

**Marin County Aviation Commission**  
**Minutes of June 5th, 2014 Meeting**  
**Board of Supervisors' Chambers**  
**Civic Center, San Rafael, CA**

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**Commissioners Present:** Lou Franecke, Ernie Ganas, Don Lebrun, Richard Nave, Marius Nelson, Humphrey Ogg, Douglas Watt

**Commissioners Absent:** None

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

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**1. Minutes**

Minutes of the April 2nd, 2014 Meeting were approved.  
M/S Ganas/Nelson All ayes

**2. Airport Manager's Report and Comments**

- a. Dan Jensen gave an update that the final FAA filing of the EIS was on track for the second week of July. He expressed his concern regarding the process to FAA officials, who said getting the local office to approve a BCA was the most time consuming step. He was told that once the local office approves the BCA, it moves relatively quickly through the regional and national headquarters.
- b. Mr. Jensen reported that Gness Field received its annual inspection from the State Commission of Aeronautics and was determined to be in excellent condition.
- c. Mr. Jensen reported there was one accident (collapsed gear) and one incident (experimental craft 1st landing) at the Field within the last week.

**3. Aviation Commissioners' Reports and Comments**

Grand Jury Report –

- Mr. Nelson stated that the report was favorable and he was encouraged it suggested Gness stay open.

- Mr. Ganas indicated that multiple inspections by the TSA with only good security marks should be more impressive to the Grand Jury than the report indicated.
- Mr. Franecke thought the Grand Jury should have been more impressed that there had been no breaches of security, theft, or vandalism at Gnos within the last 10 years. He noted that the financial reports did not recognize that Gnos is a money-maker, generating over \$500,000 for the schools and the County General Fund. He also thought the County Disaster Plan needed to emphasize that Gnos was a major staging ground for any emergency.
- Mr. Watt said he generally thought it summarized Gnos well and thought cameras to monitor Gnos rather than round the clock staff was a better alternative.
- Mr. Nave said Gnos has worked hard to achieve its enviable security record and would like the acknowledgement that the money Gnos brings in makes it self-sustaining.
- Mr. Lebrun asked why Gnos doesn't retain all funds as the report states.
- Mr. Ogg thought the report was comprehensive, though not all points were in proper alignment, and such discrepancies will be addressed by a response penned by DPW staff. He was impressed with the overall finding that Gnos Field was well managed and thanked Mr. Jensen and DPW for their efforts.
- Mr. Steger commented that the response will come from the Board of Supervisors through the County Administrator, coordinated through various departments by Mr. Steger. Mr. Ogg asked if members of the public can comment through Mr. Steger. Mr. Steger responded that the comments already voiced by the Commission members tonight will be considered in the response, which he hoped to get to the County Administrator by the middle of July.
- Mr. Ganas asked if the Commission will be allowed to review the draft and provide input before the final report is official. Mr. Steger asked Commission members to email him any comments they wish to be considered.

#### **4. Old Business**

Michael Knight of Golden Gate Skydiving made a presentation to request a tandem parachute operation be permitted at Gnos. He

made a point that his business had no intent of operating when weather conditions may jeopardize safety. He addressed concerns about local traffic separation and stressed that each activity have and share operating procedures as recommended by the FAA. Mr. Ogg thanked him for his detailed findings he distributed to Commission members.

- Mr. Nelson asked for clarification on the altitude of the drop point and cautioned the petitioner regarding the severe crosswinds inherent at Gnos.
- Mr. Ganas discussed the practicality of the pattern presented and seconded the need for a solid wind limit between 15 to 17 knots to prevent susceptibility to gusts.
- Mr. Franecke said he was in favor of the application with reservations, such as a wind limit and alternative landing areas.
- Mr. Ogg summarized the concerns about winds and landing areas.
- Mr. Scanlon, a member of the public and owner of a flight school which operates at Gnos, asked to be involved with addressing the mutual concerns that such an operation may pose for other Gnos users.
- Mr. Knight offered to meet with local, experienced pilots and the Airport Manager to develop retrieval plans.

**Mr. Ganas made a motion that the Aviation Commission recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors that Golden Gate Skydiving be permitted to offer its services at Gnos Field with a wind restriction of 20 knots. Mr. Franecke seconded the motion with an amendment that Mr. Knight meet with Mr. Jensen to develop an offsite landing plan.**

**VOTE: All ayes**

## **5. New Business**

- a. Andres Amil presented his business plan for a maintenance facility at Gnos Field, Building 1, Unit 1. He wishes to provide aircraft maintenance service and repair, as well as underguards (?) and all inspections.
  - Mr. Nelson asked if he had experience with fabric airplanes. Mr. Amil indicated he did.
  - Mr. Franecke asked where Mr. Amil had worked before. Mr. Amil replied at EMC, Above and Beyond Aviation, and had been at Gnos since 2000.

- Mr. Jensen stated that Mr. Amil does everything by the book, getting the right permits, getting the right insurance, etc.

**Mr. Ganas made a motion to approve Mr. Amil's business operation at Gness Field. Mr. Franecke seconded the motion.**

**VOTE: All ayes**

- b. Gness Field Vision and Stakeholder Workshop Update – Mr. Eric Steger (DPW) followed up on the request for more public process regarding an inclusive forum where all stakeholders may comment on the future direction of Gness Field. He offered the Novato City Council Chambers on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm and distributed a proposed agenda for discussion. He indicated Dan Dawson (DPW) will facilitate the meeting, which will start with a general presentation, a question and answer period, then three break-out stations (airport operations, runway extension, capital plan), reports back, and finally next steps. He stated the goal was to prepare a draft report of all comments and thoughts to take back to the Aviation Commission before the merits hearing on the runway extension.
- Mr. Ogg asked if there will be a series of meetings. Mr. Steger responded that it was DPW'S intent to address all areas of the existing Master Plan at this workshop.
  - Mr. Ganas wondered if airport users would be surveyed. Mr. Steger commented that keeping the effort focused on short-term, intermediate, and long-term operational and capital issues was the goal. Mr. Ganas requested that tenant and user issues become the focus. Mr. Steger said they would be a target audience in the 1600 addresses that would receive a direct mail flyer.
  - Mr. Franecke requested that the invitation stress this is an informational gathering. Mr. Steger said it would be clear that no decisions will be made or actions taken at this meeting.
  - Mr. Ogg supported the transparency of community and tenant involvement as an instrumental part of this process.

## **6. Open Time**

- a. Mr. Beach addressed the Commission and agreed with Mr. Ganas that the proposed invite list does not emphasize a vision of the airport shaped by the people who use Gness. Mr. Ogg suggested

holding a separate stakeholders workshop specifically for airport users.

- b. Mr. Mercer, Vice President for GFC Board (?), Gness Field Community Association, agreed with the statements about the financial impact of the user fees, which have made this airport more than self-sufficient. He expressed that the Grand Jury report understated the need for preventive and deferred maintenance on the runways and taxiways. Mr. Mercer thanked Mr. Steger for putting these meetings together and will address any format concerns directly to Mr. Steger.

**7. Adjourn** - Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm