

San Diego Regional Airport Citizens Coalition

Synopsis of Meeting

February 27, 2007

**Magnolias Restaurant
Market Creek Plaza**

12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

This special meeting was called to order by Coalition leader, Raymond Peters at 12:30 PM. He welcomed our special guests from the Regional Airport Authority, CEO Thella Bowens and Angela Shafer-Payne. Mr. Peters submitted the agenda which included discussion of our last meeting, new business and Ms. Bowens' special presentation. We give a special thanks to the RAA staff in meeting with our coalition! Members present included Raymond Peters, Lesley McClelland, Jay Shumaker, Chris Zolezzi, Greg Finley, Cynthia Conger, Paul Grimes and Sharon Thurston.

Raymond convened the meeting with welcome to our special guests and the question of what the San Diego Regional Airport Citizens Coalition could do to assist the RAA in their mission. Specifically, Raymond said that the Coalition is supportive of Ms. Bowens and the RAA. We look forward to sharing communication with the RAA specific to "Fly into the Future".

Thella Bowens: Ms Bowens said the new RAA Board is committed to moving forward now that that the voters resoundingly defeated the Miramar location. The site selection process is over. The airport measure was polarizing to our community. ***Now is a time to heal.***

Members of the Coalition asked about a potential move of Miramar away from our region. Ms Bowens indicated there seemed to be a strong vote not to use a military base.

The vote does not change that fact that Lindbergh will become too small in the future. If there is to be a new airport, ***a visionary, political leader will be to champion that effort.*** The measure to support Miramar did not have that level of political support. Any future leader on a new airport will need to have "credibility, integrity and passion".

In the meantime, we need to have on-going dialog in hopes that a grass roots effort to support a new airport comes into focus. Raymond indicated that our

Coalition should, and is willing to, play a role in an effort to seek a new airport. Raymond also said that the FAA stressed the importance of citizens groups such as ours.

Ms. Bowens stressed that we have to be realistic in view of the 62% voter refection of the Airport ballot measure. In addition the city of San Diego has much bigger, basic issues to address given the financial difficulties.

It takes time and effort to get a new airport. Ms Bowens cited efforts in Denver and how much time and effort went in to getting their new airport.

Raymond asked what our group could do to help. Ms. Bowens said we need to stay “tuned in” to what the RAA is doing. We need to keep in communication with the RAA so that we can pursue the issues that we support and then actively participate.

Raymond suggested that our website is a good vehicle for posting un-biased information about the airport issues.

Lastly, Ms Bowens and the collation discussed at length the Airport Master plan and any potential changes that may occur. We also discussed the critical make up of the RAA.

Consensus is that we do not support any efforts to change the make up of the RAA. We do not support proposed legislation to change the RAA. RAA members need to be full time and should continue to be separate from current political commissions. RAA members should not be political persons who have other jobs to fill.

Action Planning

- Send letters in opposition to SB 10 as presented by Senator Kehoe to change the make up of the RAA
- Maintain our website as neutral and current information of airport issues
- Maintain ongoing dialog with RAA.

Next Quarterly Meeting

**May, 2007
TBA**