

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 6, 2010
MINUTES

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Don Schultz. Members present: Don Schultz, Ron Merkin, Wayne Williams, Harold Sullivan, Bob Jackson, Laurence Rabe, Ken Miller, Bob Frazier, Gerald Silver, Harold Lee, Roger Oeland, and Elliot Sanders.

Members Absent: Rick Flam, Chris Nassif, and Wendy Saunders.

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 June 1, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved with three minor corrections.

1.) STAFF REPORTS

A. Propeller Park status update – Discussion/Action

Mr. Ellis stated that there is currently no status updates on the Propeller Park.

B. Helicopter Routes – Discussion/Action

Mr. Ellis stated that at the end of May he had a meeting with most of the helicopter operators at VNY. The following items were discussed: 1.) Helicopter operators agreed to, in every case that they can, operate on runway headings into and out of the airport during the hours the Tower is closed (10:45pm to 6:45am), 2.) Helicopter operators will not use the track routes, the Saticoy or Bull Creek routes but that does not include emergency situations when LAFD or LAPD are responding.

Mr. Ellis believes this can alleviate the nighttime disturbances. He stated again that this is voluntary and nothing we can mandate because once the aircraft leaves the ground they are not under our control, they are at the direction of the FAA.

Mr. Mouzis, member of the public, stated that LAFD and LAPD helicopters have been the biggest offenders for many years. He feels they should try a 30-day trial period to use Balboa rather than Bull Creek.

Mr. Silver asked if the trial test of using Balboa is underway.

Mr. Ellis stated no and that those routes are designated by the FAA and the Balboa route was tested in the 1990's and the complaints we received were unmanageable because it was completely new noise to that entire group of citizens.

Mr. Silver asked if there is a test being planned at this time.

Mr. Ellis stated no there is not because that would entail going back to the FAA, reopening the noise study and since that has been completed and closed the FAA has stated to us that they will not move that route.

Mr. Mouzis stated it's not about moving noise; it's about sharing the noise. There have been a lot of complaints regarding the Balboa route and just as many complaints over the Bull Creek.

Mr. Ellis stated our records indicate we had three complaints in the month of May from Bull Creek.

Mr. Mouzis stated people have become discouraged because nothing has been done about it.

Mr. Schultz stated the following points regarding the helicopter routes: A motion was made at the last meeting and no action was taken at that time because more information was forthcoming and this can be a recommendation that can come from this group once it has been discussed. He also stated that in the 90's they merely changed the route but what we are talking about is possibly during certain hours like when school is not in session, when school is in session it can go back to Bull Creek.

Mr. Silver stated he has no problem with running any tests that may make any possible improvements and that Santa Monica Airport ran a test recently to reroute some of the piston aircraft. He quoted two brief paragraphs from the Santa Monica Mary.

Mr. Ellis stated that we need to manage the noise the best way we can and that if the CAC makes a motion for a 30-day test we would need to pass that on to the FAA.

Mr. Schultz stated that we can add this item to the August meeting Agenda.

Mr. Williams asked what else was discussed at the meeting regarding helicopter routes and were LAPD Air Support and LAFD present.

Mr. Ellis responded that there were representatives from five different companies and one individual represented several helicopter operators and LAFD and LAPD were also present and that they were very surprised by the complaints.

Mr. Williams stated that this is a "hearty effort" on the part of LAFD and LAPD to recognize the residents and the changes they have volunteered to take. He is hoping this change will be felt by the residents soon.

Mr. Ellis made the following points: 1.) The change should already be felt since the meeting with the helicopter operators and LAFD and LAPD took place one month ago, 2.) If residents have not seen a change please notify him or someone in his office as soon as possible, 3.) He does not like the airport having a negative impact on the community, 4.) We need to address every complaint that we get.

Mr. Williams stated that this is a step in the right direction however he asked if the airport can advertise the Flight Tracks system to the public.

Ms. Sanchez stated that VNY Public Relations did a mass mailing at the end of February 2010 that advertised the Flight Track system.

