



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AVIATION COMMISSION

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2024, 7 p.m.

Whiteman Airport

10000 Airpark Way

Pacoima, CA 91331-7393

(818) 896-5271

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair Ryan Antoon
Secretary Dennis Lord
Commissioner Peter Amundson
Commissioner Monique Earl
Commissioner Harvey Holloway
Commissioner Jeff Mort

OFFICIALLY EXCUSED

Vice-Chair Forouzan Golshani
Commissioner Curt Castagna
Commissioner Christina Pascucci
Commissioner Gabriel Perez

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Mr. Steve Burger, Deputy Director
Mr. Paul Maselbas, Assistant Deputy Director
Mr. Jason Morgan, Assistant Chief, Aviation Division
Ms. Van Tran, Staff Assistant

GUESTS

Mr. Michael R. Williamson, Whiteman Airport Pilot and Instructor
Mr. Chris Merrick, Whiteman Airport Pilot and Instructor
Mr. David Fulkman, Whiteman Airport Guest
Mr. Harold Bond, Experimental Aircraft Association
Ms. Josie Schlachet, Civil Air Patrol
Mr. James Miller, Friends of Whiteman Airport
Mr. Arik Cohen, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Ms. Lynn Barker, Whiteman Airport Guest
Mr. David Lunt, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Ms. Jennifer Cohen, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Thomas Hendricks, Experimental Aircraft Association
Mr. Joel Elliott, Experimental Aircraft Association

GUESTS CONTINUED

Mr. Michael Gorman, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. David A. Foster, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Joey Amaro, Amaro Helicopters
Mr. Gil Viramontes, San Gabriel Valley Airport Association
Mr. Matthew Stone, Whiteman Airport Pilot
Mr. Jon Smalldridge, Whiteman Airport Guest
Mr. Chris D. Thomas, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Dr. James Haney, San Gabriel Valley Airport Tenant
Mr. Dutch Merrick, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. Eusebio Preciado, Whiteman Airport Tenant
Mr. David Kolstad, Experimental Aircraft Association
Ms. Rocio Hernandez, Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ryan Antoon called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Dennis Lord led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MATTERS FOR AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

A. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the February 28, 2024, and March 27, 2024, meetings were unanimously approved on a motion from Commissioner Monique Earl and seconded by Commissioner Jeff Mort.

B. Los Angeles County Public Works Aviation Division – General Report

Mr. Morgan provided to the Commission a brief overview of Whiteman Airport.

Aircraft Operations (Takeoffs and Landings) and Fuel Sales

The overall aircraft operations for all five County airports were up 28 percent in the month of March 2024, as compared to the same month last year.

The overall fuel sales for all five County airports were up 9 percent in the month of March 2024, as compared to the same month last year.

C. Los Angeles County Public Works Aviation Division – Airport Management Update

Airport Projects (including Grant Funding)

No major projects are taking place at the airports.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, a new Airport Traffic Control Tower facility will be constructed as part of a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Air Traffic Facilities Program grant. Design is currently underway for the reconstruction of approximately 14 acres of runway and taxiway pavement.

The design for pavement reconstruction of the north runway and taxiways at Brackett Field Airport will begin later this year.

Airport Property Management

At Brackett Field Airport, repairs are underway for the mid-field north side vehicle access gate. Public Works will be evaluating a proposal to rent the old pilot supply shop office space within the airport terminal building.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, repairs are scheduled for one of the Underground Storage Tanks for Avgas. On April 4, 2024, an incident occurred involving an airport security guard vehicle and a parked aircraft.

At General William J. Fox Airfield, repairs are planned for the airport beacon light. Repairs were completed for the airport entrance sign lighting on Barnes Avenue. Public Works will likely be soliciting proposals in the next few months for the aeronautical development of an area of approximately 2 acres of land at the airport.

