

## **VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)**

**Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, August 1, 2023**

Van Nuys City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, CA 91401

### **CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Jason Price. Ten Committee Members were present: Vice-Chair Wayne Williams, Parliamentarian Bob Rodine, Eliot Cohen, Kathy Delle Donne, Leonel Fuentes, Marykate Harris, Tom Materna, Heren Molina, John Parker and Lisa Petrus. Quorum is eight. Absent: Sharon Bronson, Araz Parseghian, Eric Robinson and Wendy Saunders. Approximately 20 guests attended, including LAWA Staff.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. Approval of Minutes for May 2023**

*[This Item was addressed after Item #1. b.]* A Motion was made by Mr. Price to approve the May 2023 meeting Minutes. The May 2023 meeting Minutes were unanimously approved; zero opposed, zero abstained.

#### **b. Approval of Minutes for June 2023**

A Motion was made by Mr. Price to approve the June 2023 meeting Minutes. The June 2023 meeting Minutes were unanimously approved; zero opposed, zero abstained.

### **II. Staff Reports**

#### **a. VNY Airport Manager**

Paul Herrera reminded that this was being recorded. He said that they continue to work on technology to also provide video. There've usually been 35-40 attendees. He gave the following report:

First, I'd like to thank you for your patience as we continue to search for a permanent meeting room that can accommodate a larger number of participants than the FlyAway conference room. We are checking to see if there is space available at Van Nuys City Hall, perhaps in the Council Chambers and/or the neighboring Braude Room. Please feel free to provide any feedback regarding the possible locations we have mentioned.

#### **DOT Part 380**

LAWA continues to seek authority over scheduled commercial charter operations at VNY, also called Part 380 operations. Recently, LAWA worked closely with Congressman Tony Cardenas to introduce a proposed amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Bill that would have given general aviation airports authority over these commercial operations. While the amendment was not approved for the final bill, LAWA thanks Congressman Cardenas and his staff for advocating on this issue on behalf of LAWA and the local community.

LAWA will continue to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation to seek additional clarification.

### **State Compliance Inspection**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Aeronautics, conducted a state permit compliance inspection of the Van Nuys Airport on June 1, 2023. The airport was found to be in excellent condition, with no safety or airport permit compliance discrepancies noted. We want to thank the Van Nuys Airport staff, specifically the Maintenance and Operations sections, who work diligently to maintain the airfield and ensure regulatory compliance.

### **Farewell to Commissioner Hsu**

At its June 15 meeting, the Board of Airport Commissioners expressed its gratitude and bid farewell to Beatrice Hsu, who has served on the Board of Airport Commissioners since 2013, and as Commission President from 2021 to 2023.

### **New LAWA BOAC Leadership and Commissioners**

On July 13, the Board of Airport Commissioners unanimously elected Karim Webb to the position of President and Matthew M. Johnson to the position as Vice President. That day also was the first meeting for newly appointed Commissioners Courtney La Bau and Victor Narro.

**Fly Quieter Award & Friendly Flyer Award Breakfast and Awards**, LAWA recently awarded 20 operators with the Van Nuys Airport Friendly Flyer Award for their compliance with the airport's voluntary and mandatory noise abatement programs. Nine airlines also were recognized for winning the LAX Fly Quieter Award. I was joined at the breakfast event by members of the Board of Airport Commissioners and LAWA Chief Sustainability and Revenue Management Officer Samantha Bricker.

### **LAWA Hosts Workshop on Advanced Air Mobility**

On June 15, LAWA hosted a workshop focused on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) at LAX with experts from the FAA, airlines and manufacturers. The first eVTOLS – a new class of mainly electric vehicles that can take off and land vertically - are expected to be certified by the FAA in 2025. We had productive discussions around the possible uses, locations for operations, community engagement and other priorities to ensure successful and safe future operations at LAX and VNY.

### **Aircraft Painting – Community Event**

On June 17 at Van Nuys Airport, our tenants Dreamline Aviation/Signature Flight Support played host to a unique event that brought together the local community in support of arts education. San Fernando Valley youth and families joined forces to paint a decommissioned Learjet 60 to raise funds for [Arts Bridging the Gap](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering arts in under-resourced communities across Los Angeles. We are working closely with Dreamline Aviation to hopefully place the aircraft in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

### **VNY Virtual Honor Wall and Condor Squadron Flight**

Congratulations to the Van Nuys Airport Association for officially launching the virtual VNY Veterans Honor Wall. The website, [www.vnyhonorwall.com](http://www.vnyhonorwall.com), honors VNY employees and their family members who have served in the U.S. military. Many tenant employees submitted advance information for inclusion on the site, and we encourage all tenant and LAWA employees to participate.

