

VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)
Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Van Nuys City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, CA 91401
Approved June 03, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chairman Price.

II. ROLL CALL

Twelve of the 20 Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, Steven Brackett, Eliot Cohen, Leonel Fuentes, MaryKate Harris, Tom Materna, Naila Mendes, Araz Parseghian, Jason Price (Chair), Eric Robinson, Robert Rodine (Parliamentarian) and Phyllis Winger (CD12). Heren Molina arrived at 7:15 p.m. Seven Council Members were absent: Rolando Chavez, Roslyn Dahl, Kathy Delle Donne, Kanchan Mattoo, John Parker, Lisa Petrus and Wayne Williams (Vice-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.” A quorum of at least 11 of the 20 filled Council Seats was present. All twenty of the 20 Council Seats were filled. No Council Seat was vacant. Approximately 16 stakeholders and guests attended.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES

a. Approval of March 4, 2025 Minutes.

The following corrections were requested: page one, Item #II: correct “majority of the appointed members” to “majority of the appointed members” [add the end quote]; page one, Item #II: correct “November 6, 2024 Minutes” to “November 6, 2024 Minutes” [remove the extra comma]; and page three, Item #VII. a.: correct “No Motion was made or voted on Item #VII. a.” to “No Motion was made or vote taken on Item #VII. a.”

MOTION (by Mr. Parseghian, seconded by Mr. Rodine): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council approves the March 4, 2025 Minutes with corrections.

MOTION PASSED unanimously with zero opposed; zero abstained.

b. Approval of April 1, 2025, Minutes.

The following correction was requested: page three, Item #IX. h.: correct “Tatyana” to “Tatiana.”

MOTION (by Mr. Rodine, seconded by Ms. Harris): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council approves the April 1, 2025 Minutes with correction.

MOTION PASSED unanimously with zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IX. a.

IV. Staff Reports

a. VNY Airport Manager

Jacob Haik thanked Members for their support. This summer, the VNY Green Tenant Program will begin; it will encourage and support VNY tenants in adopting sustainable practices to reduce environmental impact; it may include beautification and cleanup incentives, including at the Tunnel. He noted that he “can’t require what fuel the aircrafts use.” He explained potential problems of unleaded fuel use, including safety.

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

Christian Moreno reported on runway construction progress and more. Mr. Haik added that “we’re in a good level of tower operators.”

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. d.

c. VNY Airport Affairs Group

Jessica Barker, VNY External Affairs Director, reported.

d. VNY Environmental Programs Group

Michael Hoffner, VNY Noise Officer, gave statistics. [Ryan Page now works at LAX.]

Frank Sanchez, Head of Commercial Development at VNY, reported on upcoming non-aeronautical RFPs that are slated to be released this summer, including for the following parcels:

- Home Depot RFP (to be considered by BOAC in July)
- Balboa Brick (also to BOAC in July)
- Airtel site (negotiations ongoing)
- Van Nuys Golf Course (to BOAC in August)

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. c.

e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

Lt. Darren Gilbert was not present; there was no report.

V. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

a. April BOAC Recap

Mr. Haik indicated that he already covered BOAC. Resident Suzanne Gutierrez said that the community wasn’t invited to an awards ceremony held before a BOAC meeting. Resident Sue Steinberg said, regarding BOAC’s mid-April meeting, that only one minute was given to each public speaker. She reported that fumes “were really bad [last] weekend” and that “a huge jet from Australia” made a very sharp, “startling” turn over her home.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Steinberg reported that no noise monitors were ever used on the east and west sides of the Airport. She noted that “with the Olympics coming, it’ll only get worse.” Resident Fran Potaski was concerned about the amount of airport noise. Ms. Gutierrez was concerned that she did not receive a reply from LAWA until she sent a third email. She urged LAWA to soon install a sound wall.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- a. Bylaws Review Subcommittee: Chair Price to appoint 3 members per VNY CAC Bylaws.

Mr. Price appointed Mr. Brackett, Mr. Rodine and Ms. Petrus to the Bylaws Review Committee. Ms. Avery expressed interest as well, in the event another member is needed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Presenter Steven Brackett: Personal Insights from the Aviation Noise Symposium.

Mr. Brackett presented. He listed topics covered at the Symposium. He reported that “aviation noise is being complained about across the country,” but that only noise levels above 65 decibels are monitored. Aircraft weight, the weather and other factors affect aircraft noise. Mr. Haik said that LAWA can again sponsor a CAC Member to attend next year’s Symposium.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presenters Tatiana Starostina and Jacob Haik: Landing Fees and Budget Presentation.

