

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
AIRPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Meeting of October 14, 2014**

**EAA Chapter 14, Brown Field, 1409 Continental Street, San Diego, CA 92154**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jackie Ander (Serra Mesa Community), Chairman Buzz Fink (Special Expertise), Buzz Gibbs (Kearny Mesa Community), Lisa Golden (Otay Mesa Community), Scott Hasson (Tierrasanta Community), Bob Hitchcock (Brown Field Aviation User Group), Vice-Chair Chuck McGill (Montgomery Field Aviation User Group), Tom Ricotta (Brown Field Aviation Lessee)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** J. H. Aldrich (Montgomery Field Aviation Lessee) *excused*, Jim Demeaux (Clairemont Community), Rich Martindell (Special Expertise), David Ryan (Special Expertise) *excused*

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Mark Albert, Dennis Cullum, Pete Grootendorst, Bob Osborn, Larry Rothrock, R. Ryan

**STAFF PRESENT:** Wayne Reiter, Mike Tussey

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fink called the meeting to order at 3:12 P.M. A quorum was present. Dr. Aldrich and Mr. Ryan were unable to attend, and Mr. Martindell mistakenly went to Montgomery Field.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 2, 2014 regular meeting were approved unanimously, as written.

**3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

EAA Chapter 14 President Larry Rothrock requested an explanation for the slow response time of the Fire Department to the Brown Field hangar fire.

**4. RECOGNITION** – *Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey*

Mr. Tussey recognized Ray Richmond, Greg Scott, Mike Borja, Paul Mehrlich, Matt Schmitzer and others for their actions to preserve life and property during the unusual storm event that occurred at Montgomery Field, causing damage to aircraft and structures. Mr. Gibbs shared his observations of the event.

Ms. Golden asked about the extent of the damage. Mr. Gibbs reported four aircraft totaled and two damaged, along with some other damage. Mr. Tussey reported 12 aircraft damaged or destroyed (observed), along with significant damage to the Casa Machado roof and several trees. Chairman Fink commented on the aircraft at the transient ramp that ended up on top of two cars in the parking lot.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**Indemnification of AAC Members**

Mr. Tussey reported the opinion is currently circulating within the City Attorney's office and should be complete before the next meeting.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **December Luncheon Attendance**

Members of the Committee reported if they will be attending the luncheon, and if they will be bringing a guest.

## **7. STAFF & DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tussey thanked the EAA for hosting today's meeting.

Mr. Rothrock invited members and guests to an Oktoberfest event at EAA on October 18, then gave a description of EAA Chapter 14. The chapter is 57 years old and caters to the "little guy," with a focus on homebuilt aircraft. There are 25 planes on-site and the organization hosts four official events each month: a fly-in with lunch on the first Saturday, Young Eagles on the second Saturday, a chapter meeting with guest speaker on the third Saturday, and a fly-in social on the fourth Saturday. Mr. Rothrock introduced the chapter's Young Eagles coordinator, Mark Albert.

Mr. Albert described the chapter and national Young Eagles program. To summarize:

- National EAA Young Eagles purpose is to promote aviation to America's youth.
- The program began in the 1990's and has flown over 1.8 million Young Eagles.
- A Young Eagle is a child between 8 – 17 years old.
- 7% of the total pilot population are Young Eagles pilots.
- Chapter 14 hosts Young Eagles the second Saturday of each month.
- 300 Young Eagles flights have been flown by the chapter in 2014.
- One Young Eagle child recently flew with Sean Tucker, a world-renown air show pilot.
- The chapter has an area known as the Eagle's Nest, where there are flight simulators and safety presentations given prior to the flights.
- Next month, the chapter is hosting the science club from La Jolla High School.
- The program is a volunteer effort on the part of the chapter and pilots, and is no cost to the children. Lunch is also provided to the children at no cost.
- Mr. Albert submitted a request for more Young Eagles pilots.

Mr. Hitchcock commented each child flown gets a logbook signed by the pilot, and that each flight is recorded in a master log kept in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Mr. Albert added the logbooks are part of the child's engagement in aviation education, and the children are encouraged to log any aviation related activities they participate in.

Mr. Rothrock concluded by stating the future of aviation begins at EAA, and thanked everyone for attending.

### **SDM General Update**

Airport Noise Abatement Officer Wayne Reiter gave the report for Airport Manager Andy Schwartz, who was at a training class.

- The cause of the hangar fire was considered accidental, as the occupant was performing metal grinding, which apparently ignited rags and chemicals.
- The control tower reported a problem with the lights on Runway 26R, which caused them to pulsate at step 1. Select Electric is troubleshooting the problem.

- On October 6, a Duchess had a gear problem while landing on Runway 26R, causing it to depart the runway surface and damaging the left main gear, propeller and fuel strainer. There was also a small fuel spill.
- Last week, Cal Fire parked a C-130 and BAE-146 at SDM, due to the grounding of all aircraft as a result of the crash near Yosemite.
- Powerland is currently mowing the airport.

Mr. Hitchcock asked for an update on the response time to the hangar fire by the Fire Department. Mr. Reiter had no update, other than to state Fire Station 43 is not a dedicated airport fire station, and may not be the first responder to airport incidents.

