



 Westchester County Airport
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February 25, 2022

Commissioner Hugh J. Greechan, Jr., P. E.
County of Westchester
Department of Public Works & Transportation
148 Martine Avenue, Room 518
White Plains, NY 10601

Dear Commissioner Greechan:

Enclosed please find the minutes of the Airport Advisory Board Meeting held on January 12, 2022.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,


April L. Gasparri
Airport Manager
Westchester County Airport

ALG/vpe

Enclosure

Cc: John Inserra

WESTCHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD
JANUARY 12, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

NICHOLAS HARTMAN	-	CHAIR – PELHAM MANOR
DAVID GELFARB	-	VICE CHAIR – HARRISON
NANCY BARR	-	BOARD OF LEGISLATORS – DISTRICT 6
SAL CRESENZI	-	RYE TOWN
NORMA V. DRUMMOND	-	COMMISSIONER – DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
ROBERT FLEISHER	-	NEW CASTLE
HUGH GREECHAN, JR.	-	COMMISSIONER – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION
WADE HARDY	-	WHITE PLAINS
TRACY LEVY	-	MOUNT PLEASANT
MICHAEL POLLACK	-	NORTH CASTLE

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

PETER SCHLACTUS	-	RYE TOWN
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Airports STAFF:

APRIL L. GASPARRI	-	AIRPORT MANAGER
STEPHEN FERGUSON	-	ASSISTANT AIRPORT MANAGER
JOHN INSERRA	-	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER
JOHN PANARELLO	-	VP–AIRPORT OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
FRANCISCO TEJADA	-	OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR
VICTORIA ESTERS	-	AIRPORT RECEPTIONIST

COUNTY STAFF:

AVIVA MEYER	-	WC EXECUTIVE’S OFFICE
LINDSAY JACKSON	-	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

GENERAL PUBLIC:

RALPH TRAGALE	-	RT - CONNECTS
LARRY HANSBOUCK		

1. Preliminaries

- a. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence (approx. 7:04 pm)
- b. Roll Call conducted by **Mr. Hartman**.
- c. Motion to accept the December 15, 2021 Minutes, pending changes to be circulated by Mr. Fleisher, was made by **Mr. Hartman** and seconded by **Mr. Hardy**. Technical and typo changes will be circulated to Ms. Esters and the Board.

2. New Business

- The Board elected the role of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2022. **Mr. Fleisher** nominated **Mr. Hartman** as role of Chairman; seconded by **Mr. Pollack**. There were no other nominations for role as Chairman. The Board, by raising their hands as acclamation, approved the vote for Chairman. There were no votes in opposition to the nomination of Nicholas Hartman as Chairman for 2022. **Mr. Fleisher** voted a proxy vote on behalf of Peter Schlactus for Mr. Hartman. Mr. Hartman accepted and has enjoyed everything that the Board has done in the past year and looks forward to 2022.
- **Mr. Gelfarb** nominated **Robert Fleisher** as Vice Chairman for 2022; seconded by **Ms. Levy**. There were no other nominations for role as Vice Chairman. The Board, by raising their hands as acclamation, approved the vote for Vice Chairman. There were no votes in opposition to the nomination of Robert Fleisher as Vice Chairman for 2022. **Mr. Fleisher** was empowered to vote Peter Schlactus' proxy as a "yes".
- **Mr. Hartman** congratulated Mr. Fleisher and thanked Mr. Gelfarb for his contributions in 2021. **Legislator Barr** thanked Mr. Hartman for his great job as Chair and thinks it's been helpful to have his experience with the aviation community. **Legislator Barr** congratulated Mr. Fleisher for his involvement and working well with Mr. Hartman on the sub-committee. **Mr. Hartman** also congratulated Legislator Barr on her role on Board of Legislature.

