

Biddle, Jennifer

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Comments for Aviation Committee meeting Monday.

This email is to provide my input regarding item 3 a formation of ad hoc committee to discuss potential changes to the City's to Aviation Committee item 3 a.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the Aviation Committee the past 4 years. I am also an elected Director of the Eastbluff Homeowners' Community Association representing 460 homes.

I am reporting my observations to the committee and plan to do the same when this issue is considered by the city council.

I feel the committee no longer provides the public service and platform for independent advice from appointed members.

The purpose of the committee is still valid, and I support a revised structure be implemented to be more effective.

As approved by the City Council and renewed over many years, the [Aviation Committee](#) was formed to assist the City in the implementation of [Council Policy A-17](#) (Newport Beach City Council Airport Policy). This policy is very important to our residents, and I recommend this be part of the discussion on how the city should provide for public input and participation in the future.

The agenda item to be discussed Monday by the Committee will move the decision to the full city council to set a future direction for the committee. A decision to improve the organization and effectiveness of the committee improvement is needed.

Doing nothing is what has been going on for the past 18 months and is not acceptable in my opinion.

Here is a summary of what has recently occurred.

Plans for a City sponsored community meeting in April 2025 to discuss JWA issues such as mitigation of noise, future renewal of the curfew agreement and limitations on passenger

limitation, expansion of general aviation facilities and future Aviation challenges with electronic air mobility and drones has never taken place as planned.

The agenda item proposed by Committee chair has not been discussed with the committee or public until this special meeting was suddenly announced.

Staff support of the committee since Tara Finnigan was promoted to Assistant City Manager has been non-existent. Tara did an excellent five-star job until Councilman Blom became chair and public input was no longer a priority.

Councilman Blom reduced the meeting schedule to a quarterly basis with city council's approval and then cancelled meetings that were scheduled.

Councilmember Kleiman has given the Aviation issues attention and been effective. She has meet with FAA officials, the city's consultants, Aviation Committee Jack Stranberg, industry representatives and JWA lessees. She has made the lone accomplishment by the city on this committee since 2023.

The work of the committee was cancelled two years ago and nothing replaced it. The forum between the JWA administration and county Airport Commission has been dormant.

I hope the city council will create a forum for community input and research of issues. The prior work of committee members had merit and was a benefit of dedicated people who donated substantial time outside the regular meetings. This process has stopped.

I believe one problem with the structure of the committee is that the chair and deputy chair are both appointed council members. I believe the structure should be similar to Planning Commission where the chair is a resident selected by a nomination process and city council approval for two-year term.

An important issue is city staff support. The committee needs ongoing administration and legal support from city staff. If this support is not available, the committee should be terminated.

This letter is my final contribution to the Aviation Committee. I have submitted to Tara a letter of resignation from the Committee effective immediately.

I prefer to be a voice for my Eastbluff community and will continue to support efforts to maintain the noise standards, flight and passenger limitations and renewal of the curfew. The airport is a positive asset for the community and the balance we have achieved should be maintained in the future.

A full city council discussion about the future of the Aviation Committee is a good means to proceed. I recommend public participation and independent advice to the City council on Aviation issues continue in the future.

Ron Rubino