The Condor Squadron performed traditional Independence Day flyovers for thousands of spectators, and both the Honor Wall and the Condor Squadron were featured in a positive story by KABC. My staff have visited many of the tenants' offices to share flyers with information on how to submit an airport employee hero.

### **VNY Supports Many Community Events**

On June 8, Van Nuys Airport sponsored the Valley Industry and Commerce Association's 16th annual Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Ceremony honoring those that have made valuable contributions to the region's rich history and ongoing economic success

On June 17, a Community Relations team member attended the Condor Squadron fundraiser and Gala Dinner to celebrate and support their work. On June 24, our Community Relations team participated at the San Fernando Valley Pride celebration in Van Nuys. Hundreds of participants joined Mayor Karen Bass and CA State Senator Caroline Menjivar in solidarity.

On July 22, the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce held its annual gala, Summer Block, at Radford Studio Center. At the event, Van Nuys Airport was honored with a Success In Business Award (SIBBIES) for nine decades in business.

### **Single Use Water Bottle Ban at LAWA**

June 30 was the first day of the Single Use Water Bottle Ban at LAWA, which means single use water bottles of any size cannot be sold or distributed at the LAX or VNY. We are encouraging guests to bring reusable water bottles to avoid waste. Acceptable single-use materials are aluminum, glass, or cartons. Adopted by the Board of Airport Commissioners on July 8, 2021, the policy aims to reduce plastic waste generated at LAWA facilities and move towards zero waste.

### **Flyaway Anniversary**

This July marks the 48th Anniversary of the FlyAway Bus service that was first established in July 1975. The Flyaway offers convenient regularly scheduled round-trip service, seven days a week, between each terminal at LAX and the locations of Van Nuys and L.A. Union Station, which began service in 2006. LAWA recently embarked on an initiative, called FlyAway 2.0, to transform the FlyAway with new features, such as a new digital interface where riders can access complete information online, buy and present digital tickets, track bus locations, etc. With this initiative, we also are looking to expand FlyAway service to new destinations and to provide a type of on demand service

### **Aero Club Event in Washington, D.C.**

On July 27, LAWA CEO Justin Erbacci presented at the monthly Aero Club event in Washington, D.C. The Aero Club is one of the oldest and most prestigious aviation interest groups in the US. Mr. Erbacci provided updates on LAX and VNY, and identified key issues where the industry and federal government can help LAWA to resolve issues and accomplish its objectives.

### **June / July Traffic is Back**

July is set to be the busiest month of the summer travel season at LAX, drawing approximately seven million guests to the airport over the course of the month.

### **Operations - VNY**

At VNY, there were 31,750 aircraft operations in June, including operations conducted while the Air Traffic Control Tower was closed (After Hour Operations). This represents a 49.10% increase in operations as compared to June 2022. VNY's YTD 2023 operations totals are currently up by 25.06% as compared to YTD 2022 totals.

Based on our Noise and Operations Monitoring System data, there were approximately total 5,072 jet operations at VNY in June. This is a 5.89% decrease compared to June 2022 (5,707) and a 0.04% decrease compared to last month (5,493).

#### b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

Christian Moreno indicated that there was no report.

#### c. VNY Director of Community Relations

Mark Lomeli, District Director for L.A. City District Six Councilmember Imelda Padilla [ofc. 818-778-4999; cellphone 818-602-9596; [Mark.Lomeli@LACity.org](mailto:Mark.Lomeli@LACity.org); <http://CD6.LACity.org>], indicated that they are aware of airport issues and will work to reduce noise and emissions.

#### d. VNY Environmental Programs Group

*[This item was addressed after item #11. e.]* Jacob Hague, Environmental Programs Manager, encouraged questions. He reported that, in May, “approximately 197” people submitted 19,358 comments, a 30% decrease from last year. In June, “approximately 208” people submitted 17,200 comments, an 8% decrease from last year. So far for July, “approximately 178 people submitted more than 11,500 comments, a 7% decrease so far. Most comments are about sound. He gave noise limit exceedance statistics; there was 99.6% compliance. The reporting deadline was extended to September 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Materna requested and Mr. Hague agreed to provide information about NextGen [Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) <https://www.faa.gov/nextgen>] path revision implementation. Mr. Williams requested and Mr. Hague agreed to report back about that. Mr. Williams said engines shouldn't be run next to communities. Mr. Rodine noted that a lot of airport GSE [Ground Support Equipment] doesn't accommodate electrification.

