

DRAFT MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION (RAC) MEETING
7150 REPUBLIC AIRPORT, ROOM 201
EAST FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK
JUNE 11, 2024

Chairman Frank Nocerino and Vice-Chairman Vincent Bologna, Jr. were unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. by Commission Member Robert Bodenmiller. Commissioners Stella Barbera and Richard Grant were present.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 2024

A vote was not held due to lack of quorum.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL 2024

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the following Operations Reports:

- January: Total Operations decreased 33.9% and Landings fell by 9.1% when compared to the previous year. Single-engine aircraft operations fell 3.3%. Single-engine Touch & Go's were up 5.2%. Passenger volume increased 2.9%. Based aircraft fell 5.5%.
- February: Total Operations decreased 22.5% but Landings increased 16.2% when compared to the previous year. Single-engine aircraft operations increased 25.8%. Single-engine Touch & Go's were up 3.6%. Passenger volume increased 15.0%. Based aircraft fell 4.6%.
- March: Total Operations decreased 36.2% and Landings decreased 0.9% when compared to the previous year. Single-engine aircraft operations fell 0.1%. Single-engine Touch & Go's were up 6.0%. Passenger volume decreased 0.1%. Based aircraft fell 4.2%.
- April: Mr. Lauth commented that April's year-to-date numbers reflect the beginning of a new fiscal year. Total Operations decreased 20.1% but Landings increased 12.2% when compared to the previous year. Single-engine aircraft operations were up 15%. Single-engine Touch & Go's increased 34.1%. Passenger volume decreased 10.6%. Based aircraft fell 4.4%.

Commissioner Barbera noted an increase in April's helicopter landings when compared to April of the previous year. Mr. Ceglie acknowledged the increase but pointed out that total helicopter operations for the entire 2023/2024 fiscal year were down 0.5% from the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Lauth discussed the following Aircraft Complaint Reports:

- January: There were 22 complaints compared to 24 complaints last year. Most related to daytime operations and an unknown aircraft type. The majority of complaints came from the

northwest and could not be identified by runway. Eighteen complaints could not be identified as a Based or Transient aircraft and were reported as 'Unknown'.

- February: There were 17 complaints compared to 15 complaints from last year. Most related to daytime operations and an unknown aircraft type. The majority of complaints came from areas south and west of the airport and could not be identified by runway. One complaint was attributed to Touch & Go operations. Ten complaints could not be identified as a Based or Transient aircraft and were reported as 'Unknown'.
- March: There were 11 complaints filed compared to 37 complaints last year. Most related to daytime operations and an unknown aircraft type. The majority of complaints came from the northwest. Ten complaints could not be identified by runway or as Based or Transient aircraft and were reported as 'Unknown'.
- April: There were 20 complaints filed compared to 9 complaints last year. Most related to daytime operations and an unknown aircraft type. The majority of complaints came from the northwest and could not be identified by runway. Three complaints were attributed to Touch & Go operations. Fifteen complaints could not be identified as Based or Transient aircraft and were reported as 'Unknown'.

Mr. Lauth discussed the Financial Reports for January and February:

- January: Revenue was favorable for Landing Fees due to higher than forecasted landings, Rental Income due to Stratosphere being billed for the 5 parcels, and Utilities due to higher than anticipated water usage fees. Fuel Flowage was unfavorable due to lower than anticipated fuel deliveries at Atlantic and Modern. Expenses were favorable for Labor due to lower payroll costs, Employee Expenses due to postponing a purchase of ARFF PPE (Personal Protection Equipment), and Utilities due to lower consumption. Insurance Expense was unfavorable due to a premium increase.
- February: Revenue was favorable for Landing Fees, Fuel Flowage, and License Fees. Miscellaneous Income was favorable due to higher than anticipated revenue from penalties and filming. Expenses for Labor, Utilities, Communication, Data Processing, Professional Services, Vehicle Maintenance and Airport Maintenance were all favorable. Employee Expenses were unfavorable due to the ARFF PPE expense.

Airport Director Anthony Ceglio discussed the Financial Reports for March and April:

- March: Revenue was favorable for License and Landing Fees however Fuel Flowage, Rental, and Miscellaneous Income were all unfavorable. Expenses were mostly favorable but saw unfavorable variances in Labor due to an adjustment made for the November through February payroll, and in Data Processing due to the renewal of a software support agreement.
- April: Revenue was favorable for Landings, License, and Fuel Flowage Fees. Rental and Miscellaneous Incomes were unfavorable. Expenses were favorable for Labor due to vacant positions and in Office Equipment due to postponing the purchase of office chairs. Unfavorable variances were seen in Employee Expense due to ARFF PPE and ADP, in Communication due to annual telephone maintenance, and in Vehicle Maintenance due purchasing a tire for a rescue vehicle. Overall, April Expenses exceeded Revenue slightly by only \$2,800.

