

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

**Meeting of May 13, 2014**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. H. Aldrich (Montgomery Field Aviation Lessee), Tom Dray (Montgomery Field Tower), Chairman Buzz Fink (Special Expertise), Lisa Golden (Otay Mesa Community), Scott Hasson (Tierrasanta Community), Bob Hitchcock (Brown Field Aviation User Group), Rich Martindell (Special Expertise), Vice-Chair Chuck McGill (Montgomery Field Aviation User Group), Tom Ricotta (Brown Field Aviation Lessee)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jackie Ander (Serra Mesa Community) *excused*, Buzz Gibbs (Kearny Mesa Community) *excused*, David Ryan (Special Expertise) *excused*

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Nici Boon, Bob Golo, Keith Hartz, Ray Richmond, Larry Rothrock, Gustave Schwartz

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – *Chairman Fink*

Chairman Fink called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M. A quorum was present. Chairman Fink announced Ms. Ander, Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Ryan were unable to attend the meeting today.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 8, 2014 regular meeting were approved unanimously, as written. Mr. Hasson abstained, due to his absence at that meeting.

**3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Dr. Aldrich expressed concern over an incident that occurred on Saturday, when the fire department was unable to enter the vehicle gate while responding to an aircraft emergency. He gave his access code to the responders to allow entrance through the gate, and wanted to know if he would be disciplined for doing so. MYF Airport Manager Ernie Gesell responded he gave the fire department the gate access information for them to distribute internally. In addition, each vehicle gate has a Knox box for emergency responders to use. It is unknown why they were unable to open the gate. Mr. Gesell indicated Dr. Aldrich would not be disciplined for giving his access code to the responders.

Vice-Chair McGill commented on the aircraft emergency that occurred last Friday, when a Cessna Cardinal experienced gear problems. He heard the pilot initially wanted to land at Gillespie Field, but ATC suggested Montgomery Field, due to superior emergency response services. MYF Tower Manager Tom Dray replied the pilot checked in on MYF's frequency while flying near Gillespie Field to announce a gear problem. Prior to that, it is unknown what the pilot's intentions were. Mr. Tussey and Mr. Gesell added the plane was a club aircraft based at Gibbs. Mr. Tussey further added we will follow-up with the fire department to ensure they have access through the vehicle gates.

Mr. Tussey commented on the aircraft incident from Friday, which involved the Cessna Cardinal, and complimented ATC.

EAA Chapter 14 President Larry Rothrock asked why the security gates were open at Brown Field today. Acting SDM Airport Manager Wayne Reiter replied there was a power outage today, which affected the airport and portions of Otay Mesa. Operations staff opened the gates to allow access during the outage. One of the gates is broken and is locked in the open position; staff is working to get the gate repaired.

Mr. Hasson stated the vehicle gates at Montgomery Field are making noises, suggesting they need maintenance. Mr. Gesell replied staff called South Bay Fence to schedule the preventative maintenance.

Chairman Fink commented on the secret ballot amendment to the AAC bylaws, which was adopted by the Committee at the March meeting. The amendment was questioned by a MYF tenant, who formally requested a legal opinion from the City Attorney. The City Attorney determined the AAC is required to comply with the Brown Act; therefore, the secret ballot amendment is not appropriate for the AAC. The item will be placed on the June agenda to have the amendment rescinded. In addition, Chairman Fink asked Mr. Tussey to set up a briefing at a future meeting to brief the Committee on the Brown Act requirements and responsibilities.

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

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

- Airport Operations Assistant Michael McKelvey's last day was last Friday. He has been replaced by Paul Mehrlich, who transferred from Brown Field Operations.
- Coast Flight Academy reported deteriorating pavement on the west side of Crownair's ramp. Staff contacted G. Scott Asphalt to schedule a time/date to repair the pavement, which will likely occur in June.

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

Regarding the tower refurbishment project, the administration staff is back in the tower and ATC equipment is being re-installed in the tower cab. ATC operations are expected to be transferred to the tower effective June 25.

##### Noise, Special Projects, SDM General Update – Airport Noise Abatement Officer Wayne Reiter

- As previously mentioned, staff is working to get the vehicle gates at Brown Field repaired.
- The ASOS relocation project is complete. It is now transmitting weather information over the ATIS frequency when the tower is closed.
- Hangar inspections at First Flight were completed, bringing the total number of hangars inspected to 109.
- Pothole repairs were made to Curran Street.

