

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

Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Van Nuys FlyAway, 2nd Fl. Conf. Rm., 7610 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by "Approved _[Month]_ _[date]_, 202_[year]_"]

CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Jason Price. Twelve of the 20 Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, Roslyn Dahl, Doug Decker, Kathy Delle Donne, Tom Materna, Naila Mendes, John Parker, Lisa Petrus, Jason Price (Chair), Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian), Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair) and Phyllis Winger (CD12) (replacing Sharon Bronson, who had replaced Harold Lee). Eliot Cohen and MaryKate Harris arrived later. Six Council Members were absent: (New Member) Rolando Chavez, Leonel Fuentes, Kanchan Mattoo, Heren Molina, Araz Parseghian and Eric Robinson. Per the VNY CAC Bylaws [see <https://www.iflyvny.com/-/media/iflyvny/community-information/files/citizen-advisory-council/cacbylaws.ashx?20200724>], "ARTICLE V – MEETINGS, Section 3. Quorum: b. A quorum of a regular or special meeting shall be a majority of the appointed members," so a quorum of at least 11 was present. All 20 of the 20 Council Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Council Seat was vacant. Approximately 21 stakeholders and guests attended.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES

a. Approval of minutes for May 7, 2024.

Mr. Price requested and it was agreed to TABLE approval of the Minutes to the August meeting. No Motion was made or vote taken.

b. Approval of minutes for March 12, 2024.

Mr. Price requested and it was agreed to TABLE approval of the Minutes to the August meeting. [The March 12th minutes already were approved at the May 7th meeting.] No Motion was made or vote taken.

Council Member Eliot Cohen arrived around this time, making 13 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was ten).

II. Staff Reports

a. VNY Airport Manager

Paul Herrera provided opening comments and reminded that this was being recorded, and that they continue to work on technology to also provide video. He shared that, on May 24th, LAWA was proud to welcome Univision, which came to film a segment that highlights the North Valley Occupational Center (Aviation Campus). Univision interviewed instructors and students about what led them to this program and what they aspire to do once they graduate. Students have an opportunity to secure well-paying jobs after graduation. Many students spoke about how the opportunity of this program opened doors for them and allows them

to afford to stay in the Valley because of local employment opportunities at the airport. Mr. Herrera continued by sharing that Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month was recognized in May. VNY has attracted a diverse pool of talent from across the globe and from pilots to ground crew members of the AAPI community, which are a critical part of making VNY a leader in the aviation industry. Mr. Herrera provided an update on the Green Business Program where seven businesses at Van Nuys Airport (VNY) have achieved certification through the Los Angeles Green Business Program, marking a significant step forward in the aviation industry's journey toward carbon neutrality. Mr. Herrera shared that a new member has joined the VNY CAC: Ms. Naila Mendes. She was appointed by the LAWA Board of Airport Commissioners last month. Ms. Mendes is Director of Services at Gulfstream Aerospace. She has worked for Gulfstream for over 13 years, having started as a Quality Manager. She has almost two decades of experience in aviation, including time as an aeronautical engineer and Director of Maintenance; she is currently based out of VNY. Additionally, Ms. Phyllis Winger joins the VNY CAC as a new member appointed by Council District 12 (City Councilmember John Lee). Ms. Winger is stepping in to fill the vacancy previously held by Harold Lee. She has, for many years, been involved in the community and within the City of Los Angeles. She served as an Associate Planning Deputy and then Chief Planning Deputy for City Councilmember Hal Bernson 80's/90's. She also served as Chief Planning and Land Use Deputy for City Councilmembers Greig Smith and Mitchell Englander. Finally, Mr. Rolando Chavez Carranza joins the VNY CAC as a new member, appointed by the Mayor's Office. Mr. Carranza is Manager at Alta Med Health Services in their Government Relations Department. He is involved in their Legislative and Advocacy Affairs since March 2023. Prior to that, he served as a Senior Policy Analyst since May 2021. He served as a Field Deputy for U.S. Congressman Jimmy Gomez and as a Congressional Staff Assistant from 2017-2019.

