

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, March 2, 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, Marykate Harris, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Wendy Saunders, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson, Kathy Delle Donne, Cindy Goodfellow, Harold Lee, Roger Oeland and Eliot Cohen.

Absent: Laurence Rabe and Leonel Fuentes.

The minutes from the February 2, 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. Ms. Margheritis stated that from an organization standpoint, LAWA is feeling more optimistic than it has in recent months. She noted that almost 12,000 employees have received COVID-19 tests since free tests began to be administered several months ago. Ms. Margheritis commended the Airport Police Division and the Los Angeles Fire Department for continuing to provide free COVID-19 testing for LAWA and LAX employees. LAWA is grateful that employees continue to use the COVID-19 App prior to reporting to work as employee safety comes first.

Ms. Margheritis stated that LAX passenger numbers have been noticeably increasing which is very encouraging. It was reported that during the first 22 days of February, LAX had about 30% of passenger traffic versus the same period in 2020. This is a positive sign and LAWA continues to monitor the passenger numbers closely as this is key for the financial success of the organization.

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

In January 2021 VNY conducted 19,427 aircraft operations, this represents an almost 10% decrease in all aircraft operations when compared to January 2020. However, when calculating the average operations per day, VNY saw a decrease of 16% when compared to January 2020 for all aircraft operations. For jet aircraft alone, VNY saw a decrease of 17.1% compared to January 2020, and a decrease of almost 40% in jet operations during the nighttime hours compared to January 2020.

Ms. Margheritis commended VNY tenant Clay Lacy Aviation on their continued sustainability efforts. Earlier this month, Clay Lacy Aviation announced that it completed installation of a 500-kilowatt solar array, covering approximately 30,000 square feet of roof space at the Clay Lacy facility at VNY. Generating 750,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, the system will offset the equivalent of 530 metric tons of CO₂, the same amount of CO₂ generated by driving more than 1.3 million passenger miles in an average car, or burning over 584,000 pounds of coal. Clay Lacy's VNY energy costs will be reduced by 56% annually and this project will help reduce their local power demands. Additional facility upgrades also include 200 energy-efficient LED lighting fixtures and 44 vehicle charging stations. Ms. Margheritis noted that in partnership with tenants, the goal for VNY is to remain an international leader in sustainability among general aviation airports. Ms. Margheritis stated that she looks forward to sharing more sustainability efforts occurring at VNY this coming year.

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council as it relates to a management report presented at the BOAC meeting held on February 18, 2021. LAWA's Chief Sustainability and Revenue Management Officer Samantha Bricker presented to the Board on VNY aircraft noise which included an update on LAWA's IFP Gateway Request and the Quieter Nights Program (QNP). Ms. Margheritis noted that the management report can be found online on the LAWA BOAC page. On the QNP, the report included program milestones and highlights through the fourth quarter in 2020. It was communicated to the BOAC that in the fourth quarter of 2020 VNY saw a 39% drop in nighttime jet operations compared to the fourth quarter in 2019, the baseline year. It was also reported that there had been a 6% drop in overall jet operations in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Ms. Margheritis stated that staff made a commitment to the BOAC that VNY would continue outreach, engagement and promotion of the QNP. Currently, staff is in the process of developing and implementing criteria for including the QNP in the 2020 Annual Friendly Flyer Awards Program.

Ms. Margheritis also noted that LAWA is in the process of implementing recommendation #4 made by the SFV Airplane Noise Task Force (TF) requesting LAWA to "Conduct a VNY Departure Procedures Noise Study in order to obtain the lowest noise levels from jet aircraft departing VNY". LAWA has identified funding for this study and plans to initiate the study in the next month or so.

B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations

Ms. Margheritis addressed the council on behalf of Mr. Moreno. The Taxiway Alpha Rehabilitation Project continues on schedule and is expected to be completed in June. All construction updates and pictures can be found on the VNY webpage.

On March 8th, VNY staff and airport tenants will be attending the Annual Local Runway Safety Action Team meeting hosted by the FAA. The meeting will be conducted virtually and the focus of the meeting is to discuss improving runway safety.

C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations

Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to Aviation Career Day. The virtual event will be held on April 30, 2021.

D. Dan Yeung, Environmental Specialist

Mr. Yeung provided the council with a briefing on the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Jet Departure programs for January 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.

Ms. Kathryn Pantoja addressed the council as it relates to the status of the VNY Noise Officer position.

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 a few issues regarding homelessness and transient related crimes in the area. He stated that Van Nuys Airport Police continues to work with the surrounding communities and local government to resolve issues and ensure safety.

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, January 5th, there were two virtual BOAC meetings.

The regularly scheduled February 4, 2021 meeting was cancelled.

At the February 18, 2021 meeting there were two VNY related items under the regular items for Board action. The first item was for a resolution for the release for a request for bids to cover construction services for the Runway 16L and 16R project. The second item was for a resolution for a first amendment to a contract with Unifirst Corp. to extend their contract through March 2022.

The next BOAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021.

III. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

No items were discussed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. FAA's release of Neighborhood Environmental Survey Findings and Public Comment Period – Discussion/Action

The Chair opened the item for public comment.

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. David Rankell, Resident

Several community members submitted written comments (attached).

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Rodine addressed the council as it relates to the material covered in the FAA survey. Mr. Rodine noted that the survey is not intended to apply to a general aviation airport like Van Nuys.

Mr. Williams asked for the operational numbers at VNY in relation to the amount of operations covered by the survey.

Ms. Margheritis noted that Van Nuys has conducted over 200,000 operations since CY2015.

Mr. Williams noted that the report defines what is happening at VNY and BUR.

Mr. Rodine stated that VNY had a total of 44,000 turbine aircraft operations which is the area of interest covered in the FAA study.

Mr. Materna noted that the FAA had momentarily considered VNY Airport for their survey. Mr. Materna stated that the survey is relevant to VNY.

Ms. Saunders addressed the council as it relates to collecting more data of the impacted homes and the possibility of installing noise monitors in the Santa Monica hills.

Ms. Pantoja addressed the council as it relates to challenges in measuring aircraft noise on a daily basis in the Santa Monica hills. Ms. Pantoja noted that depending on the circumstances it may be best to look at modeled data and that Noise Management would not be able to place any permanent monitors at such a far proximity from VNY.

Ms. Harris addressed the council as it relates to contacting staff of congressional representatives for assistance in efforts to reduce aircraft noise.

Mr. Williams stated that the council should submit a motion, not just to the FAA, but also to Congressional, Senatorial, City representatives and the City Attorney's office.

Mr. Materna presented a motion to the council (attached).

Mr. Williams seconded the motion presented by Mr. Materna.

The Chair opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Rodine stated he had some concerns over the motion.

Mr. Rodine recommended that the topic of stage 3 aircraft be removed from the motion.

Mr. Materna offered clarification of the motion and stated that the motion was sent out to council members earlier that day.

Mr. Williams addressed the council as it relates to stage 3 aircraft.

Mr. Robinson commended Mr. Materna on the motion.

The Chair suggested some changes to the motion.

Mr. Williams offered clarification of the motion.

Ms. Petrus requested that lengthy motions be shared with the council members in advance.

Mr. Parker noted that council members should be addressing their requests to their congressional representative.

Mr. Williams offered an amendment to the motion to include additional entities.

Mr. Materna accepted the amendment.

The council approved the motion proposed by Mr. Materna (attached) with a rollcall vote of twelve "affirmative" votes (A. Parseghian, K. Delle Donne, W. Saunders, C. Goodfellow, J.

Parker, M. Harris, L. Petrus, T. Materna, H. Lee, E. Robinson, E. Cohen, W. Williams); two “no” votes (R. Rodine, R. Oeland) and one “abstention” (J. Price).

Ms. Margheritis asked for clarification on the motion and the public comment response to the FAA.

The Chair confirmed that the motion would be submitted to the BOAC and other entities. Additionally, a letter would be submitted to the FAA via the public comment process regarding the Noise Survey.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

The following community members spoke during the public comment period:
Mr. David Rankell, Resident

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

No items were discussed.

VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Membership – Cindy Goodfellow, Chairperson

Ms. Goodfellow announced that Ms. Heren Molina, a civil engineer from the San Fernando Valley would be joining the council and would attend the April meeting. Ms. Molina represents Council District 7, and was appointed by Councilmember Rodriguez.

VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA

No items were discussed.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Harris thanked Ms. Goodfellow for bringing on Ms. Molina.

Ms. Harris thanked the council for their support of her attending the Noise Symposium and noted that she is excited to give a presentation at the April meeting.

Mr. Williams encouraged the council and members of the public to submit their own public comments to the FAA for the Noise Survey.

Mr. Cohen stated he was gratified by the vote for the motion.

Mr. Materna asked when the council would cover the VNY Master Plan.

Mr. Materna stated that the IFP Gateway Request working group should have a citizen involved in the working group and asked that the item be agendized.

Ms. Margheritis offered clarification on the VNY Master Plan and reminded the council that the Master Plan is a very technical document. Ms. Margheritis encouraged the council to identify specifically what they want addressed regarding the Master Plan so she can reach out to the appropriate subject matter experts to possibly present in the future on this topic.

Ms. Petrus wished everyone happy holidays.

Ms. Saunders thanked LAWA staff for their brief reports. Ms. Saunders thanked everyone for a great conversation and meeting.

Mr. Parseghian commended Mr. Materna's work and noted that Mr. Rodine also has extensive knowledge on the subject matter.

Mr. Rodine wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Rodine addressed the council as it relates to Logan Airport. Mr. Rodine noted that the council should have considered departure routes as subject matter for the motion.

Mr. Parker noted that there has to be room for difference of opinions.

Mr. Oeland addressed the council as it relates to the history of Van Noise Airport. Mr. Oeland stated that the council should be working on efforts to help mitigate aircraft noise instead of moving it from one community to another.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

9:01 p.m.