

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, Fitch, Phillips, Rhilinger, Tymczynszyn and Chairperson Gates.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Rhilinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Fitch, seconded by Commissioner Adams, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2008

Commissioner Rhilinger offered the following correction to the May meeting minutes: Page 3, Item 7.E.2, paragraph 3, line 3: "She noted that the reason for her questions was because if she did not understand the Study Report then it was likely...."

MOTION: Commissioner Phillips moved for the approval of the May 8, 2008 Airport Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Fitch seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6A. COMMITTEE REPORT RE: USE OF JET FUEL AT TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT—ZAMPERINI FIELD

Chairperson Gates stated that Commissioners are not elected and are not part of the political process, adding that City Council appoints Commissioners who have subject matter expertise and applicable experience. He noted that the Commission does not set policy or make policy decisions but studies issues, identifies key factors, finds and documents related facts, and makes recommendations based on those facts. He stated that informed opinion based on verifiable data can be useful but uninformed opinion based on myth, fabrication, or unverifiable information is not useful.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian presented a brief overview of the process for this meeting. He stated that the Policy Change and General Aviation Growth Committee is requesting that the Commission accept its report on jet fuel at Torrance Airport and that it recommends that a consultant be hired to address issues brought forward by the City that are outlined in the material of record.

Committee Chairperson Adams reported that the Committee met two or three weeks ago and voted to bring the jet fuel report to the Commission for its concurrence and, if it concurs, that it recommend that a consultant be hired to further review issues set forth by the City.

Chairperson Gates stated that the Committee worked on the study for over six months and originally requested that the public provide them with information and data, adding that they received mostly unsupported opinion and little useful data.

Commissioner Tymczyszyn discussed how and why the Committee chose to revisit the ban on jet fuel, noted that City Council approved the Commission Work Plan in 2007, and quoted part of the City's Commissioner Manual regarding the function of Commissions. He stated that he has made several observations and responded to a criticism that two pilots are on the Committee by asserting that he has nothing to gain or lose with this issue. He also noted that 95% of negative comments were submitted before the study was released. He maintained that jets using the Airport give all their fuel tax revenues to neighboring airports and that all types of aircraft, regardless of type or age, must meet City noise limits. He concluded by stating that the Committee has uncovered major problems in maintaining the current policy and urged the Commission to forward the report to City Council for consideration.

Commissioner Rhilinger complimented Committee members for their efforts but stated that she does not agree with the report. Her reasons are that hiring a consultant would be expensive, that no single individual has come forward saying that jet fuel is needed, and that information from the Noise Abatement System has not been available.

Chairperson Gates shared her frustration regarding the Noise Abatement System and pointed out a letter from a jet owner in Appendix B stating the problems he encounters by not being able to purchase jet fuel at the Airport.

Commissioner Tymczyszyn stated that he visited several Fixed Based Operators and that every one is in favor of allowing jet fuel, adding that they are afraid of repercussions from the City if they come forward.

Commissioner Fitch thanked Committee members for their efforts and apologized for referring to the Airport Master Plan as the "Airport's Bible." She stated that a Master Plan gives overall guidance and includes everything in view of the circumstances or conditions at the time. She requested that staff provide further clarification regarding its issues of concern, specifically in respect to Robinson Helicopter. She discussed an ordinance and resolution passed by City Council addressing commercial flights and aircraft weight restrictions, adding that the City website provides information regarding weight restrictions, banned aircraft, and limitations on based aircraft. She asked staff how many aircraft are based at the Airport and which types of aircraft are banned.

At 7:35 p.m., Chairperson Gates welcomed public input.

Adam Geczi, Ladeene Avenue, expressed concern about the hastily developed recommendation and stated that progress is made only when all members of a community benefit, adding that one's benefit should not be made at the expense of another.

Mike Reis, Reese Road, expressed his opposition to changing the jet fuel policy due to concerns about noise, safety of residents and schools, and expense.

Barry Jay, Brian Avenue, stated that he is opposed to the jet fuel ban and that the report does not address statistics provided by the NTSB regarding safety of aircraft.

James Casey, Camino de las Colinas, stated that he does not see sufficient benefit to remove the ban and expressed concern about schools and hospitals under the flight path, increased air traffic, pollution, health issues, and tankers carrying jet fuel.

Ernie Moore, Avocado Street, Lomita, stated that he is adamantly opposed to changing the jet fuel policy, that the Committee's report is deeply flawed and biased, and discussed increased pollution, traffic, noise, and safety concerns.

