

**Airport Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 3:30 PM
Boeing Conference Room, Airport Center**

Members Present

Bailey Gorin Anchondo
Marco Barros
Jeff Fair
Mark Fessler, Chairman
John Grisell
Marsha Hendler, Secretary
Cliff Herberg
Joshua Nash
Mark Provost
Jeremy Roberts
MaryAnne Schweers
Juanita Sepulveda
James Velesky

Members Absent

Roger Dillard
Pat Garrison
Earl Jackson, Jr., Vice Chairman
Deborah Omowale Jarmon
Marc Miller
Melissa Williams

Staff Present

Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager
Thomas Bartlett, Deputy Director
Nicole Fowles, Board Liaison
Katinka Howell, City Attorney
Joshua Heiss, Noise Manager
Breana Taylor, Sustainability Manager

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Fessler at 3:35 p.m. The roll call was taken by the Board Liaison. A quorum of at least 10 members was present for the meeting.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commission member Marco Barros motioned to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2024, March 18, 2024 and May 21, 2024 meetings. Commission member James Velesky seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

The Board Liaison confirmed no public comment had been received.

Items for Briefing and Possible Action:

2. Noise & Sustainability Programs Overview

Public Comments:

There were no public comment received on this item.

Discussion and Motion: Introduced by Deputy Director Thomas Bartlett, Noise Manager Joshua Heiss and Sustainability Manager Breana Taylor briefed the Airport Advisory Commission members on their programs. Mr. Heiss' presentation reviewed the history of noise programs at the San Antonio International Airport and its compliance to the Federal Aviation Administrations Part 150 Study which led to the development of Noise Exposure Maps (NEMs). Mr. Heiss shared that the NEMs were updated every five years and included a current conditions map and a forecast map. The process also includes public meetings to allow for input by residents. The FAA's current focus is on the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNLs) of 65. Mr. Heiss also gave an overview on the Performance Based Navigation Program which was implemented in January by the FAA. Mr. Heiss ended his portion of the presentation on the upcoming public meeting planned for August 20th for the Airfield Program. Ms. Taylor's portion of the presentation focused on several new sustainability initiatives underway:

- San Antonio Airport System Sustainable Manual: Checklist-guidance on sustainable building strategies that can be considered during the planning and design stages. The manual follows several programs already in place for City projects.
- Airport Carbon Accreditation: Both San Antonio International and Stinson Municipal airports have reached Level 2 of the Airports Council International – North America Airport Carbon Accreditation Program.
- The Good Traveler Program: Passengers will be able to off-set their flight’s carbon accreditation and donate to the San Antonio River Foundation.
- Federal Grants: The department was recently awarded a FAA Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) grant in 2023 to provide three electric shuttle buses along with 3 electric bus chargers. The Aviation Department installed 32 Electric Ground Support Equipment (eGSE) chargers through an FAA Voluntary Airport Low Emission (VALE) grant and, as a result, 50% of the GSE fleet is now electric.
- ARPA-E Program: City signed an agreement with the Department of Energy, which included UTSA and CPS Energy to test new energy programs at Stinson Municipal Airport.
- Bee Hives: Rather than destroy bee hives that are discovered at the airport, the new program relocates the hive to the wooded area north of the airfield.

Throughout the presentation, Commission members asked questions. Commission member Mark Provost clarified that the NEMs tended to narrow due to newer aircraft which produced less noise. Commission member James Velesky asked if the FAA could change the rule from 65 DNLs, which Mr. Heiss noted could be a possibility if Congress makes that decision. Commission member Joshua Nash asked about military operations, while Commission member Jeff Fair asked how calls on military operations were handled. Mr. Heiss shared that while SAT does not have a military base attached to it, the military has the right to utilize commercial airports for a variety of reasons which he explains to callers if they call about a particular aircraft that happened to be military. Commission member Jeremy Roberts asked about the impact of PBN on international flights, which Mr. Heiss explained were not impacted. Mr. Fair asked if the carbon accreditation enhanced the City’s eligibility for state and federal grants, which was confirmed. Commission member Marco Barros asked what other airports have sustainability programs. Ms. Taylor noted that European airports were leading the implementation of sustainability efforts as were large hub airports like Chicago’s Department of Aviation and Tampa International Airports. Mr. Heiss recounted a conversation with an airline employee who works on the apron who shared how the utilization of eGSE meant fewer fumes. Commission member Juanita Sepulveda mentioned a recent conference she had attended in which the topic of the electric grid came up and she asked what the airport system was doing to reduce its impact on the electric grid. Ms. Taylor shared that the design team for the new terminal was exploring potential sustainability measures for that purpose. Mr. Fair asked how other airports in Texas were looking at reducing noise levels. Mr. Heiss said each airport within Texas or not faced unique environments for their operations and were all focused on sharing information with residents so they were better informed. Mr. Velesky asked when would the airport consider reducing or limiting the number of flights into or out of the airport, or consider limiting the type of aircraft by size or type. Both Mr. Heiss and Mr. Bartlett explained that the airport system could not discriminate against specific aircraft types as part of its grant assurances for accepting funding from the FAA. Mr. Heiss also mentioned that older aircraft were often retrofitted with new technology.

Vote: No motions were made by the Commission.

3. Deputy Director’s Report

Public Comments:

There were no public comment received on this item.

Discussion and Motion: Deputy Director Bartlett asked the Commission members to please encourage their family members, coworkers, friends and others to arrive early at the San Antonio International Airport due to the large number of individuals flying. He noted that the week before, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) had one of its busiest days ever, 2.9 million passengers going through the security checkpoints across the country, and it was not a holiday weekend. He shared that the TSA K9 units were making an impact in moving passengers through the checkpoint. On June 6th, the new parking operator began leading parking operations at the airport. He also noted that demand for Valet Services had increased to the point that the service would expand to Level 1 of the Consolidated Rental Car Facility.

He shared the Airport had three new non-stops that began this month: Burbank (Southwest), Torreon (Viva Aerobus) and Philadelphia (American). He also noted that the Department of Transportation had not released the application for airlines to apply for non-stop service to Reagan National Airport (DCA), which was anticipated to have taken place already. He reminded the Commission members that American Airlines would be applying for SAT to DCA. He also shared that Condor service to Frankfurt began in mid-May through early September.

Commission member James Velesky asked if the parking privileges for DV license holders would change. Mr. Bartlett and Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle both said that any change to the parking privilege would be determined by City Council and was not part of the new parking operator contract. Following a brief discussion, it was determined that if and when that action is proposed, the Airport Advisory Commission members would like to be briefed on it.

4. Commission Member Announcements

Public Comments:

There were no public comment received on this item.

Chairman Mark Fessler welcomed the two newest members, Bailey Gorin Anchondo and Juanita Sepulveda, to the Airport Advisory Commission. Both were appointed by City Council in April 2024 following a recommendation of the Transportation and Infrastructure Council Committee in March 2024.

Mr. Fessler asked the commission members about holding a July meeting. Both Commission members Marco Barros and Jeremy Roberts noted that most boards and commissions did not meet in July. No Commission member indicated a need for a July meeting, so Mr. Fessler announced that the July 16th meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 20th.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:59 p.m.