

May 8, 2014

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Boyce, Donnellan, Hsiao, Jacobsen, Johnson, Orpe, and Chairperson Glass.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, Business Manager Williams, and Deputy Community Development Director Cessna.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Jacobsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2014

Minutes were not available.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Johnson stated that he enjoyed seeing the F22 at the Chino Air Show on May 4, 2014.

John Bailey, Walnut Street, President of Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, circulated the May issue of Aviation International News, calling attention to an article regarding helicopter noise.

7. ACTION ITEMS

None.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8C. WEB TRAK UPDATE

This item was taken out of order.

Deputy Director Cessna introduced the item and welcomed Jamie Lacquiao from Bruel & Kjaer.

Mr. Lacquiao discussed issues surrounding access to radar feed for the WebTrak system. He acknowledged that users of the WebTrak system have noticed there are missing operations. He provided background and discussed changes that the FAA has made in the way Torrance receives radar feed. He explained that Deputy Director Cessna's request to upgrade the WebTrak system was denied because the FAA planned to disconnect the local tracons. He noted that subsequently Torrance is using the original passive radar that it has used since 2007. He added that the FAA will have a secured radar gateway set up and available to Torrance within five years. He stated that access to the FAA radar feed, such as that used in the LAX radar system, would no longer be available after early August 2014.

Commissioner Jacobsen expressed interest in seeing how the LAX system works and Mr. Lacquiao stated that Bruel & Kjaer has access to the passive radar system located in LAX and they would be able to provide test data. In response to his inquiry about the firm's contract obligation, Mr. Lacquiao stated that Bruel & Kjaer provided WebTrak based on the requirements that Torrance requested and that the system has been operational for seven or eight years.

Responding to Chairperson Glass's inquiry, Mr. Lacquiao stated that the FAA is making these changes due to the security of national airspace.

He explained to Commissioner Boyce that delay of radar feed is caused by the FAA's request for filtering and for security and that, if Torrance chooses to use LAX's system, it would see what LAX sees with no additional delay. He explained that LAX will make the determination if the passive radar system meets the needs of its program and, if it does not, they will look for a FAA vendor.

Commissioner Hsiao received clarification that there would be a monetary charge to use LAX's system because it is a third party provider.

Richard Root, Via Buena Ventura, questioned if feed from LAX would be any better than Long Beach and was informed that the LAX system comes from the Los Angeles area antenna and would have enhanced fidelity.

Deputy Director Cessna explained the differences between WebTrak, radar, and the actual data that gets fed into the noise abatement system. She stated that the actual visual presentation of the radar tracks is built off of the information that has been coming into the system since it was originally set up. She added that noise violations are separate from WebTrak, but that WebTrak would be helpful to see early left turn violations.

John Bailey, Walnut Street, inquired about Santa Monica Airport and Mr. Lacquiao stated that they use the FAA vendor because they have the FAA software.

Commissioner Jacobsen directed staff to bring back a demonstration of LAX's passive radar system data as it compares to its existing direct feed and what is coming out of Long Beach.

Mr. Lacquiao stated that LAX currently has two radar feeds and would be able to provide data from the passive radar system.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that she would bring back additional information and cost estimates to the next Commission meeting.

8B. NOISE ABATEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

This item was taken out of order.

Deputy Director Cessna presented the Noise Abatement Quarterly Report for January–March 2014. She called attention to additional items that were added to the Report—Operations Log, Daily Complaint Log, and Complaints by Location. She explained that the location of the noise monitors does not correlate to the zones and that occasionally they receive complaints from outside the zones.

Responding to Commissioner Hsiao’s inquiry regarding the Operations Log, she stated that Noise 2 means that this is a second violation and that Noise 2.9 means that there has been a third violation but not at a level that the violator can be taken to a Noise Hearing Board.

In response to Commissioner Orpe’s inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna indicated that the Municipal Code states that after three findings of guilt within a three year period a pilot and/or aircraft is banned from the Airport.

Commissioner Johnson questioned how transient violators are handled and she explained that it is more difficult than based pilots and may require taking them to court. In response to his inquiry, she estimated that it costs \$200,000 per year for the noise abatement system software and staffing.

Commissioner Jacobsen applauded the new format and data and expressed hope that the Commission would receive it consistently.

Jean Wilkerson questioned why violators are not fined and if structures or trees would help to abate noise.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that the FAA “grandfathered” Torrance when the Airport Noise & Capacity Act passed and making any changes may cause the FAA to disqualify the City from having a noise abatement system. She noted that there are height limitations and clear zones around airports so trees or structures would not be feasible.

Commissioner Donnellan inquired about low flying helicopters and Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that, if it is outside the noise abatement system, those types of complaints are referred to the Flight Standards District Office in Long Beach.

Richard Root stated that the new format is a huge improvement and thanked the Commission for requesting it. He suggested just listing the number of violations under totals on the Daily Complaint Log.

Tom Witherill, helicopter pilot, stated that out of 49 violations on the Quarterly Report, only eight were based in Torrance. He pointed out that the Control Tower often approves helicopter flight patterns that are not allowed by noise abatement procedures. He expressed concern about the cost of the noise abatement system and even more for a WebTrak system that is not necessary for noise abatement enforcement. He recommended making more of an effort to inform pilots about noise abatement procedures.

John Bailey, representing Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition, thanked staff for making the changes on the Report and noted that Coast Guard efforts will be greatly helped by the additional data. He suggested updating the online quarterly Noise Abatement Report.

8A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Glass noted that the following reports for April 2014 were included in agenda materials: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, May Meeting Room Calendar, Hangar Waiting List, Events Requiring Emergency Response for March and April 2014, and Airfield Operations Status for March 2014.

Referring to Report #2, Ongoing Projects, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that the FAA and FCC paperwork is being processed for the Airport Security Project and that work will begin after approvals have been received. He noted that staff is reviewing lighting requirements for the hangar area. He stated that the generator is being replaced in the General Aviation Center for the Alternate Emergency Operations Center.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

9A. Commissioner Jacobsen suggested that Mr. Witherill meet with Deputy Director Cessna to discuss educational outreach to pilots.

9B. Commissioner Donnellan thanked Deputy Director Cessna for the improved report as well as Mr. Witherill for his comments.

9C. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian encouraged everyone to attend the May 17 Armed Forces Day Parade, adding that approximately 25 aircraft would be participating in flyovers.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:47 p.m., Commissioner Hsiao moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, June 12, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Jacobsen seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted June 12, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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