At San Gabriel Valley Airport, repairs were made to the pavement on a small portion of the primary taxiway and to the digital airport entrance sign. Both avgas self-serve fuel dispensers are in service. Public Works is finalizing a new lease agreement for the development of aircraft storage hangars on the north apron area and will be presenting it to the Board of Supervisors for approval in the next few months.

At Whiteman Airport, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is currently replacing older ramp and hangar area lighting with LED lights. Repairs are underway to replace the water fountain at the old terminal building. The Federal Aviation Administration stated it will require a comprehensive study to restore the nighttime instrument approaches at the airport, which will be further evaluated. Public Works is working with the Federal Aviation Administration to consolidate the aircraft runway areas into a single midfield runway area and will be updating the Airport Layout Plan.

The approved contractors are expected to provide fueling services at General William J. Fox Airfield and Whiteman Airport as soon as next month.

UL94 unleaded aviation gasoline is anticipated to be available for purchase at all five County airports by or prior to June 1, 2024.

The first digital monthly newsletters for each airport were released on April 15, 2024. Copies of the newsletters will be sent monthly and a contact email address will be shared with the Commission.

Applications for the positions of Airport Manager and Airport Service Worker are currently being reviewed by Public Works Human Resources Division.

Airport Events and Activities

At Brackett Field Airport, the Aircraft Display Day was held on April 21, 2024, and the next event is scheduled for May 19, 2024.

At Compton/Woodley Airport, the 3rd annual Steppin' 4 Autism event and the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 96 Young Eagles event were both held on April 20, 2024. On May 20, 2024, the City of Compton will host a meeting at the airport to discuss the City's disaster and emergency preparedness planning efforts. The celebration of the airport's 100th year anniversary will likely occur at the annual Airport Air Fair to be held later this year in October.

The annual Air Fair at San Gabriel Valley Airport will be held on May 4, 2024, and the flyer was shared with the Commission.

At Whiteman Airport, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 40 will host their Young Eagles event on April 30, 2024. Corrections were made to the newsletters regarding the aircraft display days. The Boy Scouts of America presented the William H. Surgeon III Award to Mr. Don Hagopian and Mrs. Shellie Hagopian, of the Whiteman Airport Association, for outstanding leadership to the exploring program.

Airport Marketing and Public Relations

An Airport Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan is being developed for the five County airports. Public Works will be conducting a customer service survey of the tenants and users at each of the airports. The survey will be included in the May 15, 2024, airports newsletters and will also be mailed out to tenants with their May rent statements. The survey will be collected through June 15, 2024, and the results will be presented at the June or August 2024, Aviation Commission meeting.

D. Airport Rents Study

Mr. Maselbas provided to the Commission a summary of the airport rents and fees study reports and a detailed explanation on the aeronautical and non-aeronautical rental rates. The reports and rental rates are posted on the Aviation Division website. Public Works is planning to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to increase the non-aeronautical hangar storage rents to match fair market value.

Commissioners engaged in a brief discussion regarding the information presented.

E. Update on the Restoration of the Historical Monument Recognizing the 1910 Dominguez Air Meet

Secretary Lord shared with the Commission a brief overview and update on the restoration of the historical monument. Drawings for the plaque restoration are being developed and will be shared with the Commission at a future meeting.

F. Update on April 9, 2024, Board motion regarding “Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport: Expanding Economic Opportunities”

Mr. Maselbas informed the Commission that the April 9, 2024, Board motion directs County’s Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with Public Works, to report back to the Board in 60 days with a plan and cost estimate to conduct a study of potential land uses for the 184-acre Whiteman Airport property, both as an operational airport and if the airport were to close, along with an economic analysis of the impacts to the County and the Pacoima community if the airport were to close.

Commissioners discussed and shared comments on the information presented.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – OPEN FORUM

Fourteen speakers commented on the operation, maintenance, and activities at the airports.

IV. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE ON:

**Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 7 p.m.
at San Gabriel Valley Airport
4233 Santa Anita Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731-1670**

Chair Antoon adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Lord, Secretary
Los Angeles County Aviation Commission

PHM:vt