

VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 3, 2015
MINUTES-Revised

A meeting of the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Elliot Sanders. Members present: Elliot Sanders, Ron Merkin, Ron Merkin, Gerald Silver, Don Schultz, Vahid Khorsand, Jason Price, Laurence Rabe, Harold Lee, Kathy Delle Donne, Wayne Williams, Roger Oeland, David Rankell, Craig Welzbacher

Members Absent: Mel Roberts, Wendy Saunders, John Parker

The Council vacancies as of November 3, 2015 are as follows: One appointment from Councilmember Felipe Fuentes' Office.

The minutes from the October 6, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

1.) STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Romo reminded the CAC of the CAC/LAX Advisory Committee Holiday Dinner on December 3rd at the Odyssey in Granada Hills. He asked attendees to RSVP to Ani if they plan on attending.

Mr. Dan Yeung of LAWA Noise Management stated they have a feed with a 30-minute delay to track flights with the same level of accuracy as the current feed and it comes from the FAA. The feed will change on the night of Thursday, November 5, 2015 with very minor difference.

Mr. Rankell, Mr. Schultz, and Mr. Williams continued to discuss this item.

2.) REPORT FROM CHAIR

Mr. Romo introduced and welcomed BOAC Commissioner Jeffery Daar.

Commissioner Daar stated he is the VNY Commissioner and has lived within two miles of VNY for the last 30 years.

Mr. Sanders welcomed LAWA Chief Operating Officer Steve Martin to the CAC Meeting.

A. Working Group Reports – Discussion/Action
Membership – David Rankell, Chairperson

Mr. Rankell announced that Councilmember Nury Martinez from Council District 6 appointed Mr. Craig Welzbacher to the CAC. He has worked with the CAC for many years regarding the early turns of propeller aircraft at VNY.

Outreach – Ron Merkin, Chairperson

Nothing to report

By Laws – Don Schultz, Chairperson

Mr. Robert Rodine, member of the public, asked what the focus of the By Laws Sub-Committee is.

Mr. Schultz stated the committee includes himself, Mr. Rankell, and Mr. Merkin. He stated they felt the By Laws are workable but there was discussion to add CAC members and this would need to be cleared through the City Attorney and BOAC. There was no feedback from the CAC to make changes to the By Laws but this Working Group will periodically review them.

VNY Noise Issues – Gerald Silver, Chairperson

Mr. Silver deferred to Mr. Williams.

VNY Helicopter Issues – Wayne Williams, Chairperson

Mr. Williams discussed the Press Release dated October 20, 2015 titled “The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition filing petitions with the FAA to establish mandatory regulations for helicopter flights in LA County.” (Press Release attached) He directed everyone to go to the website LAHelicopterNoise.org to read the petitions and related documents.

Mr. Silver stated any organization can file a petition with the FAA to make any changes in regulation. This is done online and the petition will be given a doc number so it can be tracked. There is currently a three month back-log in assigning doc numbers. Once the doc number is assigned they will open it up to comments. The FAA looks at that and sees this is a worthy issue and a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, then it is published in the Federal Register, then they capture comments on the subject and then they hold a hearing in Washington, D.C., they then take comments, and publish another document stating the changes, and then a year or two later a decision is made on the rule changes.

Mr. Williams stated you can get an App on your phone to report helicopter noise. The App is called “Heli Tracker” and costs \$.99.

Social Media Outreach – Vahid Khorsand, Chairperson

Nothing to report.

3.) BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

Mr. Romo discussed the agenda items for the BOAC Meeting on October 15, 2015.

1. [RESOLUTION NO. _____ - Join City of Los Angeles Contract 58601 with Southern Counties Oil Company, a California Limited Partnership, dba SC Fuels: For unleaded fuel for Los Angeles World Airports through June 30, 2016 for a cost not to exceed \\$458,500 over the term](#)

PURPOSE: Establish a contract that expires on June 30, 2016 for unleaded fuel at Los Angeles International Airport, LA/Ontario International Airport, and Van Nuys Airport for an overall amount not to exceed \$458,500. This short-term contract will alleviate unleaded fuel supply interruptions while Los Angeles World Airports seeks to establish a new contract for unleaded fuel by either conducting an independent bid process or by joining another government agency's contract.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adoption of the Report requesting that the Board of Airport Commissioners find that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines; authorize Los Angeles World Airports to join City of Los Angeles Contract 58601 and to award a contract that expires on June 30, 2016 to Southern Counties Oil Company, a California Limited Partnership dba SC Fuels, for unleaded fuel at Los Angeles International Airport, LA/Ontario International Airport, and Van Nuys Airport for an overall contract amount not to exceed \$458,500; and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract upon approval as to form by the City Attorney. (David Shuter, 424-646-5111)

