



LAX/COMMUNITY NOISE ROUNDTABLE

Recap of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2009

Roundtable Members Present

John McTaggart, Chairman, Representing LA County Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe
Denny Schneider, Vice Chairman, Westchester Neighbors Association
Carl Jacobson, Councilman, City of El Segundo
Mike Gureckas, Representing Congressman Dana Rohrabacher
Chad Molnar, Representing Councilman Bill Rosendahl
Michael DiVirgilio, Representing Congresswoman Jane Harman
Blake LaMar, Representing the City of Palos Verdes Estates
Beverly Ackerson, PANIC/City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Yvonne Bedford, Alternate, Ladera Heights Civic Association
Danna Cope, LAX Area Advisory Committee
Michael DiGirolamo, LAWA
Scott Tatro, LAWA
Bob Holden, LAWA
David Chan, LAWA
Gene Reindel, Roundtable Facilitator

1. Call to order

Roundtable Chairman John McTaggart called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Samuel Greenberg Boardroom at LAX.

2. Continuing Discussion on Funding the LAX/Community Noise Roundtable

A video of the Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) meeting that was held on November 17, 2008 was shown to give members an understanding of why LAWA is requesting Roundtable members to explore the possibility of sharing and/or reducing the costs of the Roundtable, and to show how BOAC members responded to the letter sent by the Roundtable in regards to funding. The video showed Roger Johnson expressing discontent with the tone of the letter and despite of this, he recommended the board to approve the contract with Harris Miller Miller and Hanson Inc to provide facilitation and support services for the Roundtable for a term of one year with two one-year renewal options. The BOAC approved the contract with a 10% reduction in contract budget authority and with a condition that requires the Roundtable membership to continue exploring the possibility of sharing and/or reducing the costs of the Roundtable.

Chairman McTaggart requested a copy of the video for the Roundtable and requested the video be sent to each of the represented jurisdictions.

Gene Reindel briefly summarized a memo he prepared prior to this meeting that recommended the Roundtable to consider two motions in regards to funding: (1) request letters to be sent to each of the 13 jurisdictions represented at the Roundtable to request for funding support; and (2) reduce the frequency of meeting to every other month through the end of 2009.

Discussions

An inquiry was made on the total cost of the Roundtable. It was noted that the total cost of the HMMH contract is approximately \$67,000 for the LAX Roundtable. There are other associated costs of the Roundtable being subsidized by LAWA that will not require the members to compensate including LAWA staff time and overtime.

An inquiry was made on how LAWA would apply the cost-sharing measure to the Van Nuys Roundtable. LAWA noted that since the VNY Roundtable has not been established, LAWA has not considered whether or not to request contribution from the membership of that group.

Denny Schneider inquired if other entities such as the FAA and airlines are required to make contribution. It was noted that LAWA receives revenues from the airlines through landing fees and leases. LAWA is not requesting the FAA to contribute fund to the Roundtable since it is here to provide assistance to resolve noise issues wherever possible. (The FAA is an ex-officio member and does not have a vote).

Member Danna Cope inquired on how the community organizations would provide funding. Gene Reindel stated he realized that certain community organizations may not have the financial resource to make contribution, therefore he suggested only for members that represent a city or county agencies to make contribution.

Chairman McTaggart stated that he had previously communicated with Supervisor Don Knabe on the suggestion of requesting Roundtable members to pay a portion of the costs. Mr. Knabe indicated that he was not willing to provide financial support to the Roundtable. Chairman McTaggart also stated that he is willing to approach him again with a letter, but he believes that this is a difficult time to request funding.

Member Beverly Ackerson stated she adamantly opposes the idea of requesting Roundtable members to pay a portion of the costs.

Member Cope stated that she believes the BOAC is not recommending to discontinue the Roundtable but to find viable options to reduce the costs.

Mr DiGirolamo mentioned that he oversaw the Roundtable for the past year and he believes some of the meetings were not needed.

Chairman McTaggart shared his concern that more meetings may be needed if a problem surfaces.

Chad Molnar stated his councilmember believes the Roundtable should remain funded by LAWA for a number of reasons. Mr. Molnar further stated that Councilman Rosendahl is sympathetic to the need for reducing costs, but he is not supportive of having the jurisdictions to pay nominal fees.

Member Blake LaMar inquired on the cost reduction if the Roundtable would meet every other month. Mr. Reindel stated that it would probably be about 40% since the proposition is to cut 4 of the 10 monthly meetings.

Member Cope added that NASA is publishing reports this fall or winter on the LAX North Complex Study and that the Roundtable will have to spend time reviewing the reports. She said it is probably fine for now to cut every other month.

Mr. Scott Tatro reminded the Roundtable that LAWA selected HMMH for assistance with analyzing noise abatement procedures to determine their effectiveness in addition to the facilitation services. He indicated that portions of the contract's scope of work can be removed to reduce costs. Mr. Reindel added that HMMH's contract also includes developing and presenting various topics, such as "Introduction to Aircraft Noise" and provides travel reimbursement for guest speakers including David Carbone who is here tonight to develop a working relationship between SFO and LAX Roundtables.

