

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 4, 2010
MINUTES

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Chairman Rick Flam. Members present: Rick Flam, Ron Merkin, Wayne Williams, Wendy Saunders, Harold Sullivan, Bob Jackson, Bob Frazier, Laurence Rabe, Ken Miller, Harold Lee, Gerald Silver, and Elliot Sanders.

Members Absent: Chris Nassif and Dave Sotero.

The Council vacancies as of May 4 are as follows: one appointment from the Office of Councilmember Alarcon, one appointment from Councilmember Cardenas, and one appointment from Councilmember Krekorian.

The minutes from April 6, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

1.) STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Romo, the new Van Nuys Airport Manager stated that he and Mr. Ellis, the Assistant Airport Manager are committed to Van Nuys Airport and one of them is on site every day; they coordinate amongst each other and with staff. Mr. Romo noted that they are taking a closer look at the VNY budget and making needed adjustments. They are making sure that Van Nuys becomes a self-sustaining airport.

Mr. Miller asked why the Propeller Park update was not on the CAC monthly agenda.

After a brief discussion the Chairman stated that the Propeller Park status update will be an ongoing item under staff reports.

Mr. Sullivan stated the CAC was supposed to receive the TSA Security Study.

Mr. Romo stated he will follow up with Lieutenant Sansbury regarding that document.

2.) REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman stated he will arrange for Ms. Bowers and Mr. Martin from LAWA's real-estate division to join us at the June CAC meeting to discuss LAWA land use. Unfortunately they could not attend tonight's CAC meeting due to scheduling conflicts. He noted that Commissioner Aredas is here to answer any questions the CAC may have.

3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

A. FlyAway Parking System – Discussion/Action

Ms. Sanchez stated that Ms. Selena Birk is here to discuss this item. She also introduced Ms. Evelyn Brooks, from LAWA's IT Department.

Ms. Birk stated that Ms. Brooks is the project manager; she is from the Information Technology Group at LAWA. She noted that a decision was made in August 2009 to replace the FlyAway parking

system; the plan is to go to the Board in June and begin the process to replace the system in July with a November, 2010 start date. Ms. Birk stated there is a handout that shows the proposed cost for this system and approximately 1.2 million for the existing system.

Ms. Brooks gave the CAC some background on the FlyAway parking system. The old system is semi-automated collection of parking revenue at the Van Nuys Airport and it provides a 2,063 space parking structure and an adjacent 567 space lot. The system utilizes attendants in two booths and tickets are pulled upon entry and paid upon exit. All transaction processing, user access, accounting and parking control functions are controlled by the Computerized Parking Control System (CPCS). They are: facility monitoring system, space control system, license plate inventory and limited built-in reports. Ms. Brooks stated that problems occur with the old parking system because it is antiquated (built 1988), paper driven and utilizes too much manual labor. Ms. Brooks gave the CAC the overview on the new proposed system. She stated that it has a fully automated turnkey system that consist of: space control, fault tolerance, facilities monitoring, built-in & ad-hoc reporting, billing feature, business rule module and an archive system. The new system is credit or debit card only and there are no on-site staff requirements. It will have driver view cameras and will be able to recognize license plates. If a consumer has a problem, the system will include an intercom where a person will be notified and assist that consumer. .

Mr. Miller asked where this system is currently being implemented.

Ms. Brooks stated in 4,000 different locations; such as Cincinnati, Jacksonville and Miami Airports.

Mr. Miller stated that it seems this system is very well designed to be remotely operated. He wants to know if there is a back up if anything should go wrong.

Ms. Brooks stated they have back up power if there is a power outage and stand-by staff that can physically help the consumer if there is an issue.

The Chairman asked how many people are on site at the ticketing booth staff.

Ms. Birk stated two to three people.

The Chairman stated that when the CAC was told about the current system they were told that one of primary reasons for the change had to do with theft issues; he would like to know if there is a similar problem that prompted the cashless system.

Ms. Birk stated it is primarily the staff which cost almost a \$1,000,000 and the Cubic management system totaling in almost \$1.2 million. That is the primary cost that will be saved by going with the new system.

The Chairman asked what the total cost is for the new system.

Ms. Birk answered a little over \$500,000.00. After the system is paid there will be \$1.2 million in savings a year.

The Chairman asked if this system will also be implemented at LAX.

