



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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MINUTES

O'HARE AIRPORT COMMISSION

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
505 BUTLER PLACE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017 AT 7:00PM

Mission Statement

To develop and recommend appropriate solutions enabling Park Ridge city officials to take decisive action to reduce noise and environmental impacts from operations at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, while protecting the health and safety of area residents, educating the community, positively impacting and protecting property, sense of community, and quality of life.

Chairman Argionis called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

I. Roll Call

On roll call, the following indicated their presence: Chairman Argionis, Commissioners Judge, Kosower, Mills and Rapp. Alderman Mazzuca and Senior Administrative Assistant Brigid Madden were also present along with 10 residents.

II. Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2016

Moved by Commissioner Rapp. Seconded by Commissioner Mills.
Motion carried by voice vote.

III. Aldermen Who Wish to be Heard on a Non-Agenda Item

IV. Citizens Who Wish to be Heard on a Non-Agenda Item

V. Fly Quiet Night Rotation Update

Chairman Argionis provided an overview of the six month Fly Quiet Rotation.

Commissioner Rapp explained that data from the first 12-week cycle was released at the last Fly Quiet Ad Hoc meeting. The data shows that the diagonal runways, specifically 15 / 33, was used 40% of the time for departures. The FAA and Air Traffic Control will be analyzing the data and providing feedback at the February 8th Fly Quiet meeting. Commissioner Rapp stated that the chair of the Fly Quiet meeting announced that ONCC would be developing a second six-month rotation, which would be tweaked in response to complaints and problem areas. Commissioner Rapp is concerned that the ONCC will "slow-walk" the Fly Quiet Rotation tests up until the completion of the sixth parallel runway.

Chairman Argionis explained that while the Commission does not want to see the completion of the sixth runway, they should still be involved in the development of future Fly Quiet Rotations to limit the noise over Park Ridge in the event that the runway is built.

A resident asked for clarification on the Granville runway, 9C 27C. Commissioner Rapp explained that the construction will take place in three phases. The west portion of the runway will intersect with the diagonal runway, which FAiR is fighting to keep open.

Chairman Argionis explained that the new runway, based on his estimates, lines up more with Peterson Avenue. It will be located 1,500 feet north of runway 27 L (Higgins). Commissioner Rapp added that the entire area south of Devon Avenue is subject to collateral noise.

Commissioner Kosower noted that the CDA reports for the first 12-week cycle indicate that 22R, a runway that is not normally used at night except for weather related off-operations, took 20% of the arrivals during the first 12 weeks.

Chairman Argionis welcome Commissioner Ernie Kosower to the O'Hare Airport Commission.

A resident in the audience ask about the qualifications for soundproofing. Chairman Argionis explained that the City of Park Ridge does not control any of the soundproofing. He stated that there is not an application. Homes qualify based on a 2005 sound study, which identified the sound contour. It is up to the FAA, CDA and ONCC to expand the program. Chairman Argionis reviewed the Commission's attempts to require a new sound study and get more residents sound insulation.

In response to a question from a resident, Alderman Mazzuca explained the CDA's phased approach to residential soundproofing. Qualifying homes in Chicago have been completed; Park Ridge is included in Phase 17 and Des Plaines Phase 18. Commissioner Rapp explained that the CDA is require to complete a new analysis five years after the buildout is complete. He suspects that the sound contour will expand. Chairman Argionis stated that the Commission has been pushing to lower the level to qualify, which is currently 65 DNL based on a 24-hour cycle. Federal legislation is being considered to lower the national standard.

A resident addressed that lack of a sound barrier on the Park Ridge side of 294 at Touhy Avenue. He believed it would also provide relief from airport noise. Alderman Mazzuca explained that 294 is a City boundary and is not particularly close to residences. While the barriers may dampen the noise from the highway, he does not believe it would provide relief from airport noise.

VI. Park Ridge's Request to Become a Member of the ONCC Technical Committee

Chairman Argionis described the Technical Committee as the "nuts and bolts" of the ONCC. Alderman Mazzuca explained that the Mayor submitted a request in writing to the ONCC and the City is now officially a member of the Technical Committee. The Mayor also appointed Commission Rapp to serve the City's representative at the Committee meetings.

VII. Park Ridge Representation at Future ONCC Meetings

Alderman Mazzuca spoke about the scheduling conflicts with the ONCC general meetings. The Mayor has updated the list of alternates, which includes Alderman Mazzuca, Commissioners Mills and Judge and the City's Senior Planner Jon Branham.

VIII. Environmental Study / Research

Chairman Argionis explained that Commission Ackeret reached out to the Health Commission to collaborate on environmental study.

