

**LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
AIRPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 – 2:30 P.M**

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

PRESENT: Commissioner Wilma Heaton – Chair
Commissioner Philip Clinton
Commissioner Brian Egana

ABSENT: Commissioner Jennifer Herbert
Commissioner Carlos Williams

STAFF: Louis Capo – Executive Director
Vanessa McKee – Assistant to the Executive Director
Laith Alshamaileh – Director of Operations and Engineering
Richard Huddle – Harbormaster
Kristin Clinard - Finance
Kel Brownfield – HR Director
Sandie McCarthy- Brown
John Peters – Engineering Assistant

**ALSO
PRESENT:** Gerry Metzger – LMA Counsel
Caz McGee Garver, Project Manager
Bane Shepherd – Signature, Market General Manager
Chris Fenner, Senior VP | Stuart Consulting Group, Inc
Amy Wing – Stuart Consulting Group
Paul Demetrios – Senior PM, RCL Architecture, LLC

The regular monthly Recreation Committee meeting of the Lakefront Management Authority was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 4:37 PM at the Lakefront Terminal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Center, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 after due notice of the meeting was sent to each board member, the news media, and posted.

I. Call to Order at 2:33pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Egana

III. **Roll Call (3) members present for a quorum**

IV. **Opening Comments** – Chair Heaton – NONE

V. **Motion to Adopt Agenda**

A motion was offered by **Commissioner Clinton**, seconded by **Commissioner Egana**.

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

VI. **Public Comments** - Limited to (2) Minutes - NONE

VII. **Airport Director's Report**

Bruce Martin, Airport Director reported the following:

- **Taxiway Bravo** is under way. This phase of work should be completed by Thanksgiving. Mr. Martin showed pictures of the progress. Milling took place last week This week they are working on paving.
- **Melissa Marquar**, is now on the Airport maintenance staff. She came over from LMA maintenance department. She is currently being trained in how to operate on the airfield.
- **Maintenance completed projects:**
 - Finishing renewal markings on runway 9
 - Crack fill operations on the echo pad are complete
 - New wheels placed on the BIG 6 gate
- The airport hosted St. Leo the Great second graders in a tour of the airport.

Commissioner Clinton asked what the target age for the airport tours was and also would it be beneficial for board members to encourage a connection for other schools to come.

Mr. Martin said all age groups from K-12 are welcome. He also said that he was working with Stem Nola to schedule regular tours for their kids.

- Current open grants remain the same.
- He introduced Brandt Dufrene as the new Airport Fuel Farm Maintenance Repairer Master.

Mr. Dufrene introduced himself to the board and said how much he loves his job. He said that there have been many improvements to the fuel farm to include painting, getting the oil and water separator working, and new computers at the loading ramp.

VIII. New Business

- 1. Motion to recommend approval of DOTD Grant H.016566
Runway Incursion Mitigation Grant in the sum of \$17,945.00**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Clinton, seconded by Commissioner Egana.

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

- 2. Motion to recommend approval of DOTD Grant H.016539
Taxiway Bravo Rehabilitation in the sum of \$215,450.00**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Clinton, seconded by Commissioner Egana.

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

3. Update and discussion on the Bastian Mitchell Hangar and FEMA issues regarding the construction of the hangar's first floor.

Chris Fenner of Stuart Consulting Group introduced himself, Amy Wing, also from Stuart Enterprises and Mr. Paul Demetrios of RCL Architecture, LLC as the program managers for FEMA disaster recovery for H. Katrina.

Mr. Fenner outlined the chronology of events and discussions around the FEMA Compliance issues surrounding James Wedell and Bastain Mitchell hangars.

- Completed construction on hangars in 2013-2014
- FEMA came out for the post construction site inspections and raised questions regarding the flood plane compliance with the spaces on the first level of the buildings.

This led to a long series of communications from 2015-2025

- Going back prior to construction, FEMA reviewed the plans and provided feedback relative to floodplain compliance comments. All comments were addressed prior to construction in the final plans.
- FEMA's current position is any comments provided by their previous staff were informational and that LMA needs the city's floodplain manager to approve the building as is or approve the necessary modifications.
- After going through several iterations, we obtained waivers from the Board of Building Standards and Appeals and provided the waivers to FEMA in 2019.
- FEMA rejected the waiver citing that the City of New Orleans did not have the authority to waive the flood plan
- In 2023 RCL completed a corrective action plan that was sent to the City's Floodplain Administrator. The plan included removing the restrooms, making electrical modifications and removing sheetrock. The glass storefront and stairs would remain in place.

- To date the Floodplain Manager has not ruled on the corrective action plan. FEMA did provide a written response of items of concern. Their suggested modifications included much more significant changes to the building that would be extremely cost-prohibitive for the LMA.

Mr. Capo added that he understood it, FEMA required LMA to go to the city's floodplain manager but if he ruled on it then FEMA would take action against the floodplain manager's office.

Commissioner Egana asked who the floodplain manager was, did all parties involved in the decision-making meet, and what was the outcome.

Chris Fenner said there was a meeting where all parties were in the room.

Laith Al Shamaileh added that he refused to rule one way or the other.

Mr. Demetrios stated that there was a letter from the city's floodplain manager back in September of 2022 stating that the buildings were in compliance.

Mr. Fenner added that letter was rejected by FEMA.

Commissioner Egana left the meeting at 3:08pm. The quorum was lost.

Chair Heaton announced the next meeting and adjourned the meeting without a quorum.

IX. Announcement of the next Airport Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 2:30 PM

X. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 3:16pm without a quorum.