

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

Meeting Minutes -- Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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

Approved: Tuesday, March 04, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Wayne Williams.

### **I. ROLL CALL**

Nine of the 20 Council Members were present: Alicia Avery, Stephen Brackett, Rolando Chavez, Eliot Cohen, Roslyn Dahl, Heren Molina, Lisa Petrus, Bob Rodine (Parliamentarian) and Wayne Williams (Vice-Chair). MaryKate Harris and Phyllis Winger (CD12) arrived later. Nine Council Members were absent: Kathy Delle Donne, Leonel Fuentes, Tom Materna, Kanchan Mattoo, Naila Mendes, John Parker, Araz Parseghian, Jason Price (Chair) 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.” Nine of the 20 Council Members were present, which is not a quorum of at least 11, so at this time the Council could only take public comments, could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. All twenty of the 20 Council Seats were filled. No Council Seat was vacant. Approximately 17 stakeholders and guests attended.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/DISCUSSION NOTES**

- a. Approval of September 3, 2024, Minutes
- b. Approval of October 1, 2024, Minutes

No Motion was made or vote taken.

*Council Member Phyllis Winger arrived at this time (7:07), making 10 Council Members present, one short of the VNY CAC quorum of 11.*

### **III. Staff Reports**

- a. VNY Airport Manager

Chief of Airport Operations Christian Moreno reported for Airport Manager Jacob Haik as follows:

“Thank you all for joining us tonight. I wanted to provide a few updates since our last meeting in October.

- Last month, the Van Nuys Airport observed National Fire Prevention Week, recognizing and reaffirming our commitment to wildfire prevention, preparedness, and effective response.

- As a crucial hub for general aviation and emergency services, we work closely with the City and County of Los Angeles to ensure that the necessary resources are in place to protect our community during fire season.
- On October 20, the Van Nuys Airport participated in the Sherman Oaks Street Fair, where the Community Relations team hosted the "Doggie Fun Zone" booth and had the chance to interact with hundreds of community members.
  - The event was a great success, with over 400 individuals from the community signing up to receive notifications and information about future Van Nuys Airport community events.
- On October 24, the Van Nuys Airport hosted over 800 LAUSD high school students at our annual Aviation Career Day, where students had an opportunity to engage with experts and professionals about the many career opportunities in the aviation industry.
  - All attendees also had a chance to join an airfield tour which provided a perspective on the many different types of workforce opportunities at a general aviation airport.
  - We are grateful for the opportunity to invest in the education of our students and the next generation of leaders in our industry and our region.
- The Van Nuys Airport celebrated National First Responders Day on October 28, recognizing the individuals who serve as the first line of response in emergencies.
  - We thank our close partners at the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, and the Van Nuys Airport Police for being the first in line to protect our communities during times of crisis.
- As a reminder, we are sharing a weekly Van Nuys Airport Community Update email.
  - This is an opportunity to highlight the different events, projects, and celebrations that the Van Nuys Airport team supports. If you'd like to be added to the distribution list, you can reach out to [communityrelations@lawa.org](mailto:communityrelations@lawa.org).
- Finally, I want to add another plug for our community airfield tours, which are continuing in the coming months.
  - If you know of any individuals, families, or groups who would like to join us for an upcoming community tour, please contact [communityrelations@lawa.org](mailto:communityrelations@lawa.org) for more information.

- That concludes my comments for the evening,
- Thank you.”

b. VNY Chief of Airport Operations  
Mr. Moreno had no additional report.

c. VNY Airport Affairs Group  
Nicole Carcel, Director of Community Relations, was not present; there was no report at this time.

d. VNY Environmental Programs Group

Ryan Page, VNY Noise Officer, reported as follows:

“VNY September 2024 Statistics

Ø Early Turn Program

September - There were 2 Jet Early Turns that were directed by ATC to turn for a variety of reasons, wind drift and other pilot safety concerns. There were 2 Early Turns that deviated from VNY No Early Turn Policy.