Operations - VNY

At VNY, there were 29,065 aircraft operations in April, including operations conducted while the Air Traffic Control Tower was closed (After Hour Operations). This represents a 2.64% decrease in operations as compared to April 2023. VNY's YTD (Year-to-Date) 2024 operations totals are currently up by 2.58% as compared to YTD 2023 totals.

Based on the Noise and Operations Monitoring System to date, there were approximately 5,294 jet operations at VNY in April. This is a 3.23% decrease compared to April 2023 (5,465) and a 0.6% increase compared to the previous month of March (5,261).

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

This is Chief Christian Moreno's report:

“LAWA contracted a pavement consultant company RDM International to conduct airfield pavement assessments on all Runways, Taxiways, and apron/aircraft parking areas. The project involves a non-destructive testing (NDT) device that is towed by a pickup truck and has a deflectometer machine on a trailer that measures movement in the pavement. That was completed this past week and now we have the contractor walking and inspecting different areas to identify cracks around the airfield and documenting its condition.

The VNY Maintenance Team is also working on repairing multiple LAWLA managed building’s roof that need attention and sealing walls with a moisture barrier that have shown water damage. At the same time, the maintenance team is working non-stop on mowing, weed control, lighting, and refreshing surface painted markings that is needed after 2 years of significant rain in the area affecting the property.

Airport Operations has been working with tenants on developing new procedures on VNY’s Disabled Aircraft Removal Operations aka (DARO). This will help to better manage traffic flow on the ground as well as keeping movement closures down to a minimum.

Next week, Airport Operations personnel will be attending the 2024 - FAA Western-Pacific Region Airports Conference where industry professionals attend informative sessions, and stay up-to-date on the latest trends in airport management. It’s also an opportunity to connect with other airport professionals to learn from their experiences.”

c. VNY Airport Affairs Group

Nicole Carcel, Director of Community Relations, reported. This is her report:

“On May 31st, we were glad to welcome the next round of community members for the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) guided tours, showcasing the airport's diverse operations and facilities to community members who live and work in the San Fernando Valley.

- This month’s tours were special because we had two large buses – one filled with all different community members and another bus filled with a group of homeschool students and their families.
- It was a fantastic opportunity for these students to learn more about aviation and airport operations.
- VNY will be inviting the public for another round of community tours again, later this summer.
- If you know of any individuals, families, or groups who would like to join us for our next round of community tours, please contact communityrelations@lawa.org for more information.

Upcoming community engagement opportunities

- Skilled Trade Job Fair hosted by the United Chambers of Commerce
 - Friday, June 14th from 10AM to 3PM
 - Shepherd Church located in Porter Ranch
- Valley Pride Celebration hosted by Mayor Bass
 - Saturday, June 29th from 11AM to 5PM
 - Van Nuys City Hall
- National Night Out
 - Tuesday, August 6th in the evening
 - West Valley LAPD Station

SAVE THE DATE

This year’s Aviation Career Day will be held on Wednesday, October 23rd from 9AM to 1PM. Last year VNY hosted approximately 700 high school seniors from 10 local schools. We look forward to another great community engagement opportunity.”

- d. VNY Environmental Programs Group
 Ryan Page, VNY Noise Officer, gave the following report:

VNY April 2024 Statistics

□ **Early Turn Program**

April - There were 6 Jet Early Turns that were directed by ATC to turn for a variety of reasons, wind drift and other pilot safety concerns. There were 4 Early Turns that deviated from VNY No Early Turn Policy.

□ **VNY Noise Comments**

April - There were approximately 150 (156) individuals who submitted over 10,700 comments (10,706) in April. Compared to April 2023, these numbers represent a 30% decrease in the number of individuals submitting comments and a 40% decrease in the number of comments received.

For May 2024, we have preliminary numbers showing approximately 160 (163) individuals submitting over 10,800 (10,859) comments.

□ **Quiet Departure/Fly Friendly Program**

April- VNY had 10 Jets that exceeded their specific Target noise levels out of 2,378 jet departures to the south from runway 16R. This represents a 99.6% compliance rate with VNY’s Fly Friendly program.

Council Member MaryKate Harris arrived at this time (7:27), making 14 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was ten).

