

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

Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, September 5, 2023

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

CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Jason Price. Eight Council Members were present: Kathy Delle Donne, MaryKate Harris, Tom Materna, John Parker, Lisa Petrus, Jason Price (Chair), Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian) and Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair). Eliot Cohen arrived later. Absent: Sharon Bronson (CD12), Leonel Fuentes, Heren Molina, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson and Wendy Saunders. Quorum is eight. Approximately 100 guests attended.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of minutes for August 1, 2023.

A Motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Petrus, to approve the August 1, 2023 meeting Minutes. The Motion was unanimously approved; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV.

II. STAFF REPORTS

- a. VNY Airport Manager

Paul Herrera reminded that this was being recorded and that they continue to work on technology to also provide video. Here is his report:

“Thank you for your patience as we work to secure a designated location for future VNY CAC meetings. We find this location at Van Nuys City Hall to be the most promising and cost effective. We expect either the Van Nuys City Council Chambers and/or the neighboring Braude Room location to the west of this building will meet our needs. To respond to the safety concerns expressed by some attendees, the underground parking facility located on Sylmar Avenue (west of this building) will be staffed with private security.. In addition, Airport Police (Sgt. Beacom) is also coordinating with LAPD to provide a visual police presence before and after each of our meetings along Sylvan Street in front of VNY City Hall for those walking to/from the parking area. If you wish to request an escort by APD, please contact Sgt. Beacom in the back of the room and he will determine if small groups can be formed and escorted with his officers working tonight’s detail. Please continue to provide us with your feedback on this location and the others we have tried.

An Update on Federal Regulatory Activity Regarding Charter Services

The FAA has published a Notice of Intent to Reconsider the Regulatory Definitions Associated with Public Charter Operations. LAWA is actively tracking this FAA

Notice of Intent and the opportunity it presents for LAWA to encourage revisions to the rule.

NPR

On May 1 the FAA published a notice in the *Federal Register* to request public comments and input from stakeholders on its “Noise Policy Review (NPR).” The notice states “The FAA will consider how changes to the civil aviation noise policy may better inform agency decision-making, the types of impacts it considers in making decisions (e.g., community annoyance, certain types of adverse health impacts highly correlated with aviation noise exposure), and potential improvements to how the FAA analyzes, explains, and presents changes in exposure to civil aviation noise.” There is a 90-day comment period that ended July 31st but extended to September 29th for interested parties to submit their comments. Additionally, the FAA is hosting a series of virtual public meetings this month. Further information can be obtained at www.faa.gov and links to the NPR are available on the VNY Noise Portal (www.noiseportal.lawa.org/vny).

RNAV Redesign

As was shared last month with CAC members via email, unfortunately, in a recent meeting with the FAA’s Western-Pacific Regional Administrator, LAWA was informed of an 11-month delay for the publication of the revised RNAV departure procedures from the expected January 2024 date to December 2024 due to the ongoing environmental review process. In response to this delay, LAWA CEO Justin Erbacci sent a letter to the FAA expressing LAWA’s deep concern and urged the FAA to “explore all available avenues to keep to the original January 2024 publication timeline.” Mr. Erbacci shared LAWA stands “ready to support any efforts to expedite the process and achieve a timely resolution.” A copy of the letter has been posted on the Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force webpage on lawa.org. We expect to receive a written response from the FAA soon and will share any new information as it becomes available.

Van Nuys Airport Tenants Band Together to Support Maui Fire Relief Efforts 8/11 & 8/14

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those impacted by the horrible wildfires in Maui. Early estimates indicate \$8 to \$10 million of damage and economic toll in the area. The aviation industry groups, Airports Council International North America (ACI-NA) and the Association of American Airport Executives (AAAE), have mobilized a joint relief effort to support airports directly impacted by the wildfire.

In addition, as has been the case in similar disasters, several VNY tenants have banded together to fly bottled water and other necessary supplies into Maui. Planet 9, Castle & Cooke, Clay Lacy, Aeroplex/Aerolease and Avfuel were part of the relief effort, and we will keep you informed of continued efforts in the future..

We want to thank all our employees and partners who pitched in to provide relief to the people impacted by the wildfires. I am grateful for the leadership of those at VNY who continue to share their strength with our Pacific neighbors.”

Mr. Herrera later added that, on May 1st, the FAA posted a public comment request regarding aviation noise. [Www.FAA.gov](http://www.FAA.gov) and <https://NoisePortal.LAWA.org> have more information.

