

**Marin County Aviation Commission
Minutes of August 28th, 2014 Meeting
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
Civic Center, San Rafael, CA**

Commission Chair: Humphrey Ogg

Commissioners Present at Roll Call: Lou Franecke, Richard Nave,
Marius Nelsen, Douglas Watt

Commissioners Absent at Roll Call: Ernie Ganas, Don Lebrun

Staff Present: Dan Jensen (AP Manager), Eric Steger (DPW),
Craig Tackabery (DPW), Dan Dawson (DPW),
Ann Hearty (recording secretary)

1. Minutes

Minutes of the June 5th, 2014 meeting were approved.

M/S Franecke/Nelson All ayes

Minutes of July 17th, 2014 meeting were approved.

M/S Nave/Watt 4 ayes, Nelson abstaining

2. Airport Manager's Report and Comments

- a. Mr. Jensen reported that on June 18th, a 1-X experimental aircraft went off the runway into the water. He also noted that on August 18th, a V-tailed Bonanza en-route from Oregon to San Carlos reported engine trouble and lost contact. It was later discovered the aircraft impacted near Hicks Valley Road and the pilot did not survive. Mr. Jensen described that on August 24th, a Gnoss tenant in a vehicle crossed the threshold line of the runway and caused a go-around by the Sheriff's aircraft. He talked to the pilot, will follow up with a letter, and copy the correspondence to the Oakland Flight Standards District Office (FSDO).
- b. Mr. Jensen said that on August 4th, a water main break at the North Gate fire hydrant ran for approximately two hours. He explained the cause was pressure testing north of the Airport. He indicated North Marin Water replaced the valve, will replace a similar valve south of the failure, as well as install a one-valve shut off for the entire Airport. He conducted an inspection of the Airport following the August 24th earthquake and only found the PAPI lights out for Runway 31; he will make arrangements to have it fixed.

- c. The Airport Manager reported an on-going problem with tenants not following through on furnishing required documentation regarding aircraft and insurance. The Commission indicated such behavior violated the terms of the lease. Commissioner Franecke asked Mr. Jensen to provide the percent of tenants who remain out of compliance, as well as furnish copies of the pertinent contract clause, at the next meeting for possible Commission action.
- d. Mr. Jensen acknowledged tenant Rick Beach for his great redesign and updating of the Airport website. The Chair also recognized Mr. Beach for his efforts and offered the Commission's appreciation.
- e. The Airport Manager distributed staff's Grand Jury Report response given to the Board of Supervisors in July. He indicated that some follow up would be required on recommendations and staff will bring these items before the Commission for further action.

3. Aviation Commissioners' Reports and Comments

Chair Ogg asked the Commission to consider changing the start time of its meetings on the first Thursday of alternative months from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

M/S Franecke/Watt - All ayes

4. Old Business

- a. Dan Dawson presented the draft version of the Gness Field Visioning document, incorporating the comments elicited at the July 17th workshop. He noted that the comments were generally in line with the currently adopted Land Use Plan and Master Plan. Should Commissioners or members of the public wish to comment on this document, they may contact Mr. Dawson directly or send an email through the Airport website up until September 17th. He will include any new comments and prepare a version for Commission approval at the October 2nd meeting.
- b. Commissioner Franecke was glad that the Visioning Workshop was held. He found the comments more like a wish list, which may prove impractical. He emphasized that all pilots using the Airport are to be familiar with its regulations and those who do not adhere to them are reportable as a deviation to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

- c. Commissioner Watt asked if a citizen complained about an aircraft, could the Airport use radar to identify the craft and take action? Mr. Jensen responded that a law enforcement officer needs to witness the event. He noted that the Airport has live and recorded ATC access, which has proved very useful. Chair Ogg wished to include in the report that Gness is able to use live and recorded radio transmissions to identify operators who are noncompliant in following noise abatement measures.
- d. Ken Mercer, President of the Gness Field Community Association, thanked Mr. Dawson, Mr. Jensen, and Mr. Steger for all their work. He indicated there was a perceived lack of transparency that the Airport Manager is working on issues, but they are not necessarily shared with the public. He advocated the County use "See Click Fix." Mr. Mercer went on to agree with the Audubon Society that there needs to be a mitigation plan. Mr. Steger thought mitigation was better addressed at the Merit Hearing.
- e. Mr. Tackabery gave an update on the Runway Extension Merit Hearing. He stated that it was important to finish the visioning process first, then on February 24th, the Board will undertake the Merit Hearing.
- f. Chairman Ogg summed up that if the Commission approved the Visioning Report at the October 2nd meeting, it would go before the Board of Supervisors for acceptance on October 21st.