Ms. Birk stated because LAX is such a large facility and a request proposal has not yet gone out for the parking system. The goal that LAWA is working towards is to be as cashless as possible.

The Chairman asked if there was a study done seeking public input regarding their feelings and reactions.

Ms. Birk stated that we will advertise the new system to the public well before it goes live in November and Ms. Sanchez is working on notifying the public; the target date to launch ads and the campaign is July 1st. There will be ads in LA Times, Daily News and other different outreaches as well as prominent postings on the premises.

Mr. Jackson stated that he likes cash and he has had trouble with the bus ticketing system for a long time. He believes this credit card system is nonsense because we are an international airport with millions of people who go through this airport that do not have credit cards. He stated that LAWA needs to get cameras directly pointing at the staff suspected in stealing money and also bond them.

Commissioner Aredas asked if LAWA is looking into implementing a system that uses both cash and credit cards.

Ms. Birk stated that one of the options that was bid was a pay-on-foot system which would be a kiosk in the terminal where customers could pay cash. A decision was made to not select that option although she and Ms. Brooks both believe it had merit.

The Chairman asked who looked at or studied this system.

Ms. Birk stated it was staff from LAWA's finance group.

The Chairman asked Ms. Birk to inquire about any studies that were done and report back to VNY PR Staff or himself.

Mr. Frazier stated that we will put all of the employees that currently work for the FlyAway parking system on unemployment and end up paying for them in the long run.

Ms. Birk stated that the contractor also provides service at LAX and it will be up to that company to decide if all those employees might be diverted to LAX.

Mr. Silver would like to know how LAWA will handle a situation where a customer leaves with plenty of money on their credit card and come back with none.

Ms. Brooks stated that if for any reason the credit card or debit card is not functioning there will be an invoice generated with a promise to pay.

Ms. Birk stated the promise to pay system is working very well; they get an average of 11 people per day who are not able to pay by credit card. There is a promise to pay process where they fill out their personal information and we send them a bill.

Mr. Merkin stated it bothers him that this is the first time this issue has been brought before the CAC. He would like Ms. Sanchez to inform the CAC as this project progresses.

Ms. Brooks noted that this proposal has not gone before the BOAC yet and this was an opportunity for the CAC to provide input.

Mr. Merkin stated that CAC has an agreement with LAWA that as soon as an item pertaining to VNY has been brought to the attention to VNY management whether it is in process or approved it needs to be brought to CAC.

The Chairman proposed a motion and it states:

“The Citizen’s Advisory Council requests that Van Nuys Airport Staff notify all CAC members via e-mail, within forty-eight hours of their receipt of notice from LAWA of scheduled action on an agenda items relating to the activities and/or operations at VNY.”

This motion unanimously passed.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this item between the Chairman, LAWA Staff and the CAC members.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Discussion

Mr. Kenny Ortega from the public stated that he also believes there should be a transition period for the new cashless system. Customers should be able to pay with cash and credit cards.

5.) NEW BUSINESS

A. Van Nuys and Santa Monica Airports’ AQMD Studies – Discussion/Action

Dr. Phillip Fine, the Atmospheric Measurements Manager for South Coast Air Quality Management District stated that AQMD Project overview is part of a U.S. EPA Community-Scale Air Toxics Grant Characterize air toxics levels by monitoring in communities around general aviation airports (Van Nuys and Santa Monica). The study is MATES III –type sampling (long-term exposures) and it is a two three months sampling period to determine potential impact of airport emissions on measured pollutant levels. He stated the reasons why they did the study on these airports is because Santa Monica Airport the runways are adjacent to neighborhoods and there is an increased number of private jet traffic. Van Nuys Airport at the time had the largest number of general aviation operations in the country. Air measurements are conducted to characterize the current air toxic levels in the airports’ vicinity. The Van Nuys Airports’ sampling sites were the Golf Course, VOR Site, Maintenance Yard, Holmes School, National Guard and Cohasset Elementary School. The Santa Monica Airport’s sampling sites were West Tarmac, East Tarmac, Ernst residence, Richland School, Maintenance facility, Walgrove School and the Marine Park. They did about a 2 to 3 month sampling in two different seasons at each airport; the primary objective was to characterize what these air pollutions levels were and the second objective was if they were elevated could we determine how much of that was coming from the airports. Mr. Fine stated he will compare and contrast the results they received from those airports. Measurements of PM10, PM2.5, lead, hexavalent chromium, ultrafine particles, VOC, carbon monoxide and carbonyls were taken at Van Nuys Airport and Santa Monica Airport, which are airports with residences in close proximity. At both airports, there was no significant increase in PM2.5 mass. Elemental carbon (similar to black carbon and soot) and ultrafine particles were both elevated very close to the airports (near the blast fence), but the former was not far above the Basin average and the latter returned to background levels at most of the community sites. Lead particulate was found in higher concentrations than the basin average but still well below the federal and state standards. VOC’s showed no clear concentration gradient.