Mr. Merkin stated that it would have been a good idea to invite a CAC member to the helicopter meeting even as just a "fly on the wall".

Mr. Silver stated that this should be a motion.

Mr. Merkin stated that a CAC member will help create a relationship between the helicopter operators and the CAC. He also congratulated Mr. Ellis on convening the meeting and getting them to follow the runway. He would like to supply the Flight Track flyer to the local Neighborhood Councils also.

Mr. Schultz asked if there would be a problem making the Chair aware of and inviting a CAC member to the next helicopter meeting.

Mr. Ellis stated he is unsure if there would be a problem with that.

Mr. Williams stated that there may be potential animosity if the public were allowed to attend the meeting.

Mr. Schultz stated that the public does not need to be invited but only one CAC member.

Mr. Silver said that it would certainly be within the Brown Act for us to make a motion that whenever a helicopter discussion takes place that the FAA or LAWA is aware of that the CAC be invited.

Mr. Merkin introduced a motion as follows:

Motion:

“VNY Management makes the CAC aware of any upcoming meetings with regards to helicopter routes and the intention of a CAC member is at that meeting.”

The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Van Nuys Airport Budget – Discussion/Action

Mr. Ellis reported on the VNY Budget for fiscal year 2011 as follows: 1.) The budget was passed on June 7 by the BOAC, 2.) For fiscal year 2010 our budget was approximately 16.3 million and our revenue was 16.5 million 3.) It appears we are \$117,000 in the black, 4.) We have reduced our operating budget for fiscal year 2011 by nearly 13% to nearly 14.3 million but he stated there is no guarantee that we will make 16.5 million again this year.

Mr. Sullivan wants to receive a copy of the budget.

Mr. Ellis stated once they become official from the City, yes it can be provided.

Mr. Silver stated that they just want a summary, not the entire detailed budget every month.

Mr. Schultz stated that there is an Annual Report that LAWA puts out.

Mr. Ellis stated that the Annual Report comes out 6-8 months later.

Mr. Sullivan stated that they have not even received the Annual Reports.

Mr. Ellis stated that we can provide the Annual Budget once it's made a public document. Be aware that's 6-8 months later. We can provide a summary of the adopted budget for the fiscal year after the BOAC and City Council approve it.

Mr. Schultz asked if the budget is available online.

Mr. Ellis stated that he will confirm this.

Mr. Sullivan stated that we do need to receive something from LAWA regarding the budget.

D. Customs Facility at VNY

Mr. Ellis stated the following points regarding US Customs having approached VNY and the FBO's to look at creating a Customs Facility at VNY: 1.) We have showed them several different facilities and we don't own any property that is suitable for them, 2) Customs is in the habit of using a facility that will provide everything with it: phone lines, data lines, computers, and furniture, 3.) We don't know if the FBO's will be working with Customs on this, 4.) We were selected over Long Beach because of the amount of activity here. This would be a good thing for VNY.

Mr. Jackson stated that the operations building next to Syncro would be a good location for a Customs Facility.

Mr. Ellis stated that this location was considered however there may be a perspective tenant for this particular location.

E. Staffing Changes

Ms. Sanchez announced the staffing changes to the CAC. Ani Ghoukassian and Belinda Quinteros (present) were introduced during the meeting and Maria Juarez (not present) will also be assisting in supporting the CAC.

2.) REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Schultz introduced the newest CAC member Roger Oeland.

3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

A. Approval of a sublease located at 7800 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys, CA (AKA Superior Industries) – Discussion/Action

Mr. Domash stated that the sublease for Superior Industries will be introduced to the BOAC in July or August 2010; a 10-year sublease with Munchkin that design and manufacture infant and toddler products and will use the 16 acre site as a warehouse and distribution facility.

Mr. Silver asked if that parcel is a part of the original quit claim to the airport.

Mr. Domash stated he does not know.

Mr. Jackson stated that it was quitclaimed next door and there were all B-17s.

Mr. Silver stated that he wanted clarification that land originally quit claimed to the airport could be used for non-aviation use.