- e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police
 Lt. Darren Gilbert reported that crime was low at VNY, mostly thefts from and of motor vehicles. There was pipe/metal theft at the VNY Administration Building;

Officers chased but lost the suspect in the neighborhood. Lt. Gilbert thanked “No Fumes” protesters for protesting peacefully while exercising their 1st Amendment rights.

III. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

Resident Suzanne Gutierrez believed that BOAC meetings are held at inconvenient times for residents to attend.

This is Mr. Herrera’s BOAC report: “Since the VNY CAC Meeting held on Tuesday, May 7nd, we have not had a Regular Meeting of the BOAC.

As it relates to VNY CAC Communication Process Regarding LAWA Procurements.

A Non-Aeronautical RFPs that was posted and is now closed is for an Award of Lease to a successful bidder for Roof-Top Solar for up to eight (8) rooftop locations at the Van Nuys Airport. This item will be placed on an upcoming BOAC Meeting Agenda.

Another set of Non-Aeronautical RFPs that is being considered are for the following locations:

1. 16800 Roscoe Blvd (RFP 212463) – This is for the current Home Depot site on the northwest corner of the VNY Airport on the corner of Roscoe and Balboa Bld. This opened on January 24th and closed on May 14th at 2pm. The proposals are being evaluated and once the winning proposer negotiates the final terms of the lease, it will be on an upcoming BOAC agenda for an award of lease.
2. 7277 Valjean Ave (RFP 213052) - LAWA seeked proposals from qualified individuals or firms to lease a non-aviation property. This is currently the Airtel Plaza Hotel site. While the footprint of the current lease has been modified, the majority of the leasehold is intended to be used for a hotel through this project. This Opened on February 23rd and closed on March 28th at 2pm. The proposals are being evaluated and once the winning proposer negotiates the final terms of the lease, it will be placed on an upcoming BOAC agenda for approval for an award of lease.
3. 6550 Odessa St. (RFP 214355). We plan to release an RFP for the site location south of the Van Nuys Airport between Vanowen and Victory and Odessa and Valjean. This is for a Commercial property Non-Aeronautical use. This opened on April 24th and scheduled to close on 7/2/2024.
4. Balboa Brick Site. (1-acre site) at 16755 Balboa Blvd. We plan to release an RFP for the site location on Roscoe Blvd between Balboa Blvd and Hayvenhurst Ave for leasing of non-aviation land and existing improvements. This will be released in the coming months.

5. Jet Center (Hangar 1 – 16300 Daily Dr.) LAWA seeks BOAC approval of a proposed Amendment to LA County Fire to lease the empty hangar east of the current leasehold at the June/July BOAC meeting.

Once the BOAC and City Council awards lease(s), the proposer will move into the project phase (if applicable), where the successful bidder will be invited to make a project presentation to the VNY CAC to solicit input and feedback on any significant redevelopment. In addition, the CAC and members of the community will be provided an opportunity to comment on the development(s) as they progress through the entitlement and/or environmental process as required by the City. These RFPs and any future ones that are released by LAWA can be found at <https://www.rampla.org>

This concludes the BOAC Agenda Items Concerning VNY.”

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Naima Genitempo noted opportunities for youth to participate in airport activities. Resident Fran Potaski reported that there're many flights over her home, about which she has complained many times, including about “touch-and-goes after midnight.” Adam Alvarado, an aircraft services company manager, noted Airport staff assistance with compliance and more, and that some local residents work at the Airport. Resident Sue Steinberg said she's complained many times and believed that AAMs [Advanced Air Mobility] and UAMs [Urban Air Mobility] aircraft are making “more noise . . . It's only gotten worse . . . It's not the same airport . . . It has overgrown that location . . . It's the most congested airspace in the world . . . Props and early turns . . . they're coming over the pocket.” Ms. Gutierrez believed that “Van Nuys has transformed into an overgrown airport”; and that public comments are posted too far after they're made and that she's been gaslighted for more than five years. Resident David Rankell believed that, due to the Santa Monica Airport closure, traffic at Van Nuys and other airports will increase. He noted community facilities at and near VNY, and believed that only a small number of individuals are complaining and that “clearly it's not impacting property values.”

V. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Price indicated that he had no report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Joby Aviation – Update on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and Urban Air Mobility (UAM).

Joby Aviation representative George Kivork showed slides and described his company. He stated “it's important to make this a part of the community.” Their aircraft are four-seaters. He said “it's all battery operated” (recyclable lithium ion) and described aircraft operation. He said “electric propulsion . . . makes this aircraft incredibly safe . . . and quiet . . . It takes off like a helicopter and flies like an airplane . . . This is not a drone . . . These are aircraft . . . operating within

existing FAA rules . . . There's going to be dozens of them by 2028." They're already operating at two local airports. He stated that, at takeoff, their noise level is 65 db; during flight, 45 db, as measured by the FAA. He said that NASA confirmed acoustics testing. He said that, if there's a catastrophic incident, "the aircraft can glide down." He believed that these aircraft will slowly increase in number and share space with helicopters. He believed that they will become an around \$5 per mile local transport option, for example, from downtown L.A. to LAX, which could take eight to 10 minutes instead of one hour by car. They also could be used for emergency services. He believed that infrastructure can be developed at LAX to accommodate AAMs and UAMs. The aircraft are around 25 feet by 45 feet wide and need a typical such helipad space. Pilots are being trained online. Joby Aviation is working with local airports to determine capacities and logistics and helping to facilitate an "interagency working group." He expected to start operations in 2025-2026 after the aircraft are certified "as a power lift." Four or five U.S. companies soon will be building the aircraft. Mr. Price described the minimum altitude requirement within two miles of the Airport. Mr. Page added that "there is no minimum altitude for helicopters" as long as they don't cause problems. Mr. Kivork stated that "we will operate at 1,500 feet . . . It's lighter than a Model 3 Tesla." His company already submitted to LAX a 150-page "proof of concept" answering many questions. He's hoping LAX will have a public discussion. Mr. Herrera said "it's still a little premature"; they're working with the FAA. Mr. Kivork said "it's flying daily" at Monterey Bay Airport. He said "think of it like an Uber pool in the sky . . . The current plan is to work within the existing airspace . . . Our goal is operating it as a rideshare." He described workforce employment outreach. He described pilot training and said "it is incredibly easy to fly . . . Each of our batteries is stress-tested." He said the aircraft are designed to be able to land within five minutes if a battery starts on fire. He described battery housing design and stated that the "thermal runaway is completely contained." He described their battery charging maintenance plan and that they usually wouldn't have less than 50% charging. He said they "would love to do a demo at the Airport"; Mr. Williams encouraged Mr. Kivork to work with him to facilitate that.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. VNAA proposed VNY Tenant Tours – Discussion

The above Item was not addressed.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

a. Membership Committee – Araz Parseghian

Mr. Price noted that all Seats are filled.

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

Mr. Williams said it'd been "10 months since our last meeting." Mr. Herrera clarified that "it is considered a Vision Study report," not a plan; comments can be made at vnvisionstudy@lawa.org.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

MOTION (by Ms. Avery, seconded by Ms. Petrus): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will add to its August Agenda discussion and action about CAC procedures.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of 13 of the 14 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Cohen, Dahl, Decker, Delle Donne, Harris, Materna, Mendes, Parker, Petrus, Rodine, Williams and Winger); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Price did not vote.

Mr. Cohen believed that VNY is being managed with “impunity and arrogance.”

MOTION (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Cohen): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will IAgendize to add public comments at the next meeting.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mr. Materna.

Mr. Rodine encouraged new CAC Members to tour the Airport. Mr. Parker noted an enjoyable Condor Squadron [<https://www.condorsquadron.org>] event. Ms. Petrus recommended Agendizing for August establishing an ad hoc committee to “focus specifically on the pocket” about mitigating noise and fumes now, not in the future; “at least put a wall there.” Ms. Harris noted that the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and the Encino Neighborhood Council both supported a CAC Motion.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Price. The Motion was unanimously approved; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The Meeting **adjourned** at 9:28 p.m.