Ø VNY Noise Comments

September - There were approximately 160 (160) individuals who submitted over 13,500 comments (13,509) in September. Compared to September 2023, these numbers represent a 16% decrease in the number of individuals submitting comments and a 4% decrease in the number of comments received.

For October 2024, we have preliminary numbers showing approximately 140 (142) individuals submitting over 9,800 (9,806) comments.

Ø Quiet Departure/Fly Friendly Program

September - VNY had 5 Jets that exceeded their specific Target noise levels out of 2,495 jet departures to the south from runway 16R. This represents a 99.8 % compliance rate with VNY’s Fly Friendly program.”

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

**IV. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

There was no BOAC report at this time.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Resident Eric Hearn commented for resident Kern Konwiser that Mr. Konwiser wanted to be on an ad hoc advisory committee; Mr. Hearn relayed that the neighborhood supports Mr. Konwiser's interest. Resident David Rankell wanted the Mayor's office to adjust downward the number of Council Members. Resident Suzanne Gutierrez on VNY operations. Resident Fran Potaski reported that "pilots are performing early turns over my home."

## **VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Williams indicated that he had no report.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS** – Discussion/Action

No items were discussed.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### a. Vote to Cancel December CAC Meeting

*MaryKate Harris had arrived by this time, making a quorum of 11 Council Members present. Now the Council could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

**MOTION** (by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Petrus): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will not hold a December meeting and will resume in January for the Council's first meeting in 2025.

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion of whether to have a December meeting, and whether the City allows the Council to cancel a meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Chavez, Cohen, Dahl, Molina, Petrus, Rodine, Williams and Winger); three opposed ("No" or "Nay") (Avery, Brackett and Harris); zero abstained.

Mr. Williams noted that the next CAC meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup>.

### b. Sherman Way Tunnel (Discussion/Action)

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

Ms. Petrus reported that community members are saying that the Tunnel is being re-graffitied after cleanings. Mr. Rodine described an anti-tagging system. Ms. Molina suggested having a mural painted in the tunnel; Mr. Chavez supported that and wanted Mr. Haik to be present during this discussion. Ms. Petrus noted that utility boxes have been painted and are effective in reducing graffitiing. Ms. Harris said that paint-resistant material is available for murals. Mr. Cohen preferred having paint-repelling material applied one time and no mural. Ms. Dahl supported a mural as "good community outreach." Resident Linda Jackson requested regular Tunnel cleanings and suggested having 24-hour monitored cameras. Mr. Rankell believed that cameras don't work and there wouldn't be enough monitoring,

and that it wouldn't be legal for LAWA to fund cameras. Ms. Avery reported that City Street Services currently is funding cleanings.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Avery, seconded by Ms. Petrus): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council moves that:

On June 5, 2024, City Council took official action (CF 24-0356)

1. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services and REQUEST Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA), with the assistance of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Department of Public Works Office of Community Beautification, and in consultation with Council District Six and the Van Nuys Airport Association, which represents Van Nuys Airport tenants, to develop a comprehensive plan for maintenance, security, and beautification of the Sherman Way Tunnel and to report with any recommendations necessary to implement the plan.
2. INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer (CAO), with the assistance of the abovementioned departments, to identify potential funding sources for implementation of a Sherman Way Tunnel Management Plan, including funding needed for ongoing cleaning and maintenance.
3. INSTRUCT the CAO to report that the Federal Aviation Administration (then Civil Aeronautics Authority) determined the Van Nuys Airport expansion project was eligible for federal airport aid; that Airport Revenue was used to fund this project which included the Sherman Way Tunnel construction; and the City's options to ensure that Airport Revenue is used to maintain the tunnel, including but not limited to graffiti abatement and security.

Whereas, it has been five (5) months since City Council requested the CAO report (#3) regarding the use of federal airport improvement fund dollars for the construction of the Sherman Way tunnel. The report is expected to clarify and confirm that use of federal airport aid supports airport revenue to upkeep and maintain the completed project - i.e. Sherman Way Tunnel's structural support (walls / ceiling) serving as runway infrastructure.

