

**LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
AIRPORT COMMITTEE AGENDA  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – 2:30 P.M.**

**6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70126**

PRESENT: Commissioner Pat Meadowcroft – Chair  
Commissioner Jennifer Herbert - Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Brian Egana  
Commissioner Wilma Heaton  
Commissioner Carlos Williams

STAFF: Louis Capo – Executive Director  
Vanessa McKee – Assistant to the Executive Director  
Adam Gulino – Director of Operations and Engineering  
Bruce Martin- Airport Director

ALSO

PRESENT: Jeff Dye- LMA Counsel  
Van Constantine – General Manager Signature  
Mark Pernosky – COO, Heli Co  
Eric Monson- Founder/Owner, Heli Co  
Steve Green- SS Marina Tenant  
Holly Radke- SSHCBS Tenant  
Rachel Linker- SSHCBS Tenant  
Jourdan Brimer  
Phillip Everett – District Manager Signature

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The Airport Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 2:30 PM at 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

**I. Call to Order**

**Chair Meadowcroft** called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

## **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Chair Meadowcroft** led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **III. Roll Call**

**Mr. Capo** called the roll. With 5 members present, a quorum was established.

## **IV. Opening Comments – Chair Meadowcroft**

**Chair Meadowcroft** welcomed everyone to the committee meeting. She said she would not be discussing the FEMA Compliance piece. Instead, there will be an update during the Director's report. She added that she would like to meet with some of the other commissioners to discuss next steps. She also asked staff to update the with paper and send it out to the commissioners.

## **V. Motion to Adopt Agenda**

A motion was offered by **Commissioner J. Herbert;** seconded by **Commissioner Williams.**

Hearing no questions or comments, **Chair Meadowcroft** called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

## **V. Public Comments – No public comments.**

## **VI. Airport Director's Report**

**Bruce Martin,** Director of Aviation reported on the following:

- **FAA Operations** numbers came out from January 2023. Flight operations increased by 329 from 2022. The total flight operations were 6064.

- **Fuel Numbers** were also up in February 2023 by 24,228 gallons received.
- **Hot Spot 1 and 3 Construction** is near complete. They are completing the punch list items. He show pics of before and after and described in detail. The concrete has been removed.
- **The Runway Safety Meeting** will be in August to discuss the impact from this project.

**Chair Meadowcroft** asked who pays for this project.

**Mr. Martin** stated the funding for this project was 90% FAA and 10% DOTD.

**Chair Meadowcroft** asked if we expect the increase in fuel sales to continue.

**Mr. Martin** stated although we are up from a few years past, he was not sure we would meet the projection goal set for this year. He felt it would be heavily dependent on the Saints success.

**Mr. Martin** said that he fully expects the numbers will continue to increase from where they were in the past decade. He also felt that college football is headed to become a major contender in 2025 due to the Sugar bowl will become a playoff game which is the same year we are scheduled to host the Superbowl.

- **The Drainage Project.**
  - o We've applied for (2) additional grants in addition to the AIP grant to help with the costs of additional work needed to support the weak soil to support the pump station.
  - o We're expecting to receive \$16 million in AIP grant funds
  - o The total cost of the project's additional phases will be upwards of \$25- \$30 million
  - o We rate well with the design which is currently at 90%

- Met with the ADO office which showed favor. They are expected to talk to National FAA to rate us.

**Commissioner Heaton** asked who did the design for this project.

**Mr. Martin** stated that ICEE did the design.

- **Taxiway Bravo** will be the next project to break ground. It's the main taxiway that feeds the runway.
  - This project will be a simple mill overlay to be broken down into section so as to not lose access to the runway.
  - The cost is expected to be \$2 million.
  - \$900,000 has been appropriated by the State in HB-1 and the other portion will come from our BIL money.
- **EAA Youth Flight Experience This Saturday**
  - Working with Golden Eagles
  - We've offered the ramp and conference center
  - Gives youth the opportunity to go up in the planes
  - We will also take them out to the Fire station
- **NOLA Film Society** will host its 2023 Gala here at the Airport on Saturday, April 2023
- **Hertz Rental** wants to come here to rent space in the terminal. Ms. Winnie Christopher has helped immensely with the details thus far. We're expecting to present the resolution and lease May 2023.

**Chair Meadowcroft** asked if there was enough parking to accommodate their fleet.

**Commissioner Egana** asked about security and if they would operate 24hrs.

**Mr. Martin** stated that they were still working out the details, but it would not be a 24/hr operation.

**Mr. Capo** introduced the latest letter sent to FEMA on March 14, 2023 related to the FEMA Compliance piece.

**Adam Gulino** reported on the delayed timeline.

## **VII. New Business**

- 1. Motion to recommend approval of a lease with Lake Superior Helicopters, LLC., D/B/A Heli Co. New Orleans, of Suite 148 in the Terminal at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, for a primary term of one year, commencing on April 1, 2023, with two (2) one-year options to renew, for an annual rent during the primary term of the lease of \$6,262.00, plus a pro-rata pass-through charge for utilities and insurance, with the annual rent subject to a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment during each option term of the lease.**

**A motion was offered by Commissioner J. Herbert; seconded by Chair Meadowcroft.**

**Winnie Christopher, Airport Manager** detailed the terms of the lease and introduced Eric Monson, founder/owner of Heli Co.

