

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

**Meeting of February 11, 2014**

**Montgomery Field Terminal, 3750 John J. Montgomery Drive, San Diego, CA 92123**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. H. Aldrich (Montgomery Field Aviation Lessee), Jackie Ander (Serra Mesa Community), Chairman Buzz Fink (Special Expertise), Buzz Gibbs (Kearny Mesa Community), Lisa Golden (Otay Mesa Community), Bob Hitchcock (Brown Field Aviation User Group), Rich Martindell (Special Expertise), Vice-Chair Chuck McGill (Montgomery Field Aviation User Group)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Dray (Montgomery Field Tower) *excused*, Scott Hasson (Tierrasanta Community) *excused*, David Ryan (Brown Field Aviation Lessee) *excused*

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Nici Boon, Keith Hartz, Ray Richmond, Tom Ricotta

**STAFF PRESENT:** Grace Chao, Ernie Gesell, Wayne Reiter, Mike Tussey

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fink called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

Election of Chairperson

Due to the confusion associated with the chairperson election at the last meeting, the Committee conducted a re-vote for the position. Mr. Martindell nominated Buzz Fink. Mr. Fink stated he would accept the nomination, unless someone else wishes to do it, in which case he would reject the nomination. Mr. Gibbs seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations. Mr. Fink won the vote unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 14, 2014 regular meeting were approved unanimously, with a correction on page 3 clarifying the ordinance does *not* specify which airports it applies to.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Chairman Fink conveyed that Dave Ryan and EAA Chapter 14 President Larry Rothrock were unable to attend the meeting, due to prior engagements.

**5. MORE NEW BUSINESS**

By-Laws – Amendment to allow for closed ballots during election of Chair and Vice-Chair. The Committee discussed how a secret ballot would be implemented and was agreeable to drafting the measure.

By-Laws - Jurisdiction

The Committee discussed the practice of expressing its position to government agencies outside the City of San Diego, referencing the recent letter sent to the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors. Presently, the purpose of the Committee is to advise the City of San Diego.

Dr. Aldrich believes the Committee should be able to advise and express its opinion to anyone. Ms. Ander added correspondence should at least copy the City.

Mr. Gibbs commented the planning groups are sponsored by the City, but AAC members are appointed by the mayor, who may wish to limit the jurisdiction of the AAC.

Chairman Fink cautioned that the expansion of AAC jurisdiction could result in the requirement of members to submit financial disclosures.

Vice-Chair McGill asked who brought this issue up. Mr. Tussey replied Deb Bevier from the City Attorney's office reviewed the By-Laws and the action taken by the Committee, and averred that a letter written on AAC letterhead implied that the position stated in such a document was that of the Council and Mayor, as well as their advisors, the AAC.

Dr. Aldrich felt the action taken was appropriate, since the proposed County ordinance could affect Montgomery Field. Chairman Fink agreed that the ordinance could affect City airports, but questioned who the letter should have been sent to. Mr. Gibbs suggested sending a generic letter, not on AAC letterhead, with the members signing the letter. Chairman Fink continued that was one option, the other was to send a letter to the City requesting the City to inform the County of its position.

Chairman Fink stated he would draft an amendment to the By-Laws, if the Committee agreed to it. Vice-Chair McGill saw no reason for it. Chairman Fink offered to draft an amendment and the Committee could make a decision at the next meeting, a step most members appeared to agree to.

Ms. Golden asked if AAC members would be reappointed every time a new mayor takes office. Mr. Gibbs replied each member serves a term. At the end of the term, the mayor may choose not to reinstate the member.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Martindell reported on the County Board of Supervisor's unanimous vote to approve the flight training ordinance discussed last month. He felt their minds were made up prior to the vote and the action was done to appease a vocal minority of constituents. There will be a final vote next week, and the County will revisit the topic in one year.

Chairman Fink obtained a definition of the term "County airports", found in the subject ordinance, from Mr. Tussey. The airports are defined as: Borrego Valley, Agua Caliente, Fallbrook, Gillespie, Jacumba, Ocotillo, Palomar and Ramona.

Mr. Martindell still questioned the definition of "based at County airports," as it relates to independent flight instructors, as it was not addressed at the meeting. He continued by stating there is no way to enforce the ordinance, and that compliance seems to be based on the honor system while completing a two-question questionnaire.

Mr. Gibbs' long-term concern is the increased control of independent flight instructors though the issuance of permits. Ms. Golden added airports might be tempted at the potential for generating revenue from issuing said permits.

Mr. Martindell mentioned there was a similar ordinance in New York that was struck down, as it encroached on federal jurisdiction. AOPA intends to send general counsel to the meeting next week.

