

SONOMA COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Meeting

This meeting was conducted virtually over Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER:

Hayssen called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Hayssen, Internicola, McCord, Starrett, Young **Absent:** Jasper

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

McCord moved with support from Young to approve the June 16, 2022 Aviation Commission Minutes.

All Ayes: Motion Carried.

AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT:

A. Complaint Update

Stout reported that in June there were 91 noise complaints compared to 184 in 2021, down 51%. In July there were 109 noise complaints compared to 117 in 2021, down 7%. Year to date as of July there have been 432 complaints compared to 712 in 2021, down 39%.

In June there were 6 general complaints, compared to 0 in 2021. In July there was 1 general complaint, compared to 0 in 2021. Year to date as of July there have been 24 general complaints compared to 1 in 2021.

Hayssen noted that complaints regarding both arrivals and departures for United and American are similar. He also noted that there have been complaints from 1339 Dry Creek Rd, which is on the RNAV 14 approach. Additionally, 28 complaints were from 9464 Wellington Circle in Windsor.

Internicola noted an uptick in complaints from District 3.

Stout noted that Supervisor Gore will be hosting a neighbor meeting on August 24, hybrid at the Airport conference room and via Zoom. FAA representatives and a representative from Congressman Huffman's office will also be present at the meeting. Stout confirmed that representatives from the Wellington Circle neighborhood will be at this meeting.

Hayssen asked if a commission would be able to attend the meeting. Stout noted that he will confirm with Supervisor Gore's office.

B. Tower Report/Update

There were 8,738 operations in May compared to 8,818 in 2021, a decrease of 1%. In June there were 8,603 operations compared to 8,488 in 2021, an increase of 1%. Year to date as of June there have been 39,999 operations compared to 35,757 in 2021, an increase of 13%.

Airline operations data will be included in the report going forward. Year to date as of June there have been 4,467 airline operations compared to 2,720 in 2021. Stout asked if the year-to-date report is sufficient for the Commission. Hayssen confirmed that it is.

Sheber noted that the RSAT from this year will be published soon. The regional administrator has the questions, but the FAA does not have authority over most of these questions.

C. Airline Update

Airline statistics have not yet been received from all airlines, so July airline reports will be included in the September Commission meeting packet.

In June there were 57,966 passengers compared to 49,186 in 2021, an increase of 17.9%. It is estimated based on numbers received so far that July passenger numbers exceeded 60,000. Year to date there have been 281,061 passengers.

Aha! Airlines began service to Reno on July 14. Avelo announced that Palm Springs service will begin on November 11 with twice a week service. Alaska will begin using 737s to Seattle beginning October 6, reducing the route to once a day. United announced that they will suspend service to Santa Rosa effective November 1.

D. Projects Update

- **Terminal Modernization Project:** The roof for the new terminal building is 95% complete. Contractors have been working on underground utilities for the terminal, which has delayed construction on the front. The front of the terminal will be closed just after Labor Day. Some lane changes around the circle have been implemented to prepare for the closure. Passengers will enter and exit via a door near the restaurant while the front is closed. Baggage claim equipment is being laid and drywall is going up. Gate 1 and the TSA checkpoint is expected to open by November 1.
- **Eucalyptus Tree Removal:** On August 9, the Board approved awarding the contract. The kickoff meeting for this project will take place soon.
- **EAA Driveway:** This project has been completed.
- **Approach Feasibility Study:** This has been approved by the Board, and the Airport is working on a kick off meeting date.
- **Taxiway A Overlay:** This is expected to go to the Board in October, and the project is expected to begin in April when the weather is more ideal for asphalt. The Airport is waiting for the grant funds to go through.
- **Airline Apron Reconstruction:** This project will go out to bid shortly.
- **Master Consultant RFQ:** The task orders are being finalized with 7 consultants before this goes to the Board.
- **Becker Boulevard Chip Seal:** This project is expected to take place in October.
- **Runway 2/20 Edge Marking:** This has been completed.
- **FAA RVR System Upgrade:** No updates yet on when this will take place.
- **FAA Runway 14 REILS:** This system has been installed and will be turned on after it is flight checked.
- **Airport Loop Remarking:** The sidewalk in front of the terminal will be closed during construction at the front of the terminal. The loop has been re-marked to help traffic flow during this time. The cell phone waiting area has been added and is well used.
- **Restaurant/Wine Bar RFP:** Responses to this RFP are due today and review will begin next week.
- **Young Eagles/Girls in Aviation:** The Young Eagles Rally on September 24 will focus on Girls in Aviation Day. Details are being worked out.
- **Future Board Items:** The Hyatt Place Hotel at Airport and Laughlin has been approved by the Board. The consolidation of TPW and General Services has been approved. The discussion on the Airport Area Specific Plan has been moved to 2023. The proposed Living Wage Ordinance

Update is scheduled for September 20. There is a Permit Sonoma Management Review scheduled for November 1.

