

VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Van Nuys City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, CA 91401

Approved: Tuesday, April 01, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – VICE CHAIRMAN WAYNE WILLIAMS

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Williams.

I. ROLL CALL

Nine of the 20 Council Members were present, which is not a quorum: Alicia Avery, Stephen Brackett, MaryKate Harris, John Parker, Lisa Petrus, Eric Robinson, Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian), Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair) and Phyllis Winger (CD12). Tom Materna, Heren Molina and Araz Parseghian arrived later. Eight Council Members were absent: Rolando Chavez, Eliot Cohen, Roslyn Dahl, Kathy Delle Donne, Leonel Fuentes, Kanchan Mattoo, Naila Mendes and Jason Price (Chair). Per the VNY CAC Bylaws [see <https://www.iflyvny.com/-/media/iflyvny/community-information/files/citizen-advisory-council/cacbylaws.ashx?20200724>], "ARTICLE V – MEETINGS, Section 3. Quorum: b. A quorum of a regular or special meeting shall be a majority of the appointed members"; nine of the 20 Council Members were present, which is not a quorum of at least 11, so at this time the Council could only take public comments, could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. All twenty of the 20 Council Seats were filled. No Council Seat was vacant. Approximately 10 stakeholders and guests attended.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES

- a. Approval of September 3, 2024, Minutes.
- b. Approval of October 1, 2024, Minutes
- c. Approval of November 6, 2024, Minutes

Mr. Rodine said that last August, the CAC was supposed to have a discussion of what is supposed to be in the Minutes and that, in September, the CAC worked on its Bylaws. It was agreed to POSTPONE approval of the Minutes until next month's meeting. No Motion was made or vote taken to approve any Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Williams introduced Commissioner Nicholas Roxborough, who welcomed Jessica Yas Barker to the VNY CAC meeting and the VNY Airport Administration.

Council Member Araz Parseghian arrived at this time (7:12), making ten Board Members present, one short of the MHNC Board quorum of eleven. Then, Council Members Tom Materna and Heren Molina arrived at 7:14, making a quorum of 12 Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

III. Staff Reports

- a. VNY Airport Manager

Jacob Haik reported that the MOU was approved; he thanked the Council for its support. He was unable to add the Council to the Early Notification System

(ENS); they are working on implementing their own system (called Benchmark, see below Item #VIII. a.; he estimated that it could be implemented within two weeks). He acknowledged that the Sherman Way tunnel has been looking worse; the City Council will consider extending the contract to clean it. Tunnel cameras will be installed in early February. Mr. Williams agreed to re-agendize regarding the Zero-Emission Ground Support Equipment Policy; the goal is to be emission-free by 2028. Most tenants are receptive to the Policy, except for the month-to-month tenants. Mr. Haik also reported regarding the use of GAMI G100UL fuel; before vendors use it, he wanted to make sure that it's safe for aircraft. He'll share more information about it as he can.

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

Christian Moreno was not present; there was no report at this time.

c. VNY Airport Affairs Group

Nicole Carcel, Director of Community Relations, was not present; there was no report at this time.

d. VNY Environmental Programs Group

Mr. Haik reported for Ryan Page that "a lot of times the tower directs [pilots] to early turns." He can get information regarding which companies have done early turns. Ms. Avery said that can be determined through a phone app.

e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

Lt. Darren Gilbert reported that there've been "no significant events at Van Nuys" [Airport]. They are planning and training for the 2028 Olympics, the World Cup, and more.

IV. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

Mr. Haik said that he "covered that already."

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Pocket resident Andrea Monroe was concerned that airport expansion could push out business tenants. Resident Sue Steinberg wanted guidelines regarding when actions will be taken. She noted graffiti on LAWA properties on Hayvenhurst Ave. Resident Suzanne Gutierrez, of Fumefighters United, believed that studies "need to be done by a third party" and that the data is unreliable. She wanted to know the results of letters that Mr. Haik sends to early turners. Resident Fran Potaski reported that aircraft are "flying over my home at a thousand, 1,100 feet." She believed that the former landing pattern isn't being followed. Night flights are "starting at 3:30-4:00 in the morning . . . and it's loud."

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Williams indicated that he had no report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sherman Way Tunnel (Discussion/Action).
 - i. Discussion on funding sources, past, present and future for Sherman Way Tunnel.

There was discussion.

- ii. Discussion of possibilities of implementing/funding a mural as a preventative measure to keep graffiti off tunnels.

Resident Steve Leffert had concerns about Tunnel graffiti removal.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. AeroPlex / Aerolease Group Lease (Discussion/Action).
 - i. Community wall.