After a long discussion on this matter, Vice Chairman Schneider made a motion to waive four meetings per year with the intent to meet every other month and to have the option to call for a special meeting if needed. Such special meeting would require the approval of the Chairman. The membership may revisit the meeting frequency if it proves to be ineffective. Member LaMar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Molnar asked when LAWA is going back to the BOAC to renew the contract with HMMH. Mr. Holden stated that the one-year renewal of the HMMH contract must be presented to the BOAC in November.

Mr. Michael DiGirolamo indicated that the letters requesting for financial support will also need to be sent to the 13 jurisdictions as specified in the memo prepared by Gene Reindel.

3. Work Program Item IV A. -- Establish Working Relationships with Other Roundtables

Mr. David F. Carbone who is the Program Manager for the San Francisco International Airport/Community Noise Roundtable was invited by LAWA to provide an overview of the SFO Roundtable, and to begin fostering a working relationship between the two roundtables. Mr. Carbone gave a presentation on the SFO Roundtable covering the background, membership, work program, funding structure and other essential information.

Mr. Carbone then began discussing possible methods that the two roundtables could begin to work together, including the sharing of agendas, work programs and other documents. Other ideas include distributing the SFO / Community Roundtable Newsletter to the LAX/Community Noise Roundtable and inviting an LAX/Community Noise Roundtable representative to a future SFO Roundtable meeting. He then opened the floor to discussion to continue thinking of ways to foster a working relationship between the two roundtables.

Member Danna Cope indicated it is a good idea to get on the email and newsletter lists from the SFO Roundtable.

Mr. Bob Holden asked for the information to come to him and he would distribute to the LAX Roundtable.

Mr. Carbone stated that the SFO Roundtable would have a new website by the end of the year that will include agendas, reports and correspondences.

Mr. David Chan stated that the LAX Roundtable would like to have a NASA representative come to the Roundtable to discuss the Tailored Oceanic Arrivals.

4. Review of LAX Roundtable Correspondence Log

Due to the time limitation, Chairman McTaggart directed this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

5. Roundtable Member Discussion

Mr. David Chan indicated that there were some concerns about certain aircraft operations at LAX that may cause more noise disturbance to the community north of the airport. In particular these operations include:

- Aircraft departing from Runway 24L that turn southbound with the rear of the engines facing toward the community to the north, thereby causing more noise.
- Pilot that uses the "S" Turn approach during landing to slowdown the aircraft to either allow traffic on runway to clear or to maintain aircraft separation requirement. This procedure is also used to prevent a go-around operation.
- Aircraft that switch runway during final approach to LAX.

To confirm whether or not that these operations cause more noise to the community north of the airport, Mr. Chan showed a PowerPoint of a noise analysis of the operations of concern in comparison to standard operations. The comparison analysis did not indicate any increase of noise as result of the engines pointing toward the community to the north. The analysis indicates that the increase of noise over a certain area is dependent on where the aircraft is in space rather than where the engines are pointed.

Member Ackerson is wondering if there have been any changes in flights and/or flight patterns recently as she has been getting phone calls about early morning aircraft operations over her community. The operations are around 2 to 3 a.m. Member LaMar asked if she has checked the website for flight tracks. Member Ackerson replied she had not checked and added that the flights are heading directly west.

Chairman McTaggart commended the Roundtable members for dealing with the funding issue and for helping to resolve this very important issue.

Vice Chair Schneider would like a progress report on a previous request he made that requires airlines to produce a report each time they depart east during over-ocean operations. Mr. DiGirolamo asked if he was hearing or seeing more easterly flights and added that he is not quite sure of the issues.

Mr. Schneider also requested the Roundtable to send a letter to the FAA requesting it to follow the established preferential runway use program. He wants to get the FAA to be in better compliance with the procedures at this point since the operations are down, so that the FAA can be in a better position to follow through with the procedures when operations return to higher levels. He believes the FAA can utilize the preferential runway procedures more effectively.

Mr. DiGirolamo inquired on the specific problem with the runway use program and stated that LAWA could talk to the FAA about adhering to the preferential runway use program. Mr. Schneider stated that part of the issue is noise and part of it is runway incursions. He agreed that this is not a big deal now, but he wants to raise the issue with the FAA to have better compliance rate. Mr. David Chan added that, as he had shown at previous meetings, part of the runway use is dependent on runway closures. Mr. Chan stated that outboard departure operations (Runway 25L) declined from about 900 in April to about 700 each month in May and June; Runway 24R

departure operations were around 300 each month in May and June. Mr. Schneider indicated that he will raise this issue with the FAA when a representative is in attendance at the Roundtable.

Chairman McTaggart requested LAWA to send an email to the Roundtable members notifying them that there will be no meeting in October. He also requested that LAWA to update meeting schedule information on the website.

Mr. Bob Holden reported that there is a conflict with the November meeting since it is scheduled on a national holiday, Veterans Day. Chairman McTaggart requested that the November meeting be changed to the following Wednesday on November 18, 2009.

Member Ackerson wanted to know how the changes in operations at LAX and around the country have impacted the flight paths. Mr. DiGirolamo replied that there have been no changes in flight paths in the Los Angeles region.

6. Comments from the Public

Mr. Tim Ihle commended the Noise Management Office for providing aircraft flight tracks and identification information on the LAWA website with upgraded noise monitoring system, which allows the public to go online and find information about a specific flight of concern.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Roundtable will be convened at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 in the Samuel Greenberg Boardroom at LAX.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.