

January 13, 2005

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at 7:02 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Browning, Dingman, Dominguez, Donnellan, Pyles, Tymczyszyn and Chairperson Ouwerkerk\*.  
\*Arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, Airport Business Manager Zucker, and Environmental Services Administrator Cessna.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Pyles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 9, 2004**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Browning moved for the approval of the December 9, 2004 Airport Commission minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dominguez and passed by unanimous voice vote, with Commissioner Donnellan abstaining (absent Chairperson Ouwerkerk).

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

None.

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Vice-Chair Tymczyszyn noted that the following reports were included in the agenda material: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status; Ongoing Projects; January Meeting Room Schedule; and Hangar Waiting List.

Responding to questions from the Commission, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian indicated that there are currently no hangar vacancies. He reported that the rehabilitation project, involving the upgrade of 20 hangars, has been completed and staff is very pleased with the results. He explained that the repair project currently underway – consisting of roof coating, exterior paint, and rain gutters for 239 hangars – was scheduled to take approximately 6 months but has been delayed two weeks due to recent rainstorms. With regard to the Airport Security project, he stated that several design firms attended the job walk on January 5 and today was the deadline for the submittal of proposals.

(Chairperson Ouwerkerk joined Commissioners on the dais at this time)

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

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

Referring to the Events Requiring Emergency Response Report, Commissioner Browning questioned whether the Fire Department was dispatched to the incident that occurred on December 2, involving an airplane that reported smoke in the cockpit.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian related his understanding that the Fire Department did respond to that incident, and Commissioner Dominguez suggested that a notation be included in future reports indicating that the Fire Department was dispatched.

Referring to the Airfield Operations Status Report, Commissioner Dingman asked about the method used for gopher control, noting that foxes were killed when poison was used.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian related his understanding that someone has been hired to trap the gophers.

**7C. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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

Commissioner Browning noted that he had spoken with Land Management Chair Sunshine regarding whether Robinson Helicopter will continue to lease the parking area west of their facility and was informed that they have leased the property through the end of this month and will then be deciding whether to continue. He reported on a recent incident where someone deliberately spun his wheels in the lot throwing rocks out onto the tarmac, creating a hazard for aircraft and causing an unnecessary expense for the City because a sweeper had to be brought in for cleanup. He suggested moving the gate so the lot can only be accessed from Robinson's property if they continue to lease it to lessen the chance that this will happen again.

**7E. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Outreach and Education Committee**

No report.

**Disaster Plan Committee**

No report.

**Hangar Rental Agreement Committee**

Chairperson Ouwerkerk reported that the committee is working with staff to schedule a meeting to go over proposed changes to the agreement.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**8A.** Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian thanked Commissioner Dominguez for her service on the Commission; congratulated Commissioner Donnellan on his reappointment for a second term; and noted that Jim Gates has been appointed to the Commission and will begin in February.

**8B.** Commissioner Tymczyszyn, echoed by Commissioner Browning, stated that he enjoyed working with Commissioner Dominguez and looked forward to working with Commissioner Donnellan for four more years.

**8C.** Commissioner Browning noted that he had looked into the Noise Abatement program as requested at the last meeting, however, he would like to defer his report because staff will be bringing something forward on this issue in the near future.

**8D.** Commissioner Dominguez stated that she has learned a lot during her four years on the Commission and enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of her colleagues. She explained that she applied for the Commission shortly after her husband passed away because she had a lot of time on her hands, but she has become involved in her sister's business and is unable to continue serving.

**8E.** Commissioner Donnellan commended Commissioner Dominguez for her service, noting that she will be greatly missed.

**8F.** Commissioner Donnellan related his observation that tenants are still leaving five-gallon drums by the trash cans at the airport.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that fliers have been sent to every tenant on the airfield explaining how to properly dispose of used oil and recyclable containers have been distributed for this purpose, however, some tenants continue to leave oil and other substances in drums by the trash cans. He noted that the Public Works crew makes sure that anything hazardous is properly disposed of and that signs will be posted to try to discourage this practice.

**8G.** Linda Cessna, Environmental Services Administrator, reported that the Noise Abatement equipment is going to be replaced because it is over 20 years old and can no longer be serviced. She explained that two companies have submitted proposals and requested that the Commission form a subcommittee to meet with staff to evaluate the proposals and make a recommendation to be considered by the entire Commission in March or April.

Following a brief discussion, Commissioners Tymczyszyn, Browning and Donnellan were appointed to the Noise Abatement Capital Project Subcommittee.

**8H.** John King, resident, stated that he was pleased to hear that an Airport Commission subcommittee will be involved in the updating of the Noise Abatement Center and expressed the hope that committee members will not just rubber stamp staff's recommendation. He noted that quite a few cities have noise abatement programs that cost substantially less than Torrance's. He stated that noise abatement appears to be a very low priority for the City, as evidenced by the downscaling of the operation and the lack of activity reports, and suggested that the program may be an anachronism that should be abolished. He commented on new housing developments approved, or in the works, near the airport, which would seem to indicate that the City no longer believes airport noise is a problem.

**8I.** Chairperson Ouwerkerk congratulated Commissioner Donnellan on his reappointment.

**8J.** Chairperson Ouwerkerk thanked Commissioner Dominguez for her service, stating that the skills and expertise she brought to the Disaster Plan Committee were especially helpful.

**8K.** Chairperson Ouwerkerk apologized for his late arrival and thanked Ms. Cessna for allowing the Commission an opportunity to participate in the revamping of the Noise Abatement Center.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:42 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved as Written February 10, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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