

VAN NUYS AIRPORT (VNY) CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)
Meeting Minutes -- Tuesday, October 1, 2024
Van Nuys City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys, CA 91401
Approved: Tuesday, March 04, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN JASON PRICE

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chair Jason Price.

I. ROLL CALL

Thirteen of the 20 Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, (new Member) Stephen Brackett, Rolando Chavez, Kathy Delle Donne, MaryKate Harris, Tom Materna, Kanchan Mattoo, John Parker, Araz Parseghian, Jason Price (Chair), Eric Robinson, Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian) and Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair). Eliot Cohen and Heren Molina arrived later. Five Council Members were absent: Roslyn Dahl, Leonel Fuentes, Naila Mendes, Lisa Petrus and Phyllis Winger (CD12). Doug Decker had been replaced by Stephen Brackett. 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”; a quorum (of at least 11) of the 20 filled Council Seats was present. All twenty of the 20 Council Seats were filled. No Council Seat was vacant. At least 17 stakeholders and guests attended.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES

- a. Approval of August 20, 2024, Minutes.

No corrections or amendments were made.

MOTION (by Mr. Parseghian, seconded by Ms. Avery): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council approves the August 20, 2024 Minutes.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent; zero opposed; zero abstained.

III. Staff Reports

- a. VNY Airport Manager

Jacob Haik said he'll send the next report before the November meeting and that the two BOAC items were emailed. He'll make sure that approved meeting Minutes are posted. LAWA participated in the Congress of Neighborhoods. Mr. Haik encouraged attending the October 24th Career Day, which isn't just for students.

- b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations

See above Item #III. a.

- c. VNY Airport Affairs Group

See above Item #III. a.

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

“VNY August 2024 Statistics

Early Turn Program

August - There were 5 Jet Early Turns that were directed by ATC to turn for a variety of reasons, wind drift and other pilot safety concerns. There were 6 Early Turns that deviated from VNY No Early Turn Policy.

VNY Noise Comments

August - There were approximately 150 (159) individuals who submitted over 9,820 comments (9,828) in August. Compared to August 2023, these numbers represent a 6% decrease in the number of individuals submitting comments and a 14% decrease in the number of comments received.

For September 2024, we have preliminary numbers showing approximately 150 (158) individuals submitting over 12,940 (12,942) comments.

Quiet Departure/Fly Friendly Program

August - VNY had 4 Jets that exceeded their specific Target noise levels out of 2,555 jet departures to the south from runway 16R. This represents a 99.8% compliance rate with VNY’s Fly Friendly program.”

After giving his report, Mr. Page added that he visited all VNY flight schools and advised them about early turns.

Council Member Heren Molina arrived at this time (7:14), making 14 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was eleven).

Mr. Haik described the early turns tracking challenge and promised to improve data.

- e. VNY Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police
Lt. Gilbert was not present; there was no report.

IV. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY

See above Item #III. a.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Resident Fran Potaski reported about touch-and-goes and showed a map of early turns over her house. She said “I’m dealing with this constantly . . . some of these have been going on for months . . . The touch-and-goes are props, not jets . . . including one at 12:05 a.m.” Resident Sheldon Isenberg reported about “the double-twin helicopter is vibrating my house to pieces . . . It’s the vibrations; it’s shaking the house apart . . . It’s the entire neighborhood.” He described things

falling off trays inside his home. Resident Steve Leffert, near Bull Creek, requested that helicopters be “higher than 100’ above Bull Creek.”

VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Price reported that he’s “been working with the community . . . met with LAWA staff . . . There will be an ad hoc committee” of Council Members and stakeholders. He requested and it was agreed to agendize an ad hoc Piston Early Turns Committee.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. d

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Brown Act and Robert’s Rules – Presentation from LA City Attorney (Discussion).
 - i. Presentation regarding Brown Act and Robert’s Rules and how they apply to the CAC.

Jonathan Groat, Deputy City Attorney [Jonathan.Groat@LACity.org], presented. He’s “one of a team of three that advises the City Council.” He read from the Brown Act that “no action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may” do a limited number of things, such as briefly respond to statements made or questions posed; provide a reference for factual information; or place the item on a future agenda. He encouraged that, when there’re multiple proposed Motion amendments, voting on those Motion amendments in reverse, in other words, vote on the last proposed amendment first, then finally, the amended original Motion. That’s a Robert’s Rules of Order parliamentary procedure, not a Brown Act procedure. The purpose of the Brown Act is that governmental bodies “need to be open to the public . . . We should favor openness and transparency . . . It is focused on transparency . . . It only establishes minimum standards . . . It applies to legislative bodies.” If less than a quorum of Members is in attendance, the event is not subject to the Brown Act. He read the Brown Act about what a meeting is. If the Council wants to meet virtually, “reach out to the City Attorney.” He noted that “you’re not allowed to use intermediaries to discuss business . . . Be cognizant of creating chain [serial] communications” by any means, including email or phone. Council Members also need to avoid “hub and spoke” serial communications. He differentiated between Brown Act issues before, during and after meetings. He described the small number of exceptions to not discussing during a meeting anything not agendized; if there’s evident desire for discussion of something not agendized, agendize it for a future meeting. He described what agendas must include; preferably, Motions described in 20 words or less, though agendized item descriptions need to be at least minimally descriptive (“a general description of each item of business”) so that “a member of the public interested in an issue can easily tell from the agenda description whether he or she should attend the meeting in order to observe and/or participate.” Regular meeting Agendas must be posted in at least one public