- e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police  
Sgt. Clint Beacom reported that there've been no incidents since the last CAC meeting. Illegal vehicles have been removed from the east side of the airport. There've been no crimes at the FlyAway for four months. They deploy bicycle Officers. Mr. Williams requested information about what's being done "to stop early turns."

### **III. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

Mr. Herrera's report included the following:

Since the VNY CAC Meeting held on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, we have had 2 BOAC Meetings on June 15<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>. No regular items for board action were considered at those meetings. Four Consent Items for board action were considered at the Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. [RESOLUTION NO. - Thirty-eight \(38\)-month Lease with Innova Structural Design Group, Inc.: Covering office space in the Los Angeles World Airports-owned Aviation Plaza, located at 16461 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, for estimated net revenue of \\$49,831 over the term](#)

PURPOSE: Staff request approval of the proposed lease with Innova Structural Design Group, Inc. for space at Aviation Plaza at Van Nuys Airport. The Board of Airport Commissioners action will provide a thirty-eight (38)-month lease to a new tenant and increase rental income at the facility.

2. [RESOLUTION NO. - Thirty-seven \(37\)-month Lease with John Ernest Nordblom: Covering office space in the Los Angeles World Airports-owned Aviation Plaza, located at 16461 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, for estimated net revenue of \\$81,448 over the term](#)

PURPOSE: The purpose of the action is to request approval of the proposed lease with John Ernest Nordblom for space at Aviation Plaza at Van Nuys Airport. Approval of the proposed lease will provide a thirty-seven (37)-month lease to an existing tenant and generate \$81,448 in rental income.

3. [RESOLUTION NO. - First Amendment to Contract DA-5482 with Champion Fire Systems, Inc.: To increase the contract authority by \\$1,200,000, for new total not to exceed \\$6,600,000, covering fire life safety inspection, testing, and repairs of fire protection and related systems at Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport](#)

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed action is to request approval to amend Contract DA-5482 to increase the authority by \$1,200,000, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$6,600,000, to allow for continued fire life

safety inspection, testing, and repairs on fire protection and related systems at Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport.

4. [RESOLUTION NO. - First Amendment to Contract DA-5492 with McKendry Door Sales, Inc.: To increase the contract authority by \\$150,000, for new total not to exceed \\$825,000, covering fire life safety inspection, testing, and repair of automatic closing fire assemblies and related equipment at Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport](#)

**PURPOSE:** The proposed action will increase the authority of Contract DA-5492 with McKendry Door Sales, Inc. to provide services for fire life safety inspection, testing, and repair of automatic closing fire assemblies and related fire life safety equipment at Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport, to ensure compliance with Los Angeles Fire Department Chief's Regulation 4 Code testing compliance, and reasonably protect guests and property from a fire-related incident.

One Consent Item for board action was considered at the Thursday, July 13th meeting:

1. [RESOLUTION NO. - Consent to Assignment of Contract DA-5532 to Mariposa Tree Management, Inc.: From Mariposa Landscapes, Inc., covering palm and tree trimming services for Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport](#)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this action is to request approval of the Consent to Assignment of Contract DA-5532 from Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. to Mariposa Tree Management, Inc. for palm and tree trimming services at Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport.

\*The next BOAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. This meeting will be held in-person but will also be broadcast live. Members of the public wishing to make a public comment at the BOAC meetings must do so in-person, call-ins are not an option

Mr. Herrera noted that the August 3rd BOAC meeting will consider helicopter issues, including the Bonseph Helinet lease.

### **As it relates to VNY CAC Communication Process Regarding LAWA Procurements**

Negotiations continue for an Award of Lease to a successful bidder for the former National Helicopter site east of the Prop Park and south of the Sun Air Jet hangar(s). The RFP is referred to as **Ground Lease Non- FBO Aviation Facility at 16750 Roscoe Blvd.** This lease will be on an upcoming BOAC Meeting Agenda in the coming weeks for an Award of Lease. A date for it to be placed on the BOAC agenda for consideration has not been scheduled.