LAWA Chief Financial Officer Tatiana Starostina presented. Landing fees will start beginning with the next fiscal year on July 1, 2025. She said “we’ve been struggling for years to make Van Nuys [Airport] self-sustainable . . . It’s still not paying for its expenses . . . For years, this group has been covered by . . . LAX . [We’re] focused on . . . who would and who would not be charged this landing fee.” The fuel flowage fee will continue to be charged but will be shown as a reduction from the requirement, which means the resulting landing fee is less vs. not showing it as a reduction from the requirement. Exempt would be military, medical, and based carriers. “We will exempt all based aircraft from the landing fee . . . It is not discriminatory.” Landing fees are calculated as a percentage of the landed weight of the aircraft; in VNY’s case, 46% will be calculated for collection. All are invited to a May 13th, 1:00 p.m. online financial consultation based upon the 2026 budget. She added that fees “will be used in the capital projects for the [VNY] Airport.”

Ms. Gutierrez was “in full support of implementing the landing fees.” Ms. Potaski and Ms. Steinberg also supported the fees; Ms. Steinberg asked, “how will the

community benefit? Will we get the sound wall?" Mr. Cohen wanted presentation copies to be available to all CAC Members and the public.

Council Member Heren Molina arrived at this time (7:15 p.m.), making 13 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was 11).

The landing recording and fee calculation were explained by LAWA staff. They will bring the budget to the June 5th BOAC Board meeting. Mr. Materna requested that the "budget be shared ahead of time" with the CAC so that the CAC can advise about it. Ms. Starostina explained more about the budget. Mr. Haik said LAWA will "look further" into noise mitigation. Ms. Starostina said fees will apply to all types of aircraft and "will be used for all lawful purposes . . . All the landings will be captured by a third-party hired contractor." LAWA will "send invoices to the owners of the aircraft . . . Everything that Van Nuys generates is considered airport revenue." Mr. Robinson requested that LAWA consider on-site noise mitigation measures. Mr. Haik noted that certain funds must only be used for certain purposes, and that electrical use will be increasing.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. a.

- b. Presenter Jessica Yas Barker: VNY CAC Code of Conduct.
Ms. Barker presented. She noted that there'd been on and offline concerns. She noted the benefits of having a Code of Conduct and reviewed a "DRAFT: VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT:" handout. She encouraged the CAC to agendize a Motion regarding this for the next meeting. She noted that "members of the public" are included in the Code. Mr. Rodine noted that the Code did not mention "conflict of interest." Mr. Brackett suggested having the Bylaws Review Committee consider this. Ms. Barker said that staff are working on an informational binder for CAC Members. Mr. Price requested that Members review the Code and bring comments to the next CAC meeting.

X. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

- a. Pistons Early Turns Ad Hoc Committee – Jason Price,

MOTION (by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Rodine):
Motion for Consideration by the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC)
Date of Vote: May 6, 2025

Motion Title:
Adoption of Standard Operating Procedures for Aircraft in the East Traffic Pattern at Van Nuys Airport

Motion:
I move that the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) formally adopt and recommend the following standard procedures for southbound aircraft operating in the East Traffic Pattern at the Van Nuys Airport and that these

procedures be entered into the public domain as part of our ongoing commitment to flight safety, noise mitigation, and community engagement:

1. Crosswind Turn Initiation: Aircraft shall initiate the crosswind turn at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.
2. Traffic Pattern Altitude: Aircraft shall maintain a traffic pattern altitude of 1,700 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL).
3. Downwind Leg: Aircraft shall intercept and proceed downwind along the 405 Freeway corridor, maintaining the established traffic pattern altitude prior to intercept and until turning base.
4. Descent Protocol: No descent shall be initiated prior to entering the base leg of the traffic pattern.

Rationale:

These procedures are intended to standardize flight operations in the East Traffic Pattern to enhance safety, reduce community noise impact, and ensure clear guidance for pilots.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Avery reported that there are 350-500 takeoffs per day “over my house.” Mr. Price said that education is needed to inform tower staff and pilots of “non-standard” piloting needed to mitigate noise emissions. He explained regarding takeoff and landing procedures.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Price). There was no opposition.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Brackett, Cohen, Fuentes, Harris, Materna, Mendes, Molina, Parseghian, Price, Robinson, Rodine and Winger); zero opposed; zero abstained.

XI. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Price adjourned the meeting at 9:30 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 Meeting Minutes page is <https://www.iflyvny.com/en/community-information/citizens-advisory-council>.