3. Chair's Update and Correspondence

- Discussed Unleaded Aviation gasoline at the December 2021 meeting and mentioned about trying to find experts to speak on that subject to the Board. There are two major companies in that space that are doing research and development and cell fuels, i.e., Swift Fuels and GAMI. Further conversations on that subject will follow at a future Board meeting.
- There was an article in the newspaper related to the airport and noise complaints that the Chairman was quoted from a correspondence standpoint.
- A reporter reached out to the Chairman and was directed back to the Airport Noise office. There's been correspondence regarding Mr. Tedaldi's calls. Avports placed a portable noise monitor at his Bedford, NY residence to collect additional data.

- Efforts were made to look into the specific traffic referenced at a broad level relating more to LaGuardia than Westchester County Airport, but conversations are ongoing and Mr. Tedaldi was pointed in the right direction to get additional information.
- **Mr. Pollack** observed the planes with Mr. Tedaldi and logged on to flight radar 24. Planes flying overhead seemed to be from other airports, perhaps LaGuardia or Teterboro. The Board was asked if there is a way to confirm or deny Mr. Tedaldi's suggestion that the flight patterns to LaGuardia have changed over the past 30 years?
- **Mr. Inserra** informed the Board that the airport's radar data covers that part of the County, so comparing before and after pictures between previous periods, the airport can see if it has changed.
- **Mr. Fleisher** – Looking back over time, LaGuardia flights coming down across our area do take that track over the location; sometimes directly over the airport which is higher than us. They are less predictable to watch than some of our flight patterns are.
- **Per Mr. Hartman**, Mr. Pollack mentioned that when looking at the flights, they were more in the 3,000 to 4,000-foot range than the 2,000-foot range than Westchester traffic would be at.
- **Mr. Fleisher** – Even at 1,000 feet away has a remarkable difference/experience on the ground.

4. Public Comments

- **Mr. Hansbouck** questioned why the Board is concerned with traffic outside Westchester's airspace. **Mr. Hartman** responded that the Board is trying to determine if that is actually what's happening.
- **Mr. Hansbouck** – All will be interested in a solution for 100-octane low lead. He's not sure Westchester should be leading the charge on that; should probably be a Federal issue.
- **Mr. Fleisher** – Read that the EPA may undertake a review of the matter and promised action by 2023.
- **Mr. Hansbouck** – A substitution for 100-octane low lead has been researched for 20 years with no movement and lots of aircraft require that fuel.

- **Mr. Fleisher** – Even if an issue is outside of the Board’s mandate, they should help a Westchester resident resolve an issue when there is expertise to help.
- **Commissioner Greechan** – It’s good to know where the noise is coming from for the general public. This is dense airspace with a lot going on and decisions to be made on routing in bad weather. Planes are all over the airspace from different airports.
- **Mr. Hartman** – Subsequent information has indicated it does not have to do with Westchester.
- **Mr. Hansbouck** – These are not tracks/approaches; so dissimilar to approaches into Westchester which would be on a defined track all at 162 or 163 versus 343. They are vector approaches to LaGuardia and are wind dependent.

5. County Reports:

a. Airport Manager’s Report (*April L. Gasparri – Avports*):

- **Mr. Panarello** – Introduced the new Airport Manager to the Board. He congratulated Peter Scherrer who has given 40 years of his life to Westchester County Airport. Mr. Scherrer transitioned to the corporate side as Vice President of Airport Management Services mostly in the northeast. Mr. Panarello met **April Gasparri** when at Port of Authority. Ms. Gasparri is a graduate of West Point and a helicopter pilot. She spent over a decade and a half with Port Authority in northeast region, JFK, LaGuardia and Pittsburgh International. Ms. Gasparri has skills and experience in operations, maintenance, strategy, policy, implementation and is no stranger to noise abatement.
- **Ms. Gasparri** reported:
 - Enplane passengers for 2021 is 80% of the airport’s 2019 pre-COVID levels. The airport saw a lot of leisure traffic up last year that went well beyond summer season.
 - Holiday traffic was another peak highlight of the year.
 - On the 1st Sunday evening in 2022, one FBO saw 50 aircraft arrive/depart. It was team effort across Airport Operations and stakeholders to make that aircraft movement and passenger throughput safely.