Another set of Non-Aeronautical RFPs that was posted and is now closed is for an Award of Lease to a successful bidder for Ground-Mounted & Roof-Top Solar at the Van Nuys Airport.

- Ground mount solar power at **a specific location**.
- Rooftop solar for up to **eight (8) rooftop locations** at the Van Nuys Airport.

These item(s) will be placed on an upcoming BOAC Meeting Agenda in the next few months.

Finally, the Award of Lease for 16231 Waterman Dr. (Bonseph Helinet, LLC, for the potential redevelopment of land and existing facilities at the Van Nuys Airport continues to track through the process for potential approval with City Council). Once the BOAC and City Council awards these lease(s), the proposer will move into the project phase where the successful bidder will be invited to make a project presentation to the VNY CAC to solicit input and feedback. In addition, the CAC and members of the community will be provided an opportunity to comment on the developments as they progress through the entitlement and/or environmental process as required by the City.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Resident Steven Brackett said leadership is needed to make VNY “a better neighbor.” He wanted Airport Police to be able to cite engine runners. Resident Suzanne Gutierrez said she is “a prisoner of air pollution” and she’s “tired of making complaints,” citing her and others’ “complaint fatigue.” She believed that non-electric aircraft should be moved farther away from homes and believed that LAWA is not enforcing fumes protections. Resident Penny Alpert, of Sherman Oaks & Encino For Quiet Skies [<https://www.quietskiesnow.org>], said “Encino residents remain unhappy and unsatisfied with all three Vision Plan[s]. We’re hoping for a community option with no new aviation land use.” She wanted to know “why we’re not reviewing the Van Nuys 2023 budget and the \$17 million in extra surplus in unallocated funds.” Also, she and her husband are losing revenue because film productions won’t use her property anymore due to airplane noise and fumes. Lake Balboa resident Alicia Avery said she and her husband have noticed more airplane noise, especially “in the last 30 days . . . May 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 8 a.m. . . . there were five jets . . . directly over our home.” She was concerned about “air quality” and said “we’re not being heard . . . we don’t know the long-term effects . . . flights [are] going directly over congested areas.”

#### **V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Price read aloud permitted charter flight options. Ms. Petrus asked and Mr. Parker answered questions about such options. Mr. Herrera described LAWA work with Congress and the FAA regarding scheduled public charter operations flights, which are approved by the Dept. of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Price noted that the FAA has “significant oversight” of flights. Mr. Rodine noted that Congressman Tony Cardenas has been opposed by Congressmembers representing small towns that

benefit economically from tourism. Mr. Rodine encouraged supporting Congressman Cardenas. Mr. Materna believed that LAWA isn't working with the City Attorney and that "special regulations" may be needed. Mr. Materna wasn't against tourism and other cities benefitting; he's against noise and pollution; compliance is needed with the "Quieter Nights" program [<https://www.iflyvny.com/pilot-information/noise-restrictions>].

Mr. Price explained how the FAA counts flights and said about Aero that "right now they're in compliance with the regulations." Mr. Williams requested statistics regarding VNY flight usage. He noted that VNY is "a reliever, not just a General Aviation Airport," according to the FAA. Mr. Herrera said that LAWA "doesn't track the number of passengers on flights." Mr. Williams said that deplanements "are very important to consider."

Mr. Williams made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Materna, for LAWA to supply written responses to the questions re-reviewed during Monday, July 24th's Ad Hoc meeting with respect to the enplanement limitations at a "reliever" airport, specifically VNY; the CAC to receive a monthly and an annual deplanement report from LAWA for Van Nuys Airport; clarity on the reporting structure for private aircraft and charters at general aviation airports, as well as how LAWA might plan to begin their own protocol of collecting enplanement data to ensure that our City airport is not exceeding the maximum enplanements allowed; and a report that includes the D.O.T. requirements for private aircraft passenger reporting at general aviation airports, whether private planes carrying "friends/family passengers" or charters, the criteria surrounding the APIS manifest requirement for operators, and including whether helicopter charter and tour passengers are applicable; what forms, if any, are filed and how are they verified; and, if not required, how can VNY begin an expedient and low maintenance process to do so.