2. [RESOLUTION NO. _____ - Award five \(5\)-year Contract to Champion Fire Systems: For Los Angeles Fire Department's Regulation 4 testing, certification and repair for fire suppression](#)

PURPOSE: Establish a contract for Los Angeles Fire Department's Regulation 4 testing, certification and repair, for fire suppression systems for Los Angeles International Airport, Van Nuys Airport, and LA/Ontario International Airport.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adoption of the Report requesting that the Board of Airport Commissioners find that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to by Article III Class 1(4) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines; approve award of a five (5)-year contract to Champion Fire Systems for fire suppression, Los Angeles Fire Department's Regulation 4 testing, certification and repair for amounts not to exceed \$4,050,000 at Los Angeles International Airport, \$125,000 at LA/Ontario International Airport, \$125,000 at Van Nuys Airport, and an overall amount not to exceed \$4,300,000; and authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract upon approval as to form by the City Attorney and upon approval by the Los Angeles City Council. (David Shuter, 424-646-5111)

Mr. Romo stated the next BOAC Meetings will be on November 5 and November 19, 2015. He will present a Management Report regarding the VNY Noise Issues at the November 5 BOAC Meeting. He stated the presentation will be shared with the CAC after the BOAC Meeting.

September 17, 2015 BOAC Meeting

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

Mr. Brent Lowensohn, member of the public, stated he lives in Encino, has no opinion for or against noise but received a flyer requesting him to attend this meeting and complain about the noise. He stated this type of outreach does not provide both sides of the issue. He stated he wishes when there are meetings like this, both sides are allowed to address the issue so opinions and facts are heard by all.

Ms. Elaine Newman, member of the public, stated she lives in Encino, and she received information from Mr. Romo that showed in January 2015 there were 8,325 flights in and out of VNY. In September 2015, the number of flights had increased to 11,135. She stated that is an increase of 2,810 flights, approximately 34% in just nine months. From January 2015 thru September 2015, there were 93.753 flights in and out of VNY. For September 2015, there were 584 flights between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; some nights there were 36 flights, with an average of 20 flights per night during those hours. She stated Dan Yeung of LAWA Environmental has confirmed that jet traffic has increased since 2009. She stated LAWA is not responding to noise complaints in a timely manner. She inquired about international flights at VNY. She is requesting that LAWA provide her with the number of international flights coming into VNY. She requested all to attend the BOAC Meeting.

Mr. Ed Burnham, member of the public, stated the Fly Friendly Program is not working because it is not mandatory. He asked why the City is not levying and collecting fines. He stated there have not been any fines since 2012. He requested this noise issue item be agendized for the January 2016 CAC Meeting. He stated if aircraft companies and pilots are not operating within the guidelines set forth by the NBAA, LAWA, and VNY, they should be hit with fines and penalties. He stated if they are complying with the rules but residents are still suffering, then the rules need to be changed.

Mr. Stan Horwitz, member of the public, stated Encino residents distributed flyers to his home and community directing them to attend this meeting. He requests an informational meeting in the Encino community be advertised.

Mr. Don Eisenberg, member of the public, stated he has lived in Encino for 51 years. He stated the noisy jets are gone and he used to have to shut the windows because of the noise but not anymore. The only time he is disturbed is when military jets are operating at VNY. He stated the military helicopters are the noisy helicopters and the noise does not happen that often. He stated since 2009, operations are back and the economy is much better and property values have increased. He asked what are the decibel levels people are complaining about and are the flights above or below these levels.

Mr. Matt Berg, member of the public, stated he has lived in Encino for the last 2 ½ years and has been hearing very loud jet noise in the evenings. His kids have been awoken at night and this is affecting the kids and parents.

Mr. Jason Ackerman, member of the public, stated he lives in Encino and is the Area 2 Representative of the Encino Neighborhood Council. He stated the jet noise has increased lately. He invited them to hold a Town Hall Meeting in Encino. He stated he came to this meeting because he received a flyer.

5.) NEW BUSINESS

A. UC Davis Noise Symposium 2016 CAC Attendee Selection – Discussion/Action

Mr. Sanders stated either Mr. Khorsand or he will attend the Noise Symposium.