Jack Barnette of the Health Commission was present and explained that this topic will be an agenda item at their next meeting. Mr. Barnette worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency for 38 years, specializing in air pollution as well as working in noise pollution for a number of years.

Chairman Argionis explained that health impacts could change the discussion and get more notice from Elected Officials, the ONCC and FAA. He sees this opportunity as a "building block" and chance to work with other communities to pool resources.

Two residents living under runway 22R explained that a number of people on their block have been diagnosed with cancer. They discussed the overnight noise in the area, specifically from cargo planes, and asked whether the City has a noise ordinance relative to airport noise.

Commissioner Rapp commented on ultrafine particles, which he described as the “next shoe to drop.” Pulverized emissions from quieter engines on larger aircrafts can be ingested.

IX. Assessor's Office Letter

Commissioner Mills provided an update from the last ONCC meeting. The Tax Assessor's recent reduction was discussed and quotes from the Cook County Assessor were available at the meeting. Chairman Argionis explained that the letters from the Assessor indicated that properties affected by airport noise may qualify for a reduction in their assessment, though it is not an automatic reduction.

While the City did lower its property tax levy, other factors including the school district and county taxes, will result in an overall property tax increase.

Commissioner Mills explained that in October she asked for FAA representation at the ONCC general meeting to answer questions about the operation adjustments that have been occurring, specifically low flying and banking planes. The response she received was that the FAA is in contact with the tower all the time and they did not see an issue. Tammy Duckworth sent a letter to Barry Cooper of the FAA addressing this issue and his response only addressed arrivals and not departures. Commissioner Rapp also addressed this issue during the public comment section of the meeting.

In response to a question for the audience, Chairman Argionis urged the residents to continue to complain about the noise, submit a public comment at the ONCC general meetings and reach out to their Federal Elected Officials.

Commissioner Kosower stressed the importance of having a broad number of households submitting noise complaints. A report from the CDA indicated that 13 households in Park Ridge submitted 41% of the complaints.

Commissioner Rapp suggested that a member of the ONCC ask that the FAA have a seat at the table in order to provide direct answers, instead of directing questions through the ONCC.

X. Development of Form Letter for Citizens to Send to Federal Elected Officials

Chairman Argionis asked for input from the Commissioners on making a form letter available on the City's website for residents to send to Elected Officials. He suggested posting a PDF to the website that residents can download and mail or copy the text into an email. He acknowledged that the complaints from Park Ridge are individualized. Commissioner Rapp suggested broad language that reaches all the issues affecting the City.

The Commissioners discussed how to appeal to a large number of residents.

A resident stated that it was a great idea and suggested leaving space for residents to add individual comments and concerns.

XI. Standing Reports

Chairman Argionis asked if Commissioner Kosower would like to provide a standing report. Commissioner Kosower explained that given the earlier discussion regarding the FAA, he suggested corresponding directly with the FAA and providing a regular report.

Chairman Argionis suggested removing the “Data” report and adding an ONCC and Technical Committee update.

- A. Communication:** The deadline for submittals for the next Spokesman is March 1st. Commissioner Rapp will send talking points to Brigid Madden to draft an article.
- B. Legal:** Commissioner Judge discussed a 2015 lawsuit brought forward by citizens of Bensenville.
- C. In the News:** Commissioner Mills distributed a report, which is available on the City's website.
- D. Health/Safety Issues:** No additional report.
- E. City Council Updates:** No additional report.
- F. FAiR Update:** Commissioner Rapp explained that when the contract for the sixth runway (9C 27C) was awarded, Mayor Emmanuel stated that with the addition of this runway, O'Hare is adding the capacity of a third airport. Commissioner Rapp would rather see a third airport instead of the increased capacity at O'Hare. He explained that the FAA is reviewing and analyzing the master plan for the South Suburban Airport. The State has already procured 80% of the parcels. FAiR is looking toward a regional solution and has offered a ten-operation runway solution by passing Senate Bill 636. Commissioner Rapp explained that FAiR will continue to reach out to Elected Officials and potential investors.

XII. Ideas for Communicating / Educating Park Ridge Residents

Chairman Argionis discussed the Commission's continuing efforts to inform the residents, including the Spokesman newsletter and the development of a form letter.

XIII. Residential Sound Insulation Eligibility List

Chairman Argionis explained that the eligibility list dates back to the 2005 report. Those in Park Ridge who are eligible have already been contacted. He explained that the City's Community Preservation and Development Department has been reaching out to those who have not responded to the CDA.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.