Mr. Tussey commented Fire Station 43's area of responsibility is all of Otay Mesa, and that they are rarely at the station, except to sleep.

Mr. Rothrock asked why the airport no longer operates vehicles with fire fighting capabilities, or if any of the airport vehicles have, at a minimum, fire extinguishers and bolt cutters. Mr. Tussey replied airport staff is precluded from performing fire fighting, due to a determination from Risk Management. Mr. Rothrock followed up by asking who would be liable if EAA provided basic rescue services. Chairman Fink replied EAA would be liable, although Mr. Ricotta added an individual cannot be held liable for attempting to save a life.

Ms. Golden asked Mr. Tussey if the airport vehicles are equipped with basic rescue items, such as fire extinguishers and bolt cutters. Mr. Tussey replied the vehicles are equipped with fire extinguishers and first aid kits, then shared his experience with various past situations and scenarios.

Chairman Fink asked if airport staff has an emergency action plan. Mr. Tussey replied yes.

Ms. Golden asked how long it took for the Fire Department to respond to the hangar fire. Mr. Ricotta replied it was eight minutes, but the crash rig from Station 43 was the last to arrive. Mr. Ricotta continued that according to Assistant Fire Chief Fennessy, the response time was due to understaffing at the Fire Department.

After a somewhat contentious discussion, Chairman Fink suggested tabling the conversation and inviting a representative from the Fire Department to answer questions at a future meeting.

#### MYF/SDM Property Issues

Mr. Tussey gave the report for Supervising Property Agent Brandi Mulvey, who was at a training class. The airport intends to move forward with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for three locations at Montgomery Field: Spiders, National Air College and Coast Aircraft. An RFP for Gibbs would follow at a later time.

Vice-Chair McGill asked for an update on the Crownair negotiations. Mr. Tussey replied the matter needs to go to Council committee and full Council, with an expected completion in January.

Mr. Hasson wanted to confirm that Mr. Gibbs is leaving on his own accord. Mr. Gibbs confirmed; he requested that the City move forward with an RFP. The Gibbs lease expired 10 years ago and is currently on month-to-month.

Noise and Special Projects – Airport Noise Abatement Officer Wayne Reiter

The Quarterly Noise Report for July – September is complete. As predicted, noise complaints rose during the reporting period, with one resident in La Jolla accounting for 53, mostly for low flying aircraft. Generally, there have been more complaints from the communities surrounding Mt. Soledad as a result of it being a prominent landmark and reporting point for aircraft. Vice-Chair McGill concurred that pilots appear to be flying low in the vicinity of Mt. Soledad.

Management Update – Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey

- New Real Estate Assets Department (READ) Director is Cybele Thompson. She has 25 years of experience in commercial real estate and numerous credentials.
- There are currently six vacancies in the Airports Division:
  - Deputy Director advertisement began last Friday and will close November 14<sup>th</sup>. Screening will take one month, with the first interview expected to be January 7<sup>th</sup> and the second interview on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Start date expected to be February 2<sup>nd</sup> for internal hire and March 2<sup>nd</sup> for external hire.
  - Program Manager advertisement began yesterday and will close November 1<sup>st</sup>. The position will act as FAA liaison and project manager. Expected start dates the same as deputy director.
  - Property Agent will be in addition to Supervising Property Agent Brandi Mulvey. Start date expected to be March 2015.
  - Senior Airport Operations Assistant currently being advertised. Expected start in February or March 2015.
  - Airport Operations Assistant interviews scheduled for tomorrow. Expected start in November or December. The vacancy is at Brown Field.
  - Senior Clerk Typist expected to start prior to Thanksgiving.

Chairman Fink stated he met with Jaymie Bradford, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Faulconer, to request the Committee's participation in the hiring process for deputy director. Updates are forthcoming.

Capital Improvement/Consultant Project Update – Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey

- MYF Rwy 5-23, Twy G: Expected start in November. Bid opening took place in September, still working on selecting a qualified low bidder. Based on the bids received, there should be enough grant money (\$5.6 million) to cover the project and change orders.
- SDM Rwy 8L-26R Construction Phase I: Grant delayed until next year due to CEQA. Expected start November 2015.

- ADA Project for SDM and MYF: Expected start in November. Project will make enhancements to restrooms and access to parking lots to conform with ADA requirements.

Mr. Hitchcock asked for a timeframe for obtaining FAA grants. Mr. Tussey replied the airport submits an Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) to the FAA by the end of December. The FAA inputs the ACIP data into their system, where 75 airports in the region compete for funding, based on a points system, with primary runways receiving the highest points. At the end of the FAA fiscal year (September 30), grants are awarded. Awards are contingent on applications and environmental clearance, normally a categorical exclusion (CATEX). Once a grant is awarded, City processing can take eight months to clear.

Mr. Hitchcock asked if the FAA is the only source of grant funding. Mr. Tussey replied over the last 15 years, the FAA has been the only source, as funding from the state is not reliable.

Mr. Hitchcock asked if the City is exempt from ADA requirements. Mr. Tussey replied no, the City is not exempt and can be held liable, as demonstrated with the Casa Machado at Montgomery Field.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be on November 18 at Montgomery Field. This is the third Tuesday, due to the Veterans' Day holiday on the second Tuesday.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully,

Wayne J. Reiter