Jim Ellingson, Camino del Campo (no speaker card), stated that he hopes that the ban will be released and jet fuel be allowed to be sold.

Stu Peterson, Draille Drive, expressed concern about noise, safety, pollution, and decline in property values and recommended maintaining the current ban, adding that inconvenience of not allowing jet fuel keeps air traffic to a minimum.

John Bailey, representing Southeast Torrance Homeowners' Association, stated that City Council did not request the study, that the newly elected Councilmembers have voiced opposition to jet fuel at the Airport, that hiring a consultant is a waste of taxpayers' money, and that a subcommittee comprised of a majority of pilots is not an acceptable process to render an objective opinion.

Greg Diete, Paseo del la Playa, submitted his letter to City Council, discussed recent jet aircraft activity over Riviera Village, and stated that increasing air traffic is a serious mistake and a disservice to the community.

David Henseler, Singingwood Drive, representing Country Hills Homeowners' Association, stated that the consensus of his Association is opposition to the use of jet fuel. He noted that Committee members are pilots but not experts, that the analysis of property values is flawed, and that the report does not acknowledge public input.

Michael Wermers, Audrey Avenue, stated that he opposes jet fuel and submitted part of the 245 opinion polls addressed in Appendix C.

Amy Feller, Oak Street, Lomita, suggested that Chairperson Gates request a show of hands of how many people have read the Committee's report rather than ask each speaker individually.

John Barnett, Acadia Avenue, stated that the report omits data regarding jet helicopters, that he is opposed to the sale of jet fuel, and received clarification from Chairperson Gates that the Airport is self-sufficient.

Randy Klinnenberg, West 231st Place (no speaker card), stressed the importance of learning from mistakes, that jet fuel all over the world has increased noise, air traffic, pollution, and health problems, and has proved harmful to property values and habitats.

Steve Duckworth, Redbeam Avenue, noted an increase in jet traffic in the past ten years and stated that he supports keeping the ban in place.

Winifred Robb, Rockefeller Lane, Redondo Beach, inquired how much a consultant would cost and at what level in the political process does public input become important. She suggested that Commissioners go ahead and vote now so that public members can address their concerns to City Council.

Jackie Decker, Carlow Road, voiced opposition to lifting the jet fuel ban due to increased noise concerns.

Norma Hotsleger, West 230th Street (no speaker card), stated that she cannot imagine anyone wanting to live near an airport due to noise and safety considerations.

Pamela Moran, Via del Valle, stated that peoples' opinions matter, that the title of the report suggests that use of jet fuel will grow, that the Committee has no way of knowing the effects of removing the ban, and that the report is flawed and one-sided.

Don Clouch, West 238th Street, asserted that City Council will listen to public opinion, that it is irresponsible of the Commission to have this issue go before them, and that the report is a justification to sell jet fuel by a limited group of professionals.

Joseph Cruz, Mesa Street, stated that he does not understand the form of methodology used in the report, noting a lack of contextual analysis of public opinion.

Michael Safani, Calle de Madrid, maintained that the study does not have a sound methodology or statistical analysis to prevent bias in its conclusion. He stated sale of jet fuel would cause more noise, pollution, and less safety.

Newt Young, Hickory Avenue, voiced his opposition to jet fuel due to increased traffic, noise, and pollution and questioned who would benefit.

Joe Arciuch, Kathryn Avenue, stated that the Committee used a double standard in evaluating and interpreting public input versus conclusions made in the report and questioned the validity of conclusions reached.

Joyce Jimenez, Patronella Avenue (no speaker card), suggested that Commissioners vote not to concur with the Committee's recommendation and save City Council and staff time, trouble, and expense.

Andrew Yeto, Lomita, voiced opposition to removing the ban due to noise, increased air traffic, increase in the air traffic controllers' job, and safety concerns, adding that there is no public outcry for jet fuel and that the report is one-sided.

Ronald Rennie, Saddle View Road, Lomita, expressed opposition to lifting the ban due to noise and safety considerations, adding that jet fuel will attract larger jets.

Stanford Orfila, Ocean Avenue, stated that the premise of the report is that the Airport must grow. He noted that the Airport was originally intended to be a general aviation airport and that it should stay that way.

Tom Rische, Carlow Road, described past plane crashes, stated that the Committee's report is biased and unscientific, and questioned who asked for the report and why Committee meetings were not open to the public.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the Committee acted legally in deciding to meet separately.