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

### MYF General Update – *MYF Airport Manager Ernie Gesell*

Mr. Gesell sent an email to Brian Fennessy of the Fire Department, Roy Cox of Mercy Air, and Bob Gassmann of the Police Department regarding the operation of the vehicle gates in the event of a power loss. He provided instructions on how to open the gates manually, and asked for the information to be distributed appropriately.

### MYF Tower Update – *MYF Tower Manager Tom Dray*

Mr. Dray could not attend the meeting, but Mr. Gesell indicated he spoke to Mr. Dray, and there was nothing new to report.

### Noise and Special Projects – *Airport Noise Abatement Officer Wayne Reiter*

None

### SDM General Update – *SDM Acting Airport Manager Wayne Reiter*

- Assessing the needs of the airport.
- The ASOS computer is scheduled to be connected in the control tower next week. Once activated, weather information will be broadcast over a radio frequency (*yet to be announced*) when the tower is closed.
- There was a meeting last month with the design consultant, HNTB, to discuss options for the Runway 8L-26R Rehabilitation project. The likely option for this phase, which encompasses the eastern 2,000 feet of the runway, will be a combination of asphalt and concrete replacing the existing pavement. A meeting is scheduled with staff, HNTB and the FAA LAX Airports District Office this Thursday to discuss the project.
- Brown Field staff is working hard to maintain the airport, despite being understaffed.

### MYF/SDM Property – *Supervising Property Agent Brandi Mulvey*

Ms. Mulvey was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Ander asked about the status of the hookah lounge at the entrance to Montgomery Field next to the pilot shop. Mr. Tussey replied that the use is not supported by the Division, nonetheless, it is allowed per the terms of the master lease, contingent on obtaining permits from the police. The public may forward questions and comments regarding the permit to the police. Mr. Gibbs added a recent article commented about the apparent lack of regulations for hookah activities.

Mr. Ricotta asked about the status of the old carpet building at Brown Field. Mr. Tussey replied Ms. Mulvey is processing the tenant documents.

Personnel Announcement – *Airports Deputy Director Mike Tussey*

- Mr. Gesell received a service pin recognizing 15-years of service with the City of San Diego.
- Chris Cooper resigned after 11 years of service to the City, effective January 31.
  
- Mr. Reiter replaces Mr. Cooper as the Acting Airport Manager for Brown Field.

Airports Advisory Committee Vacancies – *Chairman Buzz Fink*

Tiffany Vinson from Councilmember Kersey's office is processing the information, and anticipates six weeks before the item is sent to Council for a vote. Mr. Tussey concurred with the timeframe.

Mr. Hitchcock asked who the nominees were. Mr. Tussey replied nominees include Ms. Golden and Ms. Ander for re-appointment, Dave Ryan for a switch to Special Expertise, Joe Russo and Tom Ricotta for Brown Field, and four candidates from Clairemont. Other applications may have been sent directly to the Mayor's office without the knowledge of Airports.

- Mr. Hitchcock asked for a definition of the special expertise position. Mr. Tussey replied that definition is best described in the By-Laws and Council Resolution. (*Director's Post-Meeting Note: The Report to Council that re-established the AAC in 2011 defines an AAC nominee with Special Expertise as one who: "... possessed a special expertise, related to aviation and useful to the AAC."*)

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

- MYF Access Control: Searching for a resolution to the remote intercoms.
  
- MYF Rwy 5-23: To Council in March for contract amendment, with construction following six months later.
  
- SDM Rwy 8L-26R Design: Estimated bid opening in May, with construction beginning in October, following the Burrowing Owl nesting season. \$2.8 million FAA grant with City match of \$1.3 million. First phase will encompass the eastern 2,000 feet of the runway.
  
- ADA Project for SDM and MYF: \$1.2 million worth of CIP upgrades to MYF and SDM terminals, restrooms and parking lots. Moving toward 100% design. Expected to be presented to Council in 6 – 7 months.
  
- In discussions with Customs/Border Patrol to make improvements to the Brown Field office to bring it up to current federal standards.

Mr. Hitchcock asked for clarification on which airport the access control project was taking place. Mr. Tussey replied it is at Montgomery Field.

Mr. Gibbs commented on the remote intercom dilemma related to the access control project. His two gates are already set up to install a direct line via previously-installed conduits; thus, there is no need for a wireless option.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Ander announced a concert at the Serra Mesa Library this Sunday, February 16th at 2:00 P.M. It will be a classical trio with a violin, piano and bass.

Chairman Fink announced a Valentine's Day special at his Otay skydive center.

The next meeting will be on March 11 at the Montgomery Field Terminal.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne J. Reiter