Mr. Price wanted more information about deplanement statistics. Mr. Cohen said that LAWA should be recording deplanements. Ms. Petrus noted that passenger names are recorded. Mr. Materna noted that the number of flying passengers is public information. Mr. Williams believed that LAWA can record how many flights have passengers. Mr. Materna reported that the City Council passed a Motion a year ago to get this information and that the CAC still doesn't have it. Mr. Herrera will report back at the next meeting about this.

Mr. Williams tabled his Motion. No vote was taken on it.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Van Nuys Airport Scheduled Charter Operations Under Part 380 (Jason Price) – Discussion/Action**

Mr. Herrera reported that Aero (the busiest), Blade Urban Air Mobility and XO are the three busiest charter companies operating under Part 380.

*Committee Member Leonel Fuentes left at this time (8:31), making nine Committee Members present.*



Guest Adam Alvarado noted that operators create jobs. Mr. Cohen said that General Aviation Airports only can provide up to 10,000 deplanements per year. Mr. Price will re-Agendize this.

b. Community Presentation on the Vision Study (Sue Steinberg) – Discussion/Action

Ms. Steinberg was not present; no presentation was given. [see <https://www.iflyvny.com/en/community-information/citizens-advisory-council>]

**VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

a. Membership Committee – Araz Parseghian

Mr. Parseghian was not present; no presentation was given.

b. Vision Study Ad Hoc Committee - MaryKate Harris, John Parker and Wayne Williams

Mr. Williams reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met July 24th with LAWA staff. He said “they’re good people . . . LAWA circumvented the Ad Hoc [Committee] by failing to allow collaboration on the three Vision Study board alternatives and failed to even present the boards to the Ad Hoc Members before revealing them to the public before April 19<sup>th</sup> . . . the unvetted options were void of any context, relevant studies, including environmental impacts or any data that would otherwise have allowed the public to understand potential benefit or consequence that may arise from the land use alternatives LAWA put forth.” He said that, at that July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, LAWA did not provide specific answers to the Committee’s questions; instead, LAWA presented about what they believed are “myths” of public perception. He wanted included in these Minutes the “VNY Vision Study Ad Hoc - Response to LAWA’s proposed “Top 5 Myth” (see attached), copies of which he distributed.

Mr. Price indicated that the Ad Hoc Committee will follow up regarding Mr. Williams’ questions. Mr. Rodine believed that the Vision Study caused “unrealistic expectations” by residents. He said “we need to re-address the way we set forth our demands in the Vision Study.” He believed there’s a need to distinguish between what comments/requests can be fulfilled quickly, which can be fulfilled long-term, and which cannot be fulfilled. He emphasized much frustration of residents because of this.

Mr. Herrera stated that “we’re discussing land swaps . . . to have a net sum zero increase” of traffic. He distinguished between “expansion” of acreage compared with “jet operations.” Mr. Cohen noted that a 70,000 square-foot heliport makes people think of expansion. He said “we have a conflict of land use . . . there has to be some modification of operations.” Ms. Sanchez said that the three proposals were “poorly communicated were meant for discussion purposes.” Mr. Materna believed that discussion should be in the CAC, not in the Ad Hoc Committee, saying “we need transparency so that the public can be informed . . .

the Vision Study moving to a selection phase should not be happening.” Mr. Parker clarified that the Ad Hoc Committee can present to the CAC. Mr. Rodine noted local aviation history, including that non-compatible uses of the airport were not supposed to encroach on the airport. He urged the Committee to not view LAWA “as bad guys.” Mr. Parker said “it’s been very transparent . . . we’re still in the very early stages.” Ms. Harris added that “this is not some secret cabal”; she explained her, Mr. Parker’s and Mr. Williams’ extensive work for the Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Sanchez reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has been sharing their information with the CAC and LAWA. Mr. Price said “it’s under consideration” that “the public” will be invited to be on the Ad Hoc Committee.

#### **VIII. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Materna wanted the following to be Agendized: discussion of the VNY operating budget; presentations by multiple public community organizations regarding their visions for VNY; how [Air Mobility] eVTOLs are going to affect VNY; and discussion of City Council Motion [File] #22-1489, which asked LAWA to explain its last five years of VNY development. Mr. Rodine said his job “is to make sure the facts are on the table.” Ms. Petrus said regarding public comments that “we read them every single month.” Ms. Molina said “the Ad Hoc Committee is doing a great job.”

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Petrus. Motion passed with zero opposed, zero abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.