Resident Timi Romolini passed around a one square-foot wall material sample, and an information display. Mr. Williams read aloud “a basic outline” regarding the wall request. Ms. Romolini presented about it. She believed that the wall would be “not specific” to noise and fumes from APUs (auxiliary power units). She said that APUs are on at the Airport from five minutes to three hours and described negative health impacts on her from it. She believed that “LAWA’s not prepared to release an RFP.” She said there’s a need to “electrify” the Airport better so that APUs aren’t needed, and that APUs have been identified as the main airport pollutant. She stated that “the wall will be funded by the tenants . . . All they need is LAWA’s approval and BOAC’s approval . . . and the time to do the studies.” The wall would be 1,800 feet long and 15 feet high. She described tenants’ willingness to make adjustments to accommodate the wall. The tenants want a five to seven-year lease extension, instead of month-to-month leases. She said the wall would cost \$2 million. Ms. Romolini described materials and designs possibilities. The wall’s purpose would be to prevent the APUs main blast, not to eliminate all noise and fumes.

Mr. Haik reported that “LAWA hasn’t received a proposal from the lease.” He wanted to consider other solutions that may be “more effective ways” to mitigate noise and fumes, and wanted 30-60 days to consider it. He was concerned that a seven-year commitment may lock LAWA into something not as effective as it could be. Ms. Gutierrez said the community doesn’t trust LAWA. Ms. Steinberg wondered if the wall would affect takeoffs and landings.

MOTION (by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Brackett): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council moves that:

Whereas the west side of VNY airport, near Hayvenhurst Avenue, is about 160 feet from residential homes. Since 2021, residents have attended VNY CAC meetings to express concern about fume exposures and high-pitched squeals

from APU use. The community has repeatedly requested mitigation measures, including a curved inward wall to protect airport property.

Whereas there are two tenants on the west side of the airport: Aerolease West and Castle & Cooke. In 2024, Aeroplex | Aerolease Group (AAG) acquired a new CEO to lead the company, resulting in a collaboration with an established aviation advocate working with community and VNY airport tenants. AAG's interest was to better understand their property's exposure issues and find feasible mitigation opportunities, both short-term and long-term.

Whereas AAG proposes a 15-foot sound-absorbing wall slanted inward toward airport property to help address APU exposures. In return, AAG requests a 5-7 year lease extension to amortize the expense. Construction can commence immediately with cooperation and approval from LAWA and the Board of Airport Commissioners.

Whereas AAG and the aviation consultant agree that a redevelopment lease offers greater mitigation options. However, VNY airport is currently researching a new Specific Airport Plan. LAWA didn't study the property or the airport during its 2022-2023 "Vision Study," so LAWA is not prepared to move forward with a new redevelopment lease opportunity.

Whereas this property requires a site-specific Environmental Impact Review (EIR) or a Programmatic EIR for the airport, as indicated by pollution exposures and a 2023 UCLA Health Impact Assessment. A proper EIR may take 2 years, and RFP consideration, release, award, and development may take another 2-3 years. The proposed wall offers an opportunity to provide residents with needed mitigation measures in the interim.

Whereas the wall development will benefit the airport, City and the community. It will come at the tenant's expense.

Whereas the wall proposal has no known negative impacts but several notable benefits, including:

- Immediate mitigation for the community as new policies, development criteria, and rules are researched.
- Study for the airport and the City on this type of mitigation option and technology for other locations.
- Potential retention upon a new redevelopment lease or relocation to another needed area of the airport.

Therefore I move that the VNY CAC recommends to BOAC, the Mayor, and the City Council that Aeroplex | Aerolease Group (AAG) be granted its lease extension and an appropriate extension for Castle & Cooke's contribution, if applicable, to erect the wall promptly.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Brackett, Harris, Materna, Molina, Parker, Parseghian, Petrus, Robinson, Williams and Winger); zero opposed; one abstained (VNY CAC abstentions are counted as “yes” votes) (Rodine).

b. eVTOL (Discussion/Action)

i. Discussion of eVTOLs and possible eVTOL demonstrations.

Mr. Haik reported that he asked tenants to hold off using eVTOLs. Mr. Williams reported that the FAA is ready for eVTOLs and that the only concern the Council has heard is from LAWA. He requested to re-agendize this.

IX. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

a. Vision Study Ad Hoc Committee - MaryKate Harris, John Parker and Wayne Williams

There was no report.

b. Pistons Early Turns Ad Hoc Committee – Jason Price

There was no report.

X. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Brackett announced that there will be an event regarding aviation noise March 10-12 in Las Vegas [<https://anesymposium.aqrc.ucdavis.edu>].

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by VNY CAC. The VNY CAC Minutes page is <https://www.iflyvny.com/en/community-information/citizens-advisory-council>.