

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT NOISE
PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

CAROL ROBERTS, District # 1
ALICE MCLANE, District #3
AARON WORMUS, District #4
JULIE HERMES CASTILLO, District #5
VICTORIA CHOURIS, District #6
MARTIN KLEIN, District # 7
LEW CRAMPTON, Town of Palm Beach Council
NANCY PULLUM, Good Neighbor Council

STAFF PRESENT:

LAURA BEEBE, Director of Airports
GARY SYPEK, Senior Deputy Director of Airports
CYNTHIA PORTNOY, Deputy Director of Planning & Community Affairs
MICHAEL GIAMBRONE, Director, Planning & Development
NICOLE HUGHES, Director, Marketing & Communications
CRAIG DELEGATO, Noise Abatement Manager
ANDREW GAMBOA, Manager Air Service Development

OTHERS:

GREGG K. WEISS, County Commissioner District #2
ISAMI AYALA-COLLAZO, Assistant County Administrator
DAVID RAMACORTI, Ricondo & Associates, Inc.
STEVE CULBERSON, Ricondo & Associates, Inc.
MARY ELLEN EAGAN, MK Consulting

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The May 23, 2024 meeting of the CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT NOISE (CCAN) was called to order at 6:03 p.m., and Department of Airports Noise Abatement Manager CRAIG DELEGATO called the roll. The following Committee members were present: CAROL ROBERTS, ALICE MCLANE, AARON WORMUS, JULIE HERMES CASTILLO, VICTORIA CHOURIS, MARTIN KLEIN, LEW CRAMPTON and NANCY PULLUM.

The following member(s) were not present during the roll call: JOYCE VAUGHN, and TERESA JOHNSON

CRAIG DELEGATO informed the CCAN Chairperson, NANCY PULLUM, that a quorum was present.

II. CHAIR'S WELCOME:

NANCY PULLUM welcomed the COMMITTEE members and recognized that Palm Beach County Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss was attending the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

NANCY PULLUM asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. A motion was made to approve the Agenda; the motion was seconded and approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the February 15th CCAN Meeting Minutes; the motion was seconded and approved.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Airports Director, LAURA BEEBE informed the COMMITTEE that outside consultants would be presenting material to them regarding a proposed airfield improvement project at PBI. She introduced both DAVID RAMACORTI and STEVE CULBERSON from Ricondo & Associates, Inc. and Mary Ellen Eagan from ME Eagan Consulting.

Before the consultants began their presentation, LAURA BEEBE provided the COMMITTEE with a broad overview of forecasted growth at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI). She also informed the COMMITTEE that a runway expansion process takes many years to complete and that during the process she will ask the COMMITTEE members to provide advice, recommendations and to serve as liaisons throughout the local community.

The presentation consisted of six main topics: **Existing Conditions** at PBI focused on the current airfield limitations and constraints ; **Current Needs and Projections**, including airfield capacity and types of delays, as well as the anticipated impacts at PBI if no airfield improvements are made; **Planning Process**, which included a brief history of operations at PBI and planning requirements including the typical duration of each planning stage; **Environmental Process**, including information on the National Environmental Policy Act; **Community Involvement** which included ways for the general public to participate in both the planning and environmental process as well as the role of CCAN throughout the process; **Next Steps** which outlined a step by step process necessary to complete a runway expansion project.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

CCAN members made comments both during and after the special presentation. Comment topics included project timelines, public outreach, aircraft noise level improvements and the impact PBI has on the local economy. The COMMITTEE did not take any votes regarding the information provided by the consulting team.

NANCY PULLUM commented that PBI is taking on more and more airlines and asked at what point would there be too much new commercial service. DIRECTOR BEEBE replied that the driver for runway expansion / airfield improvements is mostly from the increase in general aviation flights and not due to increased commercial service. DIRECTOR BEEBE also stated that per Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules, the Department of Airports (DOA) is required to accommodate any commercial airlines that wish to provide service.