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

Christian Moreno was not present; there was no report.

c. VNY Director of Community Relations

Diana Sanchez reported that the CAC will be meeting at this location for the foreseeable future. The Super Scoopers firefighting aircraft arrived August 30th for the fire season. Saturday, September 9th, LAWA will be hosting the Cranky Dorkfest, the annual gathering of plane spotters. Saturday, Van Nuys Airport will be sponsoring the Touch a Truck event at the Van Nuys One Generation location (17400 Victory Blvd.). She reminded to bring water to the meetings since the water fountain has been broken. She introduced new CAC Secretary Mike Rodrigson, saying “Mike will be taking over the Secretary’s responsibilities with David Levin continuing to write the Minutes . . . I know all of you will give Mike and David the support they need . . . Thank you for your patience with me as I navigated the Secretarial role. It has been a long time since I served in that type of capacity. It has been a privilege working with all of you.”

d. VNY Environmental Programs Group

Ryan Page reported that “Quieter Nights” program [<https://www.iflyvny.com/pilot-information/noise-restrictions>] results were posted. In July, for various reasons, there were nine early turns that were directed by ATC; two violated policy. In July, approximately 178 people submitted more than 11,590 noise-related comments, a 28% decrease in individuals commenting and a 37% decrease in the number of comments received. In August, preliminary numbers are that approximately 173 people submitted more than 11,130 noise-related comments. In July, four jets exceeded their specific target noise levels out of 2,434 jet departures to the south from runway 16R, a 99.8 % compliance rate.

e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police

Neither Chief Anthony Boisselle or Sgt. Clint Beacom were present; there was no report.

III. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

Mr. Herrera reported that a twenty-year lease was signed with PCS Energy, LLC covering potential development of a ground-mount solar facility at 16521 Chase St., within the Airport, that is expected to generate approximately \$21,900,000 in non-aeronautical revenue to LAWA over the term.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Pam Boroski noted “touch-and-goes” above her home and believed that proper turns are “not happening . . . east of the 405.” Fred Kangavari said “I can’t stand living in Encino anymore”; he described take-offs over his house, saying “this airport is getting big too fast . . . Stop the extension of this airport . . . Don’t inconvenience so many people . . . Planes [are] almost hitting each other . . . It’s been happening a lot . . . It’s bombarding us with noise and pollution.” Alicia Avery was “concerned with increased flight activity . . . We had never had planes flying directly over our home . . . [in] such a densely-populated area.” Ms. Pierson said “Mulholland Drive has become a de facto flight path.”

Council Member Eliot Cohen arrived at this time (7:17), making nine Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum is eight).

Ms. Pierson was concerned about health effects and sees “black” dust in her home. Joel Kirschner, an airplane equipment co-owner, described his small plane operation, saying “the general aviation community is a family,” and described his pleasure flying. David Ranken noted that most nearby homeowners “signed a real estate disclosure” when they bought their homes. He said that, during World War II, plane noise was much louder because of military aircraft. He believed that some people are never going to be happy. Jerod Negron said that “it’s just that we’re not listened to.”

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

V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Price indicated that there was no report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Ms. Petrus nominated (seconded by Mr. Rodine) Jason Price for Chair, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Cohen nominated Wayne Williams for Chair, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Jason Price received five votes in favor, one abstained and three opposed. Wayne Williams received four votes in favor, zero abstained and four opposed. Jason Price was **ELECTED** Chair.

Mr. Rodine nominated (seconded by Ms. Delle Donne) Lisa Petrus for Vice-Chair, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Parker nominated (seconded by MaryKate

Harris) Wayne Williams for Vice-Chair, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Wayne Williams received five votes in favor, zero abstained and three opposed. Lisa Petrus received three votes in favor, zero abstained and five opposed. Wayne Williams was **ELECTED** Vice-Chair.

b. Rolls Royce Presentation

Rolls Royce's James Prater showed slides and presented. He stated that "we are very conscientious about meeting and exceeding" emissions guidelines. He described engine operations and work to make them quieter, saying "there are no more G2's at the Van Nuys Airport." He said that engine noise is below requirements. They're striving for "net zero 2050."

c. Community Presentation on the Vision Study (Sue Steinberg et al) – Discussion/Action

Long-time Airport neighbor Ms. Steinberg said "our presentation will be available online." She showed slides and said "we really do represent probably thousands of people who pay the price physically, emotionally and financially . . . LAWA needs to work with local residents." Suzanne Gutierrez believed that Vision Study boards were "void of detail . . . void of community consideration . . . void of opportunity for the community to contribute . . . a barrier cannot protect residents from the toxic fumes."