- Week of January 3, the airport had an ice storm and snow event that totaled seven (7) inches total on January 7. The Primary runway was kept open and no unplanned airline delays. There were a couple of pre-empted airline delays and slight delays in the morning due to longer deicing times.
 - **Mr. Hartman** – Were there any impacts at the airport from the Omicron surge?
Ms. Gasparri – The Airport has excellent preventive measures in place and business continuity is solid and able to support the operations.
 - **Mr. Pollack** – Did Avports or staff on the ground suffer similarly as the airlines by calling out sick?
Ms. Gasparri – With the flu and Omicron a nationwide issue, the airport does have some infectious cases, but nothing that has prohibited the operations.
 - **Mr. Fleisher** – Did the FAA Control Tower have staffing issues due to COVID?
Ms. Gasparri – The Tower has Contingency Plans in place for any situation where operations are impacted. Called “ATC Zero”, the FAA Air Traffic Control Tower ensures safe air operations.
- b. Airport Activity and Noise Monitoring Report (*John Inserra – Avports*):**
(The detailed PowerPoint presentation is attached and available on-line)
- The official airline numbers and total operations for December are unavailable because it is too early in the month to ascertain.
 - Voluntary Restraint from Flying (VRFF)
188 operations were conducted during the month of December; averages out to 6.1/night up from 3.2 operations from December 2020.
 - Estimated medical mercy flights is about 11; at 6% of the total VRFF movements.
 - VRFF Occurrences by Time – December
 - 32 operations during 1st ½ hour block of VRFF; averages out to 1.0 operation per night and 72% of total operations.
 - 98 operations during middle 5 ½ hours of VRFF; averages out to 3.2 operations per night and 52% of total operations.
 - 58 operations during final ½ period; averages out to 1.9 operations per night.

- General Aviation VRRF Night Operations
After removing 44 commercial operations for December, General Aviation accounted for 144 operations.
 - Reports for 2019 through 2021 are available on the General Aviation operators and who the main operators are during VRRF of the private operators.
- c. **Commissioner's Report (Hugh J. Greechan, Jr., P.E. – DPW&T):**
- Status Sheets for the Airport Projects – Construction and Design are provided at the Board meeting and have been included with the Minutes.
 - Modifications of Basins A & B – will get the last phase in spring of 2022.
 - Domestic Water Line – project is part of a DEC Order of Consent.
 - Re-purposing of Hangar C-1 – Savin Engineering is working with Avports to best utilize the building.
 - Rehabilitation of Taxiway “L” – will be completed in spring of 2022 and it's a pavement restoration.
 - **Mr. Fleisher** – when will there be a final number for plus/minus on the budget and the impact of that on the special revenue funding balance?
Commissioner Greechan – Current figure was unavailable; County's Budget department would provide that balance. The potential projects the funding will be used for is still unknown.

Mr. Fleisher – The sub-Working Group may meet on Alternative Approach Proposals in late January or early February.

Mr. Hartman – There will be no public hearings on the Master Plan in the immediate future.

Commissioner Drummond – The Master Plan is important to the County Executive, and he wants appropriate public comment.

Mr. Hartman – For the year ahead, the Board was asked to think about what sorts of topics they could look at. What are they hearing from the communities? He'd like for the Board to experience a grand tour of the airport and visit the tower. He will e-mail a ride-along video of a snow event to the Board.

Mr. Pollack – Why did the runway report focus on 16/34 and no data on 11/29?

Mr. Inserra – 16/34 is primary flight path from north & south and where a vast majority of complaints are from. A report showing all runway landings will be provided at next meeting.

- 6. Adjournment** (8:09 pm) – The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2022, unless otherwise specified.