Mr. Ellis stated if there is no aviation company that wants that property because it is not practical and not contiguous to the airport property, the FAA will grant the application. They have utilized this option at both LAX and ONT.

Mr. Schultz stated that one of the issues is non-runway access as at Home Depot. The City will try to create as much income from non-aviation use as they can.

Mr. Silver stated that he is not being critical of the lease but rather a new use on this property.

Mr. Domash stated that the 50-year lease was approved for non-aviation use and the lease will expire in 2026.

Mr. Silver asked what will happen in 2026 when the property goes back to the City.

Mr. Ellis stated that it will go out to bid again for aviation use or possibly non-aviation use with FAA approval.

Mr. Jackson introduces a motion as follows:

Motion:

“The Van Nuys Airport Citizen’s Advisory Council approves a sublease between Superior Industries and Munchkin on 7800 Woodley Avenue.”

Mr. Merkin asked if this will be a distribution truck overload area.

Mr. Domash stated he does not know.

Mr. Merkin asked how traffic will be affected.

Mr. Domash stated he does not know.

Mr. Williams asked if cargo will be coming in from VNY.

Mr. Domash stated he does not know.

Mr. Ellis stated that VNY is not a 139 Airport therefore could not have cargo airplanes land.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Glenn Bailey, member of the public stated that on Sunday morning 7:15 a.m. on April 11, 2010, there was a noise disturbance resulting from a helicopter takeoff for a special event at Lake Balboa Park with Councilman Cardenas and his daughter onboard. The helicopter flew over the VNY runway and surrounding homes.

Mr. Mouzis stated that he wrote a complaint letter about the above helicopter to the Recreation and Parks Chief and was emailed back an apology.

Mr. Williams stated to notify Wendy Saunders of this incident since she was appointed by Councilman Cardenas.

5.) NEW BUSINESS

A. Lease with Van Nuys Golf Management Partners, LLC – Discussion/Action

Mr. Schultz stated that this item be deferred.

Mr. Bailey stated that this lease be brought to the community.

Mr. Williams asked who should be notified.

Mr. Domash stated that this lease has already been approved by the BOAC and is now with City Council for approval.

Mr. Schultz stated that Lake Balboa and VNY neighborhoods need to be notified of any action that will be taken, perhaps through lawa.org.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he would like to look at the contract.

Mr. Schultz asked if they can obtain a copy.

Mr. Domash stated that he will check on that request.

B. Going dark in August – Discussion/Action

The CAC voted on this item: 6 no votes and 5 yes votes

CAC will not go dark in August.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

A. Van Nuys Airport BOAC – Discussion/Action

Mr. Schultz stated that this item be deferred until after the City Budget has been approved.

7.) EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA – Discussion/Action

Mr. Merkin stated the following points regarding the VNY Beautification Committee: 1.) He is the Chair of the committee, 2.) The Mission Statement for this committee is to advise and coordinate with Van Nuys Airport Management, Maintenance, and Operations on issues regarding landscape upkeep and beautification of Van Nuys Airport and surrounding areas to instill community pride, 3.) One issue that they are working on is updating the signage in and around VNY. Maintenance will begin working on projects this month.

Mr. Domash indicated that he contacted several tenants and expressed the concerns of the CAC and indicated they must maintain their leaseholds to the highest standards. LAWA in conjunction with Aerolease and Castle & Cooke are working on a landscape plan for the property at located Hayvenhurst/North of Sherman Way.

Ms. Rabe asked if the landscaping for this area will be street side or field side.

Mr. Merkin stated it would only be the street side at this time. He also asked that people email him regarding any landscape issues both on and off the field.

Mr. Rabe asked if VNY has oil recycling locations.

Ms. Margheritis stated there are three oil recycling location at VNY.

Mr. Ellis stated that anyone who is disposing of oil illegally must be reported to VNY Operations immediately.

Mr. Schultz and the CAC members welcomed the newest CAC member, Roger Oeland.

Mr. Silver stated that LAWA does not seem to have a strategic business plan.

9) ADJOURNMENT:

8:28 p.m.