Frank Stapleton, Antonio Street, Madrona Homeowners' Association, stated that at a recent Association meeting there was general opposition to changing the policy regarding jet fuel, adding that he has observed an recent increase in aircraft noise.

Commissioner Rhilinger noted that public comments will be forwarded to City Council in the form of meeting minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Tymczyszyn moved to concur with the Committee's report regarding the use of jet fuel at Torrance Airport and that a consultant be hired to address issues brought forward by the City. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a 5-2 roll call vote was reflected as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Phillips, Adams, Gates, Tymczyszyn, and Dingman.
NOES: Commissioners Fitch and Rhilinger.

The Commission was in recess from 9:25 p.m. to 9:38 p.m.

6B. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Tymczyszyn, seconded by Commissioner Rhilinger, nominated Commissioner Adams for Chairperson of the Airport Commission.

Commissioner Phillips nominated Commissioner Tymczyszyn for Chairperson; Commissioner Tymczyszyn declined the nomination.

A voice vote reflected unanimous approval to elect Commissioner Adams for Chairperson effective July 1, 2008.

Commissioner Adams nominated Commissioner Fitch for Vice-Chairperson of the Airport Commission. Commissioner Rhilinger seconded the nomination; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports for June 2008 were included in the agenda material: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, June Meeting Room Schedule, and Hangar Waiting List.

In response to Chairperson Gates' inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the Noise Abatement System is 100% complete and is able to extract information and generate reports.

Chairperson Gates stated that he would like to see the number of noise violations.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian advised that Paint and Seal Airport Tower is complete and that they will be working with tower staff to upgrade the interior.

7B. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports were included in supplemental material: Events Requiring Emergency Response and Airfield Operations Status.

When Chairperson Gates noted a high incidence of flat tires, Commissioner Dingman stated that Cessna is trying to find out why tires went flat in two of the cases.

In response to Commissioner Dingman's inquiry regarding damage to a parked aircraft on May 28, 2008, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that staff is working with both parties to resolve it.

7C. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – AERONAUTICAL

Chairperson Gates noted that a report from Land Management Team Chair Sunshine dated June 4, 2008 was included in the agenda material.

Chairperson Gates noted the change in Robinson Helicopter's Leasehold and questioned why it did not come before the Airport Commission. He expressed concern that Robinson Helicopter now has half of the Airport and what would happen if they move or go out of business.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that there were time restraints and it was presented to City Council on May 20, 2008.

In response to Commissioner Rhilinger's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that there would not be any more hangers or FBO space.

7.D SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

7D.1 STATE AND FED FUNDING

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that he would arrange a meeting in the near future.

7.D.2 POLICY CHANGE AND GA GROWTH

Previously discussed under Item 6A.

7E.3 MASTER PLAN

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian suggested that the subcommittee be reformed in July 2008 to fill two vacancies.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

8A. Chairperson Gates read Commissioner Rhilinger's letter of resignation effective June 28, 2008 and presented her with a card and gift.

Commissioners and staff congratulated Commissioner Rhilinger on her election to Torrance City Council and Commissioner Rhilinger thanked staff and Commissioners for the enjoyable time she spent on the Commission.

8B. Commissioner Fitch announced that the four newly elected Councilmembers will be installed at the July 1, 2008 City Council meeting, that City Council on May 13, 2008 recognized Louis Zamperini for serving as Celebrity Grand Marshall of the Armed Forces Day parade, and that City Council approved the entry sign design concept and funding for Zamperini Way on May 20, 2008.

8C. Commissioner Fitch requested that staff provide a summary of the lease agreements with Robinson Helicopter as well as copies of an ordinance and resolution regarding the Airport Master Plan.

8D. Commissioner Tymczyszyn discussed an incident involving a family member who planned to take off at night and was informed by a helicopter pilot that a disabled aircraft was half way down the runway. He noted that the crisis was averted but that Operations should be given authority to close or block the runway.

8E. Commissioner Adams expressed appreciation to Commissioner Tymczyszyn and Chairperson Gates for their work on the jet fuel report.

8F. Chairperson Gates received clarification from staff that the Airport Inspection Report has not arrived yet and that IFly still plans to install WiFi.

8G. Chairperson Gates announced the Airport Open House on June 22, 2008 at the East T hangar area.

8H. Michael Wermers, Audrey Avenue, informed Commissioners that the Noise Abatement System was 100% operational.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 10:10 p.m., Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Fitch, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, July 10 at 7:00 p.m., in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted July 10, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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