place at least 72 hours before the start of the meeting, and on a website, if you have a website. The Brown Act says, “without a quorum, you don’t have a meeting . . . You can’t take any action . . . it’s not an official meeting.” He reviewed some of the Chair’s speaker management options: speakers can be stopped if they’re off topic; not addressing an issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body [the Council]; or overly repetitive. At least one warning must be given and an opportunity offered for the speaker to get back on topic. Removals of a speaker from a meeting are limited to “actual disruption” that stops meeting business from being conducted. He said that “context matters and it has to be fact-specific.” If you receive a CPRA [California Public Records Act] request, contact Mr. Haik. Mr. Groat noted that documents distributed in a meeting “need to be available to the public.”

b. Sherman Way Tunnel (Discussion/Action)

- i. Request for administrative report of funding for Sherman Way Tunnel.

The above Item was TABLED.

c. Part 13 Complaint (Discussion/Action).

- i. LAWA’s April 5, 2024 Initial Response to the VNY Part 13 Complaint filed on behalf of the VNAA.

The above Item was TABLED.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #X.

d. Economic Policy Motion and LAWA’s Response (Discussion/Action).

- i. Gami distributor Vitol will provide some info on the G100UL fuel.

Mr. Williams read aloud a letter from GAMI [General Aviation Modifications Inc.] to LAWA CEO John Ackerman regarding unleaded fuel for piston aircraft. GAMI’s letter was a reply to Mr. Ackerman’s August 19th letter to the VNY CAC regarding the VNY CAC’s May 7th Economic Policy Motion.

Vitol Aviation’s Robert Emmett, regarding G100UL fuel, described its use, distribution and cost, saying “the main pushback is the higher price.”

Council Member Eliot Cohen arrived at this time (7:58), making 15 Council Members present (the VNY CAC quorum was eleven).

Mr. Materna reported that, in May 2022, the Council passed a Motion to make Swift 94 fuel available at VNY. Steve Argubright said “a hundred low-lead is coming . . . There has to be liability behind this product.” He noted that Swift 94 hasn’t been tested in many engines. He said “everything about the logistics is a problem.” He described possible engine problems with unleaded fuel, though

“the biggest problem is distribution.” Mr. Emmett said “it’s been flying for about 10 years . . . It’s the most tested fuel.”

MOTION (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Williams): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council moves the following:

Whereas, the Public, Pilots, and LAWA seek to transition away from harmful lead aviation fuel (aka: Avgas).

Whereas, shortly after CAC discussions and motion in May 2022 about Swift 94 octane unleaded fuel, LAWA, the Prop Park and Signature Aviation started providing that unleaded fuel for sale at VNY that summer of 2022.

Whereas, in recognition of GAMI's letter and Vitol's comments here tonight, GAMI GIOOUL (100 octane Aviation unleaded gasoline) is officially available for delivery, is FAA certified for use, and certified for mixing with the leaded GAMI G100UL gasoline in tanks — i.e. aircraft gas tanks, storage tanks and transport tanks.

Therefore, the VNY CAC requests that LAWA expedite all efforts to begin receiving GAMI GIOOUL fuel in all VNY airport fueling facilities as soon as possible and without further delay. The Council is willing to entertain suggestions for final incentives if anybody wants to make those.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Haik will work on facilitating GAMI G100UL fuel use. Mr. Williams explained that this Motion is saying “let’s move forward”; he described benefits. Mr. Brackett encouraged asking LAWA regarding grants and incentives.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Cohen): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council amends the Motion by adding the following: “Specifically, that LAWA would look at grants and tax reductions and other financial incentives to expedite this request.”

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rodine believed there’s not enough market for the fuel.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Parker).

AMENDED MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Brackett, Chavez, Cohen, Delle Donne, Harris, Materna, Mattoo, Molina, Parker, Parseghian, Price, Robinson, Rodine and Williams); zero opposed; zero abstained.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #VII. a.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – Discussion/Action
No items were discussed.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

[This was the second Item #VIII on the Agenda.]

a. Membership Committee – Araz Parseghian
This Item was not addressed.

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

This Item was not addressed.

IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Price requested Mr. Haik and Mr. Kim to agendize forming a Pistons Early Turns Ad Hoc Committee regarding the southern piston early departures.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION TO ADJOURN** was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Robinson.
The **MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** unanimously by consent; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Minutes written by DL, possibly edited by VNY CAC. The VNY CAC Minutes page is <https://www.iflyvny.com/en/community-information/citizens-advisory-council>.