

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, Fitch, Haddon, Rhilinger, Tymczyszyn, and Chairperson Gates.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, Street Operations Manager Cooper, and Sanitation Services Manager Knapp.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Chairperson Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Fitch, 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 AUGUST 9, 2007**

Commissioner Fitch offered the following correction to the August 9, 2007 meeting minutes: Page 3, paragraph 2, line 5: "...Airport Enterprise Fund, and that City Council had requested...."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tymczyszyn moved for the approval of the August 9, 2007 Airport Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (with Commissioner Rhilinger abstaining).

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

None.

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**7D. REFUSE CONTAINER ENCLOSURE**

This item was considered out of order.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided a brief background on the material of record and welcomed staff from Sanitation Services and Operations Divisions of Public Works.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp reported that the (22) 300-gallon refuse containers located at the end of each hangar have been replaced with (3) 4-cubic-yard dumpsters that are now located in a single area of collection near the east T-hangar restroom facility. He distributed before and after photographs and was happy to report that the dumping of large items has greatly decreased. He added that two pickups a week were currently sufficient, but that service could be adjusted if needed.

He stated that staff was returning to provide details regarding an enclosure for this new collection area at a cost not to exceed \$11,300. He noted that the addition of an enclosure would enhance the appearance and reduce debris obstructions on runways and foreign object debris safety issues. He stated that they wanted to put in a 20' x 20' concrete pad with 6' cinder block walls on three sides consistent with the bathroom construction.

In response to Chairperson Gates' inquiry, Street Operations Manager Cooper provided information about National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Responding to Commissioner Tymczyszyn's inquiry, he described the proposed orientation of the block wall enclosure and refuse containers and provided clarification that the enclosure would be 10' deep by 20' wide.

Commissioner Fitch initiated a brief discussion regarding funding for the project. Staff clarified that refuse removal and daily operations would continue to be paid from the Public Works fund and the building of the enclosure would be paid from the Airport enterprise fund as a capital improvement to the airfield.

In response to her inquiry, Street Operations Manager Cooper advised that the new security system should assist in catching illegal dumping.

Chairperson Gates suggested the installation of a sign informing tenants about the hazardous waste site at the Airport.

Commissioner Dingman commented that it was difficult to dispose of airplane batteries and was informed about a hazardous waste collection site in San Pedro.

Commissioner Tymczyszyn stated that he has received complaints about loss of convenience and contended that an advertised, quarterly large item pick up would have been sufficient to solve the dumping problem.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp responded that extending a large item pickup to the Airport would be difficult to implement and manage. He stated that illegal dumping has now been reduced by 90%, that as convenient a location as possible was selected, and that rubbish issues are being addressed nationally differently than they were in the past. He noted that a little bit of effort would go a long way in improving esthetics at the Airport.

Ed Pierce, Rolling Hills Estates, stated that it was difficult and inconvenient for him to transport his rubbish barrel to the new location and to lift the barrel high enough

over the top of the container to empty it. He added that the lid has fallen on his head twice and expressed concern about liability issues. He maintained that the problem of illegal dumping should be addressed by increased monitoring and that moving the receptacles to a new location was not the solution.

Commissioner Fitch suggested having raised platforms in front of the dumpsters.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp stated that in the past they used heavy steel lids but that these lids are plastic. He cautioned against modifying the ground because there were liability issues with steps and ramps as well. He noted that one of the three containers would be for recyclable items.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian suggested that he and Mr. Pierce explore solutions at a later time and not at this meeting.

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

Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports for September 2007 were included in the agenda material: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, September Meeting Room Schedule, and Hangar Waiting List.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that 10 to 15 temporary tenants from Hawthorne Airport have signed month-to-month tie-down agreements.

Referring to Construction of 2 Executive Hangars in Ongoing Projects, he reported that completion of asphalt grading would require approval of additional funding of \$9,035 from City Council.

In response to Commissioner Dingman's inquiry about the noise monitoring system, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian advised that the system is almost operational and that they are waiting on one last computer upgrade, noting that there would be an open house once the system is up and running.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that several upgrades would be made to the Airport tower including carpet, elevator, and window replacement.

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

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

He noted that operations for August 2007 increased from August 2006.

**7C. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – AERONAUTICAL**

Chairperson Gates noted that a report from Land Management Team Chairperson Sunshine was included in the agenda material.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that the FAA has requested a security fence for a parking area for their employees and would be responsible for its funding.

Commissioner Tymczyszyn commented that it was unnecessary and that he would strongly object if the City were funding it.

**7E. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7E.1 STATE AND FED FUNDING**

Chairperson Gates reported that the committee met two times and plans to meet with consultants hired by the City to discuss sources of grants funds.

**7E.2 POLICY CHANGE AND GA GROWTH**

Commissioner Adams reported that the committee met on September 13, 2007 to identify issues and programs that would be good for growth. He stated that one possibility would be to allow storage and sale of jet fuel at the Airport and requested that the topic be placed on the agenda for the next Commission meeting to discuss if it should be explored.

**7E.3 MASTER PLAN**

Has not met.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**8A.** Commissioner Rhilinger stated that she sent Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian a request for an excused absence for the July 12, 2007 Commission meeting but that it was not received.

**8B.** Chairperson Gates stated that he would be absent from the October 11, 2007 Commission meeting.

**8C.** Chairperson Gates mentioned that he has heard rumors that Lexus planned to store cars in the runway protection zone.

**8D.** Commissioner Fitch gave Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian a copy of sections from the Torrance Municipal Code, Airport Fund, and Airport Noise Limits. She stated that she was not sure what the Commission's duties are and was confused about which items come to the Commission and which go directly to City Council.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian discussed the Commissioner Training Workshop that Airport Commissioners participated in last year. He offered to schedule a meeting in his office with the three new Commissioners to review the role of the Commission and to answer any questions they might have.

**8E.** In response to Commissioner Fitch's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that Deputy Community Development Director Cessna would provide a report about the noise abatement system once the upgrades are complete, and that the delay is due to manpower shortages and technical limitations of the computer system right now to generate reports.

**8F.** Michael Wermers, Audrey Avenue, stated that he doesn't want to see the Airport expand more than it already has and that he does not want to see jet fuel there. He stated that he lives in the flight path and requested that the Commission be cautious and judicial in its discussions regarding jet fuel.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:23 p.m., Commissioner Haddon, seconded by Commissioner Tymczyszyn, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Amended October 11, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
---