the community that surrounds Whiteman Airport and improve its operations in a way that will benefit the surrounding communities. Hence, Whiteman's primary function as an airport would be maintained but several actions would enhance the facilities for the community. This would maintain the airport's primary function but also provide ideas for creating local jobs, community benefits, open spaces and other amenities as outlined by Councilmember Rodriguez, according to the motion filed by County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Ms. Margheritis noted that WHP is operated by the county's Department of Public Works and is currently operated by a company called American Airports who is contracted to operate WHP until March of this year, and will then be operated and maintained in-house. Ms. Margheritis stated that she does not believe the FAA has received any proposal from the county to close the airport. Los Angeles County accepted \$234,000 in federal Airport Improvement Program grants for Whiteman Airport in 2020. In accepting the grants, airport owners agree to continue operating the airport for at least 20 years from the date of receipt, according to an FAA spokesman. Ms. Margheritis noted that Mr. Parseghian, who represents CD7 on the CAC, has had conversations with CD7 staff. She requested Mr. Parseghian to provide input.

Mr. Parseghian stated that the LA City Council is acting only in response to community safety concerns. He noted that the Council's objective is to gather further information and operational data from Whiteman Airport. Mr. Parseghian was informed by the supervisors and city council offices that there has not been further discussion of an airport closure.

Ms. Margheritis stated that she looks forward to seeing a Master Plan developed for Whiteman Airport with community benefits and input. Ms. Margheritis will provide WHP updates to the council with information becomes available.

Mr. Parker noted that the closure of Whiteman Airport would bring more air traffic to Van Nuys.

Mr. Rodine addressed the council as it relates to the importance of WHP and air-commerce.

Mr. Cohen addressed the council as it relates to Councilmember Rodriguez and the closure of WHP.

The Chair opened the item for public comment.

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. Gil, Resident

Mr. David, Resident

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Parker addressed the council as it relates to Santa Monica Airport and LA City jurisdiction.

Mr. Parker presented the following motion to the council, “to oppose the closure of Whiteman Airport”.

Mr. Cohen seconded Mr. Parkers motion.

Mr. Robinson stated that a motion is premature and would like to hear more research on WHP.

Ms. Petrus noted that Ms. Margheritis stated that Whiteman Airport would likely not see any closure for a minimum of twenty years.

Ms. Saunders supports Mr. Robinsons request for additional information.

Mr. Materna asked for clarification on the closure request.

The Chair offered an amendment to Mr. Parkers motion.

Mr. Parker accepted the amendment of the motion to state: “Without further investigation and information, the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council opposes the closure of Whiteman Airport” (attached).

The Chair called for the vote on Mr. Parker’s motion.

The council approved the motion proposed by Mr. Parker (attached) with a rollcall vote of thirteen "affirmative" votes (A. Parseghian, L. Rabe, K. Delle Donne, C. Goodfellow, J. Parker, R. Rodine, M. Harris, L. Petrus, T. Materna, H. Lee, R. Oeland, E. Cohen, W. Williams); and two “abstentions” (W. Saunders, E. Robinson).

IV. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

No items were discussed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

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 she will have something to report at the following CAC meeting.

VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA

No items were discussed.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Robinson stated that he disagrees with public comments regarding the lack of aircraft noise.

Mr. Robinson noted that the council is spending too much time focusing on airport business and less time on aircraft noise related issues. He thanked Ms. Margheritis and Ms. Sanchez on their continued work on the Quieter Nights Program.

Mr. Parker stated that the public can speak on anything during public comment.

Mr. Materna stated that the public should be able to submit written public comment all month long and requested the item be agendaized for the next CAC meeting.

Ms. Harris thanked Mr. Williams for running the night's meeting and welcomed back Ms. Sanchez.

Ms. Harris requested to speak to Mr. Materna before attending the Noise Symposium.

Ms. Saunders welcomed back Ms. Sanchez and thanked Mr. Castagna for his presentation. Ms. Saunders addressed the council as it relates to conducting more time efficient meetings.

Mr. Rodine thanked council and staff and commended Mr. Williams for a good meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

9:21 p.m.