Mr. Hitchcock expressed his endorsement of a request made by EAA to place the pavement test strip in the field east of the EAA's leasehold. The test strip will be a part of the Runway 26R Rehabilitation Project scheduled for later this year, and is currently located on the tower/EAA access road. Mr. Hitchcock contends that since this area will be demolished as part of the Brown Field development, a better, more useful location would be the one proposed by EAA, and the City should seriously consider the request.

Chairman Fink commented on an incident that occurred last week near Brown Field, where a Navy helicopter flew through an active drop zone. He thanked the staff at Brown Tower for immediately addressing the incident.

MYF/SDM Property – Supervising Property Agent Brandi Mulvey

Ms. Mulvey had no new updates.

Chairman Fink asked about the status of the old carpet building at Brown Field. Ms. Mulvey replied she will be following up with the prospective tenant today.

Dr. Aldrich asked for a time estimate to relocate helicopter operations to the west side of Montgomery Field. Ms. Mulvey replied that an environmental overlay must first be corrected by another City department before Airport can begin the RFP process.

Brown Field Development Update – DPC/Metro Airpark Project Manager Nici Boon

A mediation session occurred on April 17, with no settlement reached. An offer was made to the petitioners, who made a counter-offer. The mediation will not continue, with the next step being litigation. A hearing has been set for October 3. Nevertheless, the project is moving forward with the permitting process, which began yesterday. This stage of the project needs to be complete by December 2, 2015.

Ms. Golden asked for the details of the offers and counter-offers. Ms. Boon replied she is unable to share that information at this time.

Mr. Hasson asked if the 19-month timeline to break ground is typical for this size of project. Ms. Boon replied it is aggressive given the amount of permits required, and the amount of agencies involved; however, the project is being expedited, as it is eligible for two express programs. Failure to adhere to the express program by the City may result in financial consequences to the City.

Chairman Fink asked if there will be multiple hearings, or just the one hearing in October. Ms. Boon replied that the matter will be adjudicated with one trial, which could require more than one session.

Ms. Golden asked if the City is a co-defendant, and what DPC stands for. Ms. Boon responded that the City was not a defendant, and DPC stands for Distinctive Projects Company.

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

- MYF Access Control: Nearing completion. Gates 4, 5 and 7 complete.
- MYF Rwy 5-23, Twy G: Existing grant for \$2.67 million; additional \$2.1 million grant,

awaiting completion of an ALP update. Expected start in October, due to burrowing owl.

- SDM Rwy 8L-26R Construction Phase I: Expected start in October, also due to burrowing owl.
- ADA Project for SDM and MYF: Still awaiting City asbestos report.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-Chair McGill announced evacuations have been issued in the Rancho Penasquitos/4S Ranch area due to a large brush fire.

Ms. Mulvey announced Conquest Charter will vacate their office in the MYF terminal by the end of the month.

Dr. Aldrich asked for an introduction of Airport Operations Assistant Paul Mehrlich. Mr. Tussey and Mr. Mehrlich obliged.

Bob Golo asked where Mr. McKelvey went to. Mr. Tussey replied Fresno Air Terminal.

Mr. Tussey announced his retirement from the City of San Diego after 28 years of service, effective June 26, and thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Hitchcock asked about Mr. Tussey's replacement. Mr. Tussey replied it is unknown who his replacement will be, but he has recommended Mr. Reiter as the Acting Deputy Director and also as his replacement, were he to be asked. Mr. Tussey added there will be a Program Manager position created to fulfill tasks previously completed by an engineer, such as grant administration, maintenance projects, as well as continuing to manage the noise program. Should Mr. Reiter not be selected as the permanent Deputy Director, he would move into the program manager position, who will report to the Deputy Director. Mr. Tussey offered to provide his services as a provisional employee, should City management be interested.

Mr. Hasson asked for a timeline on filling the READ Director position and if Airports will remain under Real Estate Assets. Mr. Tussey replied Airports will remain under READ, and the Director position was advertised nationally, but is now closed. It is unknown when the position will be filled.

Mr. Hitchcock asked who is responsible for obtaining FAA grants. Mr. Tussey replied he is, but he had assistance from a former airport engineer. The program manager will be performing that function from now on, although the Deputy Director maintains ultimate responsibility.

The next meeting will be on June 10 at the Montgomery Field Terminal.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne J. Reiter