Commissioner Barbera asked if the old Molloy building was being leased. Mr. Ceglio said it was not. SUNY may be interested in leasing the building and we are discussing that with them now. If they are not, Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued.

2. RECENT / CURRENT EVENTS

Airport Manager John Lauth reported on the following:

- a. **2024 Bethpage Air Show and Career Fair:** US Navy Blue Angels and other performers were based at the Airport over Memorial Day weekend. The Airport also hosted a Career Fair for tenants at the Main Terminal on Friday, and actively recruited new employees for NYSDOT and Airports on the Jones Beach boardwalk Saturday and Sunday.
- b. **Green FRG Event – Tree Planting @ Route 109 Entrance:** Airport management, staff and Albany representatives planted new trees to support the State’s GreenNY program and beautify the Airport. Commissioner Barbera also attended and participated.
- c. **NY State Police Annual Memorial Ceremony at Troop L Headquarters:** Representatives from the Airport attended to honor fallen members who were lost in the line of duty.
- d. **Spring/Summer Airfield Maintenance:** Two temporary positions were filled in the Maintenance department to assist with airfield maintenance and groundskeeping over the summer months.

Commissioner Barbera commended the Airport for having the NYSDOT Aviation Bureau Director attend the tree planting. She was happy the Airport received public attention and recognition from someone of his stature for a job well done. She appreciated his presence at the Career Fair, the air show festivities, and the tree planting. Mr. Lauth and Mr. Ceglio thanked Ms. Barbera for attending.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

Mr. Ceglio reported on the following:

1. **Alpha Taxiway Project:** The Taxiway passed a final inspection and should be good for another 25 years.
2. **5-Parcel Development Project:** No new developments on the parcels or the Open House.
3. **Hangar 31 RFP:** Three responders submitted proposals in April. The designated responder, The Victorian Group, submitted the best proposal and was notified on May 22nd. They are the parent company of the current tenant First Quality which has occupied the hangar for the last 10 or 12 years. A 20-year lease with a 10-year option is being drafted.
4. **Runway 1/19 Pavement Design Project:** Project is ongoing and on target to bid in early Spring 2025. We anticipate construction will begin in Fall 2025.
5. **Breslau Development/Hangars:** Hangar 85’s office build out and interior electrical work are in progress. They anticipate having a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) by late summer/early fall. Construction on Hangar 86 is underway. Concrete was poured this week. The project is ahead of schedule and slated to finish by January or February of 2025.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two (2) individuals commented.

Mr. Bodenmiller adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Anthony C. Ceglio on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission**

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
June 11, 2024

Ms. Nancy Schliwka, a Trustee for the Woodland Civic Association, asked a question on behalf of fellow Trustee Nancy Cypser who could not attend tonight's RAC meeting. Referring to the Town of Babylon's Planning and Development Board hearing held the night before, which was attended by Ms. Cypser and which discussed the proposed development of the Acadia property, Ms. Schliwka asked for clarification about the Airport's position on moving the traffic lights in front of the Sundown Ski & Patio store to allow for an exit from that property on to Route 110. She asked to know why there was an objection from the Airport and if it was related to the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). Airport Manager John Lauth, who also attended the Town hearing, responded that the Airport did not object to the exit from Sundown's property. Airport Director Anthony Ceglio stated it was most likely NYSDOT's Traffic Safety division who objected because they review traffic and issue Highway Work Permits.

Ms. Tina Diamond, President of Concerned Citizens Association of Farmingdale, also attended the Town hearing and referred to Mr. Lauth's objection to the location of Acadia buildings B and C, and that they should be relocated or removed altogether. Were the buildings moved or removed from the plans? Mr. Lauth responded that Acadia is proposing to build 2 buildings within the arrival/departure path of Runway 14/32. We asked that they be placed somewhere else on the property for safety reasons but Acadia said there is no room to relocate the buildings. Ms. Diamond asked who has jurisdiction over that. Mr. Ceglio responded it was the Town of Babylon. He added that, as owner of the Airport, NYSDOT is responsible for stating that we do not agree with having the buildings there because of FAA requirements. But ultimately, it's the Town's decision.

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