I Therefore Move, that the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council recommend compliance of above-mentioned City Council Motion 24-0356 and furthermore recommend to the Mayor, City Council and City Attorney that this report be completed and vetted in consultation between City Council and/or Council's counsel Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell (or other airport attorney firm) and distributed accordingly for public consumption.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Avery, Brackett, Chavez, Cohen, Dahl, Harris, Molina, Petrus, Williams and Winger); zero opposed; one abstained (VNY CAC abstentions are counted as "yes" votes) (Rodine).

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cohen, not seconded): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council urges additional police patrols [for the Tunnel].

**MOTION FAILED** for lack of a second.

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.

Mr. Williams explained regarding the Bonseph Helinet lease process. The day after this meeting, BOAC was to reconsider the lease, which would be for 25 years. Hector Aioza, of the City Attorney's Office, explained that the City communicates with the FAA regarding the lease, and about the City's October 24, 2024 "corrective action" response to the FAA, which Mr. Williams read aloud. Mr. Williams said that no one but Bonseph was given the opportunity to bid on the lease.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Petrus): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council moves that:

Whereas the VNY CAC recommended and the Los Angeles City Council previously rejected the Bonseph Helinet LLC lease.

Whereas the Los Angeles City Attorney has submitted a letter (attached) defining the grounds for the rejection.

Whereas the City Attorney recognized in its letter that City Council's determination in consideration of the lease compelled the lease's disapproval under Charter law Section 10.15 ( d) "Competitive Bids", as well as under its federal obligation of Grant Assurance 22. Be it known that this was rejected on March 1, 2024 (in part) because of a noncompetitive bidding process which is discriminatory and thus, must be denied.

The VNY CAC recognizes that a bidding process is either competitive or it is noncompetitive. By acknowledging in its letter that the process could have been "more fully competitive" and was "insufficiently competitive", the City Attorney is acknowledging that this was a noncompetitive or improper process.

Therefore, the VNY CAC recommends to City Council, for a second time, a rejection of any further action in support of Bonseph Helinet lease actions per the City Attorney's attached letter.

We further recommend that the BOAC should respect the City Councils' original decision in the reconsideration of this letter and deny this lease accordingly.

Finally, we recommend that the City Attorney concur with the City in its position on this lease with the FAA over a lower city department, ie. LAW A - that the

City Attorney acknowledged misrepresented elected officials in its April 5, 2024 response; Thereby, supporting the Primary Power of the City Council position.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Aioza gave more background and said that discretionary and entitlement grants “may be at stake . . . The RFP process was determined to be legal.” Ms. Gutierrez claimed that BOAC discriminates against the community by giving short notice of meetings and not allowing remote public comments. She said “it was not a competitive RFP.” Mr. Williams said he would ask LAWA staff to present the Motion to BOAC.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Cohen).

**MAIN MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Avery, Brackett, Chavez, Cohen, Dahl, Harris, Molina, Petrus, Williams and Winger); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Rodine); zero abstained.

#### **IX. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

- a. Vision Study Ad Hoc Committee - MaryKate Harris, John Parker and Wayne Williams indicated that he would relay that Kern Konwiser is interested in serving on the Committee. Ms. Avery and Ms. Petrus volunteered to be on the Committee. Mr. Williams will recommend to remove this item from the Agenda.
- b. Pistons Early Turns Ad Hoc Committee – Jason Price  
There was no report.

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

Members expressed appreciation for the productivity of this night’s meeting. Mr. Williams noted that many flight patterns are going over the City Council District Five area. He requested to agendize what’s in the below Motion.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Rodine): The Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council will agendize for its January meeting that LAWA invite eVTOL (Electric Vertical Take Off and Landing) aircraft manufacturers to do a physical demonstration for the Council and public early next year.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Williams adjourned the meeting with no opposition at 8:54 p.m.

*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>.*