5. New Business

- a. Chair Ogg asked for a motion to discuss guidelines on previously approved recommendations. **Commissioner Franecke made a motion that the Commission discuss all applications for operations at the Airport are active for a period of two years. Commissioner Nave seconded the discussion.** The Chair suggested that any application approved by the Commission be acted upon within six months. Commissioner Nave added that matters for consideration by the Board of Supervisors can take time to complete. Commissioner Watt said that the issues of initiating and completion were two different matters. Chair Ogg agreed and thought initiation needed a time limit from the Commission. Commissioner Franecke wanted a clause that the Commission could extend the completion of projects beyond a two year limit if the members thought that justified.
- b. **Chair Ogg restated the motion as any new business that comes before the Commission after December, 2014, will have an initiation period of six months to commence and**

two years to complete unless extended by the Commission.

- c. TJ Neff commented that this motion would address the applicant's responsibility, but what about the County? The Chair indicated that initiation has occurred and should the Commission believe the applicant is entitled to more time, can grant an extension.
- d. The Chair called for a vote on the motion as restated. All ayes.**

6. Open Time

- a. Michael Knight of Golden Gate Skydiving said he was working to satisfy the two stipulations required to begin a tandem parachute operation at Gness. He produced a map, which he asked to satisfy the need for an offsite landing plan. He said he met with the Department of Fish and Game representative and identified the pathway out of federal lands back on to Airport property.
- b. Commissioner Franecke asked if Mr. Knight had met with the Airport Manager. Mr. Jensen said they had met and Mr. Knight was asked to contact the surrounding landowners and get permission to go on their property.

{Commissioner Ganas was seated on the dais at 8:20 pm.}

- c. Mr. Knight stated he had done his due diligence on the two stipulations. Mr. Jensen agreed that he had met with Mr. Knight three times since June 5th and once with Mr. Knight and Chair Ogg. Mr. Jensen was concerned that the properties on the map were gated properties and indicated that Mr. Knight would need permission from the owners to access their land. Chair Ogg noted that in the Airport Manager's opinion, consent under the Good Neighbor Policy that the Airport has with the community has not been met. Mr. Knight says that if a property owner chooses not to grant consent, the stipulation becomes unobtainable.
- d. Chair Ogg cautioned that as a point of order, a motion has already been approved on this application. He noted that if Mr. Knight would like his application forwarded to the Board of Supervisors without having to gain property owners' permission, he should contact the Airport Manager and ask that the stipulations of his application be agendaized for the next Aviation Commission meeting.

- e. Mr. Steger agreed that Mr. Knight can update the Commission during Open Time, but Brown Act regulations stipulate that the Commission can make no decisions on items that have not been agendaized. Chair Ogg suggested Mr. Knight meet with the Airport Manager about satisfying those stipulations and Commissioner Ganas asked that this item be placed on the next Aviation Commission agenda. Mr. Knight asked for clarification of what is being asked of him. The Chair said the Airport Manager is available to clarify the Commission's expectations.

{Commissioner Franecke left the dais at 8:40 pm.}

- f. Sandy Walker, a pilot at Gnos, said that like most of the pilots present, her primary concern was safety at the Airport. She registered her grave concern for people parachuting on their downwind and near base leg for 31. She described the severe crosswinds at Gnos and the very variable winds, citing the three windsocks all register different directions at the same time. She referenced the towers and Mount Burdell and thought it was a very unlikely, unsafe place for people parachuting down into the pattern. She stated that she just couldn't understand how this could possibly work from a safety standpoint. She requested that this petition be investigated further and asked the County to consult the other interests at the Airport, such as the flight schools and pilots, about this matter.
- g. Chair Ogg repeated that on October 2nd, the Commission will revisit this issue, Mr. Jensen will give an update, Mr. Knight will give an update, and all interested parties can speak to the issue.

7. Adjourn – M/S Nelson/Watt – All ayes
Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.