B. Criteria to Assist BOAC in VNY Decision Making – Discussion

Mr. Schultz stated for many years in the past when the CAC would send Motions to the BOAC, they did not receive a response. He stated in the last year, he and Mr. Sanders have met with two new Commissioners and the new Executive Director and have a relationship with Mr. Martin as well. He stated if they are going to take any action at all, he thinks they should be patient and give it 6 months to 1 year and see how the new BOAC and new Executive Director reacts to issues the CAC brings forth.

Mr. Silver stated he disagrees that they should wait and see what LAWA does. He discussed Draft 3, dated September 25, 2015 document titled Master Plan Criteria to Assist BOAC in VNY Decision Making. (Attached)

Mr. Steve Martin, LAWA Chief Operating Officer, stated how LAWA makes decisions as it relates to leasing and property development. He shared the VNY Redevelopment Plan with the CAC a couple of years ago. The Master Plan establishes the land use for each parcel on the airport. Some things are designated as FBO, some General Aviation, and some Propeller only. This means you can build things up to these levels of uses, it does not necessitate that there is demand for that at any given point or time. The VNY Redevelopment Plan was put out to the CAC, VICA, VNAA, and they took comments and revised the document. It also went to the BOAC twice. The principles of the plan were to have an organized sequential set of opportunities brought through the system. The first thing was to commit to finish the Prop Park and second was to take old and obsolete facilities. They named a list of all the projects they needed to do in sequence, without a timeline. He stated they can't go as fast as they want because there is no demand out there. They are moving according to the Redevelopment Plan. The process they are following is very demand driven and there is no date timeline.

Mr. Sanders referred to the document introduced by Mr. Silver and asked Mr. Martin how some of and not all the items on the document are being done and how the CAC may or may not have an influence on decisions.

Mr. Martin stated the things on the list drive the Master Plan in its totality, not in individual parcel, in its specific use. The Master Plan allocated uses across the airport between FBO, General Aviation, and Propeller operations. He stated for example if a site is designated as an FBO use, it is in the context of the Airport Plan. They would not take a Propeller designated area and say the highest and best use is FBO because it is not zoned for that in the context of the whole plan.

Mr. Williams, Mr. Silver, Mr. Martin, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Goodfellow, Mr. Oeland, and Mr. Rankell continued to discuss this item.

Mr. Martin stated he can come back to a future CAC Meeting and share the Redevelopment Plan as a refresher.

Mr. Sanders agreed with Mr. Martin's offer.

C. Aerolease Associates Hangar Project Briefing – Discussion/Action

Mr. Curt Castagna, President/CEO of Aerolease Associates stated the lease with LAWA was initiated in 2006 and was amended in 2011 with a requirement to demolish the T-hangar area on the south side of the parcel and invest \$3 million within the next 10 years. The redevelopment site is 2.8 acres on the existing Master Lease. The \$7 million development includes redeveloping the building and parking lot. Mr. Castagna stated this plan has been discussed with Mr. Eric Steinhauer of the Prop Park about how they will assist the T-Hangar tenants they currently have in transitioning with opportunities to support the Prop Park. (Attached handout shows pictures of the site before and after the development plan.)

Mr. Rankell, Mr. Silver, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Rodine, member of the public, Mr. Oeland, and Mr. Castagna continued to discuss this item.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

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

No items were discussed.

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

Mr. Oeland stated he likes the new Sherman Way tunnel lights and it is much safer.

Mr. Williams welcomed Commissioner Daar to the CAC Meeting.

Ms. Goodfellow welcomed Commissioner Daar, thanked Mr. Martin for attending, and thanked Mr. Rodine for the data he provides.

Mr. Welzbacher stated he is glad to be on the CAC.

Mr. Schultz welcomed Commissioner Daar and thanked Mr. Martin.

Mr. Sanders welcomed Commissioner Daar and thanked Mr. Martin.

Mr. Merkin welcomed Commissioner Daar and stated he likes the idea of a Town Hall Meeting in Encino.

Mr. Khorsand stated as an Encino resident he would like to see some new details regarding the noise issue at the January Meeting.

Mr. Rankell welcomed Mr. Welzbacher and thanked Mr. Martin and Commissioner Daar. He stated Mr. Yeung's information was great and it was nice to see Officer Doug Watson in the room and he appreciates the Airport Police.

Mr. Price thanked Officer Watson, welcomed Mr. Welzbacher, and thanked Commissioner Daar, Mr. Martin, and the public for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Daar stated he plans on being a regular guest at the CAC Meetings.

Mr. Sanders stated Commissioner Telles was also going to attend the meeting but she had a fundraiser to organize and attend.

9) ADJOURNMENT:

8:56 p.m.