**Mr. Monson** commented that he was the founder of Heli Co. The original business is based out of Minnesota. He has been at the airport for 5 years. He feels that the terminal will increase foot traffic. He introduced Mark Pernosky as the Operations Manager for Heli Co.

**Mark Pernosky**, Operations Manager for Heli Co. stated that Heli Co has a save the date event on April 21-23 proceeds will be supporting Son of A Saint Project.

**Chair Meadowcroft** asked if they work with the Tourism Board to publicize your rides.

**Mr. Pernosky** stated that they work with New Orleans and Company to advertise.

**Chair Meadowcroft** welcomed Heli Co and let them know that this was the first of a two-step process. The Final step would be approval by the full board at next Thursday's Board meeting.

**With no further questions or comments Chair Meadowcroft called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

**2. Motion to recommend approval for Lakefront Management Authority to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans for an Emergency Medical Responder Program.**

**A motion was offered by Chair Meadowcroft; seconded by Commissioner J. Herbert.**

**Commissioner Egana** asked why was the CEA only for (1) year. It may serve well to see if we can execute a multi-year CEA.

**Commissioner J. Herbert** stated that the resolution states the CEA serves in perpetuity.

**Commissioner Egana** asked why we were doing this again.

**Mr. Capo** stated The City of New Orleans has a new system and needs everyone's signature again.

Commissioner Heaton stepped out of the room before the vote. With (4) members still seated there was still a quorum.

**Hearing no further questions or comments, Chair Meadowcroft called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed. Pernosky.**

**3. Discussion on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget**

**Mr. Capo** reported on the 2024 Airport Budget line by line and follows:

- **Fuel Farm FY 2023-2024 Proposed General Operating Budget**
  - o \$725,000

- Salary for the fuel farm manager is set by the state
  - Airport Insurances
  - No significant changes in the fuel Farm Expenditure column
  - Projecting \$508,000 on fuel sales
- **Aircraft Rescue and Firefighters FY 2023-2024 Proposed General Operating Budget**
- Salaries are determined by Civil Service
  - Radio Tower
    - Board approved the new radio network in the last budget year
    - Streamlines communication with NOPD and NOFD all on one system
  - This year we are projecting a \$930,000 loss
  - Next year we are projecting a \$995,000 loss
- **Lakefront Airport Administration FY 2023-2024 Proposed General Operating Budget**
- Revenues stayed the same
  - Rent and location agreements were increased and broken out for tracking purposes.
  - Id badges increased.
  - Salaries are down \$40,000
- **Chair Meadowcroft** asked why was salaries down this year.
- **Mr. Capo** explained that there may have been positions filled last that were not budgeted this year. He used the example of the fire chief position. We will not be hiring that position this year.
- Commissioner Egana** asked how many staff does the Airport have. what is the annual budget and does the airport need additional staff.

**Bruce Martin** stated that the airport alone has (14) staff, (9) of which are firemen. The budget is \$943,000. The Airport absolutely needs more staff.

**Commissioner Egana** felt that adequate staffing would be an area where the board must hold itself accountable to investigate ways to fulfill the Airport's staffing needs to enable them to complete tasks in a timely fashion.

**- Airport Combined FY 2023-2024 Proposed General Operating Budget**

**Commissioner Egana** suggested that committees hold budget discussions earlier in the year if we must have it approved and sent to Baton Rouge by April 1.

**- Capital Projects and the Lamp Account**

- Strictly funded by LMA's Lamp account
- The Airport received funds for the (3) tank Inspections
- Williams Hangar roof damage from H. Ida in \$150,000
- Lamp account gets funded gets funded two ways
  - Don't do a project
  - Or access funds
- \$900,000 will be used to fund the SSH Sprinkler system
- We have not received our ad valorem taxes
- The agency would not survive if there were another catastrophic event like H. Katrina

**Commissioner Heaton** stated that if LMA could get flood protection it could add approximately 30 acres to develop additional hangars as a means to increase Airport revenue.

**Chair Meadowcroft** informed the committee that's he will be making individual calls to discuss ideas to aid in generating more revenue for the Airport.

**Chair Meadowcroft** announced the next committee meeting and called for a vote to adjourn.

**VIII. Announcement of the next Airport Committee Meeting**

1. Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:30 PM



**IX. Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was offered by Commissioner Egana; seconded by Commissioner J. Herbert. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 PM.**