SoCal SFV Community Group Consultant Timi Romolini showed slides and presented. She noted that there used to be a vacant lot between the residential homes along Hayvenhurst Ave., where complaints of toxic fumes are now persistent, and airport activity. She said "they brought the aviation closer to the community," not vice versa, "at least in this situation." She also noted that the presentation was prepared to highlight "why it's critical we have a moratorium . . . You need to first conduct studies to see what those benefits or consequences will bring to those communities." She believed that LAWA is not doing enough to involve the community. She said regarding mitigation measures that there's a need to be "enforcing them." She described that planes, under a specific 1980's lease, used to be "towed to the runway"; subsequent lease language became more lax in 2006, requiring aircraft to only be towed "to the intersection of the taxiway . . . Now they're driving themselves right up to the hangers . . . [People are] being poisoned every day . . . This is non-essential aircraft . . . Crucial environmental protection . . . [is] not in these deals."

She described other possible uses of Airport property. She believed that some Study conclusions are based upon "unsubstantiated . . . assumptions . . . The data . . . is simply not there." She recommended to "restore green space . . . This is feasible." She described benefits, including "lowering the immediate temperatures; it helps to reduce the pollution." She noted that the Airtel Hotel lease expired in August. She said her group is "proposing a mixed-use"; she

suggested possibilities. “Warner Center is a great model . . . There’s another mixed-use opportunity” on the FlyAway back lot. She urged soliciting essential use businesses such as dedicated medical transport aircraft. She said “we want Van Nuys Airport to thrive . . . It’s got to factor in community impact.” She listed requests of things wanted from LAWA.

Mr. Rodine believed that a 1999 economic study was properly done, while a 2015 study was not. He cited economic benefits noted in the 1999 study. Steve Leffert was concerned about lead fuel in general aviation gasoline and said “commercial” air traffic doesn’t belong at the Airport. Eric Gill believed that LAWA’s plan is “short-sighted . . . [It] should be thinking long-term.” Norma Kemper said “there’s such a lack of transparency . . . I’ve noticed the amount of soot” and described smelling jet fuel. Doug Decker said “we have planes coming in and out all the time.” Taylor Young said “for 2 ½ years . . . a good day is one plane every two minutes . . . The quiet . . . is destroyed . . . We are being inundated with all this noise . . . commercial . . . private . . . helicopters . . . Police helicopters . . .” Mr. Ranken believed that “property values are at an all-time high.” Stacey Hoff believed that an Airport survey was hard to comprehend and biased.

Dannielle Sweet believed that her asthma was due to the Airport; “the fumes from the jet fuel are so bad.” Linda Erdman, “from the North Hills West Neighborhood Council [NHWNC], speaking on behalf of the” NHWNC, reported that her home has become “under the flight path . . . It is affecting the entire Valley.” Penny Alpert believed that the public is not getting enough opportunities to be heard. Jarret Palmer showed a two-day water sample from his home that was very dark. Christine Kim reported that “there are 35 schools and daycare centers that are within ¼-mile of the Airport. Teachers have to stop lessons because of the noise.” She said there’ve been studies of “particulate emissions” negative health impact. Adam Alvarado noted the need to provide infrastructure for operational and environmental improvements. Ramy Zada said “we have to be careful how we develop” the Airport. Jacqueline Tarossian said jets take off at 4:29 a.m.

*A Motion to Extend was made by Mr. Rodine, seconded by Ms. Harris, to extend the meeting for 30 more minutes. The Motion to Extend was **approved** with five in favor (Cohen, Delle Donne, Harris, Petrus and Rodine); one opposed (Parker); two abstained (Materna and Williams). The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. a. (again).*

VII. OLD BUSINESS – Discussion/Action

- a. Part 380 - Follow up on Airport Categories description – Paul Herrera

Mr. Price will Agendize the above for the next meeting.

- b. Response to Wayne’s letter of interest in Adhoc – Kathline King or Paul Herrera

Mr. Herrera said “we are actively tracking the Part 380 evolution.”

VIII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

a. Membership Committee – Araz Parseghian

Mr. Parseghian was not present; there was no report.

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

The Committee had no report at this time.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Harris reported that many flights fly directly over her home. Mr. Cohen believed that the Airport is “taking away economic opportunities” from residents and that “Van Nuys Airport is not compatible with the community anymore.” He wanted Mr. Herrera to let BOAC know that a smaller airport is needed. Mr. Price and Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Sanchez for her long service. Mr. Williams told the audience that “your public voice” is important; the Airport “needs to benefit the full community.” Ms. Delle Donne thanked “the community for giving your input.”

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Petrus. The Motion was unanimously approved; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting was **adjourned** at 9:41 p.m.