Starrett asked for confirmation if the whole project will be completed by November. Stout confirmed that some parts, including the front of the terminal, will not be completed until spring.

Hayssen noted that he recently attended the RSATs for Oakland and Hayward and noted that STS is setting a standard for runway marking updates. Stout noted that the Airport paid for the updates to help move the project forward more quickly. FAA funding would not cover the project as it is a modification to standards.

Hayssen asked if there would be a preliminary report from the Approach Feasibility Study before implementation. Stout confirmed that outreach with the community and pilots is included in this process before designs are created.

McCord noted that he has used the cell phone waiting area and appreciates that option.

Young commented that he appreciates the rebuild of the mechanism at the Apron F gate.

ACTION ITEMS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Helicopter Operations

At the June meeting, the Commission asked to have a conversation about helicopter operations. The Airport has invited helicopter operators to today's meeting.

Internicola commented that there have been a number of complaints in District 3 regarding helicopters. Starrett noted that many complaints from District 4 are on the west side of the Airport.

Alec Sprick (Helico) noted that Helico has received noise complaints especially from the west side of the Airport. They take the neighbors into consideration and are open to discussing options. Flight paths must vary based on a number of factors with a focus on safety.

Mark Vogler commented that helicopters circle his neighborhood at low altitudes, and he has not seen information regarding flight paths from Helico.

Nigel Cooper (Henry 1) noted that there are protocols that helicopter pilots must follow, and they are not able to modify these requirements. There are also tasks that trainees must complete.

Hayssen noted that there is little flexibility with where pilot trainee tests can be conducted.

Sheber noted that flight paths are more prescribed than they had been previously.

B. Security Services Customer Service

At the June meeting, the Commission asked to have a discussion and update about parking and security services customer service and training.

Dave Hellerud (SP Plus) noted that there has been sensitivity training for security personnel working at the Airport. He commented that SP Plus recently took over security services at STS and is working to help mitigate traffic in front of the terminal. SP Plus is committed to improving customer service and has added new trainings to help, particularly with de-escalation, while keeping the safety goals in mind.

McCord noted that he appreciates learning about the trainings that take place. He also asked what other services SP Plus provides at other Airports.

Hellerud noted that San Francisco is their security hub and Santa Rosa is a branch. They also offer janitorial services and ground transportation at other airports.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mark Vogler noted he has noticed some aircraft powering down before they reach his neighborhood, which he has found helpful. He also commented that he would like to be able to submit questions for the meeting with Supervisor Gore. Flight schools impact his neighborhood more than large aircraft.

Bruce Russell noted that he lives on Westside Rd and has noticed more frequent flights at lower altitudes over his neighborhood. He suggested that flights follow less populated routes.

Tim Swanson commented that he lives on Springfield Ct in Windsor and has lived in the area since 2000. He noted that he is grateful to have the Airport nearby, and that the Airport services outweigh the inconveniences.

Stout asked for confirmation regarding where Russell sent his comment. Starrett noted that it came to him, but his email has been down.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Young thanked Hayssen for running the meeting. He also noted that he will be flying to San Diego in September out of STS and would consider driving if STS was not an option. The Airport is also an important piece of the economy, which relies on tourism. He also thanked Dave Hellerud for the information he provided regarding SP Plus and acknowledged that customer service is challenging in stressful environments. He also commented that there was a complaint received regarding TSA and noted that customer service could have been better in this situation as well.

McCord commented that aircraft fly certain flight paths to align with the runways at the Airport.

Internicola commented that he toured the Airport and now has a better understanding of general aviation. He also commented that he traveled through the Airport recently and had a smooth experience.

ADJOURN:

Internicola moved with support from Hayssen to adjourn. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jon Stout, AAE, CAE
Airport Manager