There was a brief discussion between the CAC members and Dr. Fine regarding this item.

B. Land Use and Rental Policy, Airport Beautification– Discussion/Action

The Chairman stated that one of the issues CAC is concerned with is the Land Use Policy that is being formatted by LAWA and will have direct impact on the lease issues at VNY. He hopes that at the next CAC meeting we will be able to rectify some of those issues with Ms. Bowers and Mr. Martin. The Chairman also told Commissioner Aredas that he would appreciate his presence also.

Commissioner Aredas stated he would be in attendance and he noted that the previous Land Use meeting was very helpful.

Mr. Romo stated he has an update on the Van Nuys Airport beautification project. He stated that the CAC has asked the staff to look at how the airport is being dressed up and which developments are taking place. He stated that each of the developments that are pending and the ones that are finalized and approved in the next year or so have requirements for each tenant to comply with certain design standards; both by LAWA through the construction approval process and also with the City of LA, Planning Department. VNY is working with Aerolease and Castle and Cooke Aviation with an approach that he believes will be the best way to deal with this in the long run. He also stated that VNY will be undertaking a planting project along Hayvenhurst Ave and it will be completed over a period of time. Mr. Romo stated that he anticipates knowing what the specific plan will be by the next CAC meeting; it will be a simple landscaping plan that will be from Sherman Way north to Saticoy.

The Chairman stated that he is specifically interested in the area on Balboa Ave running north; next to Saticoy, north to Roscoe.

Mr. Romo stated that is from Stagg Street up to Balboa Place. He stated that is part of the Propeller Park project and he can't say that the whole thing will be beautified; however, he can ask commercial development staff and let the CAC know.

Mr. Miller stated that in the RFP the plans were submitted and it included specifics in terms of landscaping and the elevation.

Mr. Romo stated that he will request that Ms. Milos come and give the update on the project and bring any elevation concepts that are part of the proposal a the next CAC meeting.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

A. Van Nuys Airport BOAC - Discussion/Action

This item has been deferred until July.

B. Helicopter Routes – Discussion/Action

Mr. Romo stated that LAWA has heard the concerns of the community regarding the Bull Creek route. LAWA staff has done research and has a definitive answer for the CAC; whether it's what the CAC expected or not, it is definitive. Mr. Romo stated there have been a number of helicopter studies that the airport has undertaken over the years; however, most recently the Part 150 Study that was completed and given the Record of Approval by the FAA in October 2009. The study had a number of items, at least two of which related to helicopter routes. Mr. Romo mentioned the communications back and forth with the Mayors' and the City Attorney's offices, as well as some of the Council offices

regarding this matter. It is very clear that the FAA is the body that has the jurisdiction on how helicopters are operated at the airport; once a helicopter becomes airborne and it follows the established patterns; they fly pursuant to the rules of the FAA. The Part 150 Study that was approved and finalized contemplated two possible ways to mitigate this; they were both denied by the FAA. The airport has no way to mandate how the helicopter pilots will be operating at the airport in terms of when they take-off and land. LAWA strongly encourages the helicopter operators and the FAA to keep their letters of agreement going and in place. LAWA will continue to support the voluntary program in place and will review any additional voluntary programs to ensure pilot awareness and participation in said program(s). Mr. Romo stated that an FAA representative will attend the CAC meeting in June and he will speak about the issues that fall under the FAA's purview.

The Chairman agendaized this item for June's CAC meeting.

The Chairman asked if the MPG lease had been submitted to LAWA's Board and if it was approved.

Mr. Romo stated that the lease has been approved by the BOAC and will now go to the Council Committee and to full City Council in the coming weeks.

7) EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA – Discussion

None

8) ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9) ADJOURNMENT:

9:07 p.m.