CAROL ROBERTS asked if the DOA can switch general aviation flights from PBI to the North County Airport (F45) in Palm Beach Gardens. DIRECTOR BEEBE answered that the DOA cannot mandate the airport that a general aviation pilot chooses to use. She continued stating that while she expects an increase in general aviation traffic at F45, the increase will not result in a significant reduction of air traffic at PBI.

LEWIS CRAMPTON suggested that in addition to discussing airfield improvements, the CCAN should also address the reasons why PBI continues to experience growth, including the increase in private aircraft users, population growth and a burgeoning local economy. DIRECTOR BEEBE replied that all of those factors are reasons for the need for the DOA to proceed with conceptual plans for airfield improvements.

MARTIN KLEIN asked about the accuracy of flight delay information on the FAA website. DAVID RAMACORTI explained the different ways that the FAA defines flight delays.

NANCY PULLUM asked if individual airlines set their own schedules or if schedules are determined by individual airports. DAVID RAMACORTI advised that airlines set their own schedules and that they will often lengthen their hours of service during a day to help alleviate congestion and/or delays. In reply to NANCY PULLUM's query regarding what the DOA can, and cannot, do to limit increased commercial service, DIRECTOR BEEBE informed her that it would be better for the DOA attorneys, at a future meeting, to address the COMMITTEE regarding that topic.

LEWIS CRAMPTON and MARTIN KLEIN both inquired as to how projected growth forecasts at PBI impact the planning process. DAVID RAMACORTI informed them that based on current forecasts PBI is "behind the curve" in the planning process and should be closer to the implementation process.

MARTIN KLEIN asked if Ricondo & Associates consults with any airports that are currently use a slot management system. DAVID RAMACORTI advised that his firm provides consulting services to Reagan National Airport (DCA).

NANCY PULLUM asked for a percentage value of general aviation flights vs. commercial service flights. DIRECTOR BEEBE replied that currently the percentage split is approximately 65% general aviation and 35% commercial service.

DIRECTOR BEEBE informed the COMMITTEE that regardless of FAA decisions as to the exact environmental process the DOA is committed to having public participation throughout the process.

MARTIN KLEIN asked if there are ways to expedite the environmental process. STEVE CULBERSON answered that there are. MARTIN KLEIN asked for an estimate of how far behind the DOA is in the planning process and DIRECTOR BEEBE estimated that the DOA is approximately two years behind where it should be.

NANCY PULLUM commented on the need for local homeowner associations to be included in the planning process, and LEWIS CRAMPTON commented on the need for a broad strategy to address community outreach. He also stated that the COMMITTEE will work on ideas to increase public involvement before the next CCAN meeting.

MARTIN KLEIN asked if a cost-benefit analysis of a runway expansion project will be provided to the CCAN. DIRECTOR BEEBE answered that part of the planning process is to include a cost-benefit analysis.

ALICE MCLANE asked what was the major difference between the current proposed runway extension and a runway extension that was proposed in 2004. DIRECTOR BEEBE answered that the current proposal is not the same as provided in the 2018 Master Plan and is closer to the project previously proposed, which included an approximate 8,000' runway and retaining a portion of the crosswind runway.

CAROL ROBERTS added that PBI is important to all of Palm Beach County and that improvements to PBI are felt throughout the county. She said that expansion should be discussed with all of the residents of Palm Beach County. LEWIS CRAMPTON added that PBI is an economic engine and reiterated its importance to the County overall.

JULIE HERMES asked if commercial airlines are included in discussions regarding noise concerns. DIRECTOR BEEBE answered that the aviation community is aware of the airport's noise abatement program.

MARTIN KLEIN thanked LAURA BEEBE and her staff for the presentation and for inviting the CCAN members to participate in the planning process.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson NANCY PULLUM asked if there were any members of the public who wished to comment. JOSE RODRIGUEZ, a local resident, asked that future publications be made available in Spanish.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.