



MINUTES

O'HARE AIRPORT COMMISSION

CITY HALL  
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR  
505 BUTLER PLACE PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

**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.*

**I. Roll Call**

Members present: Angelo Demeros; George Korovilas; Jim Argionis (7:04); Pat Ryan (7:21)

Members absent: Mike Ferraro

Also present: Ald. Marc Mazzuca; Ald. Marty Maloney (8:00); Sue Perschke; Laura Nishi; Lynn Sarno; Vincent LaVecchia; Maryann Hazlett; Petra Blix (Edgebrook); Barb Cannon

**II. Approve Minutes (January 16, 2013)**

Moved by Commissioner Korovilas and seconded by Commissioner Demeros, the minutes of the January 16, 2013 meeting were approved.

**III. Aldermen Wishing To Be Heard On a Non-Agenda Item**

None.

**IV. Citizens Present Wishing To Be Heard On a Non-Agenda Item**

None.

**V. Action Items**

**A. Spokesman article (April, July, October)**

The Commission will not place an article in the April issue of the *Spokesman*, but will submit drafts for the July issue to be distributed among the Commissioners prior to and decided upon at the April meeting. A summary of the survey should be included.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Survey results**

The survey was on the City's website from Friday, January 18, through noon this Monday, February 18. There were links to it from the City's facebook page and that of at least one school PTO. In all, 268 people completed the survey. The results confirm that residents are not necessarily aware of these airport issues and we can assume that the people who participated in the survey are the ones who tend to stay informed and/or visit the website or are connected to someone who is informed. Almost all responded "Yes" to questions 9, 10, 11, and 12 (see attached survey questions). Results should be converted from actual numbers to percentages. Our next step needs to be communication strategies to inform more residents about these topics.

**B. Update regarding cargo facility – letter from CDA to Rep. Schakowsky**

After our City Council sent a letter to elected state and federal officials, Rep. Schakowsky sent a letter to the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA). Our Congresswoman is willing to support us, though there

was not much focus on the need for an SEIS. Commissioner Ferraro will follow up with her office to make sure that our goal of pushing for the SEIS is not lost.

**C. Reply letter from FAA**

We are still waiting for a reply from FAA.

However, an FAA reply letter to CAPP from Elizabeth Ray, Vice President, Mission Support Services, Air Traffic Organization, dated December 3, 2012, states, in part: *The final stage of the air space changes will take effect in October 2013 with Runway 10C/28C. Eliminating Runways 32L and 32R are a crucial element in the design of the O'Hare Modernization Program and Chicago airspace. Overall airport capacity increases and fewer runway intersections on the airfield allow for safer operations. Runways 32L and 32R will be decommissioned during the completion phase of the OMP. The Chicago Department of Aviation currently does not have a published date for runway decommissioning or OMP completion. As briefed at the ONCC meeting, Runways 14, 32 will be used very infrequently after Runway 10C/28C commissions because the airport will have four parallel runways in an east-west orientation, which will accommodate a broad variety of conditions and provide for more operational flexibilities than O'Hare has today with several intersecting runways.*

**D. CDA Bid Alert Update: Reevaluation of Environmental Impact Statement at O'Hare (Argionis)**

This is in regard to the cargo facility. We have been trying to get more information. The Mayor has received no additional information.

**E. H. RES. 810 (Submitted by Rep. Schakowsky on November 15, 2012) Update (Ferraro)**

Commissioner Ferraro is not here this evening. This will be on the next meeting's agenda.

Ms. Perschke spoke briefly to this: Nothing is going to happen without significant changes to federal policy. She applauds Congresswoman Schakowsky for HR810, but it does not address emissions at all. It also does not address an agreement that she garnered with the FAA almost three years ago to agree to a five-year study of the noise level threshold. These would be important issues to discuss with her.

**F. ONCC Update: Resolution supporting SEIS (Argionis)**

The Mayor previously asked OAC to put together a resolution for him to present to ONCC asking ONCC to support our request for an SEIS to the FAA. In putting this resolution together, Chair Argionis looked at the ONCC's purpose. Included therein, it looks to eliminate noise where it occurs, at every source. So the resolution was phrased in such a way as to fit within ONCC's purpose. In order to get onto the agenda, it needed another member sponsor or two. The Mayor elicited the support of the Mayor of Harwood Heights. She in turn elicited the support of Northlake and River Grove. Each was going to ask that our resolution be put on the ONCC agenda. Exhibits A and B of the Resolution are the two Park Ridge letters/SEIS requests to FAA. Rather than putting it on the ONCC agenda, however, it was referred to the ONCC Technical Committee's March 19 agenda. Joe Annunzio is the Chairman of the Technical Committee. The Acting City Manager and Chairman Argionis are planning to attend that meeting in Mt. Prospect. The health aspects of an SEIS are what need to be emphasized. This is not simply an annoyance issue. Joe Annunzio had explained at a previous meeting that the 65 decibel level, which is a 24-hour day-night average (DNL), is set by being the level at which people start becoming annoyed enough that they organize. It has nothing in particular to do with health. It is simply tied to the annoyance factor. Those standards should be reevaluated.

Chair Argionis has contacted the three affected Chicago wards. He heard back from Edgebrook and Forest Glenn Community Associations only. They have asked him to attend meetings to help bring them up to speed on these issues. They feel Chicago elected officials are not getting involved publicly on these issues. Ms. Blix commented that the Forest Preserve District, this past year, has cut down 10,000 dead ash trees along the trail from Dempster to Forest Glenn. Roughly 40% of the trees in the Forest Preserve District are dead or dying. This new lack of buffer could/should be considered a factor in changes warranting an SEIS. Ms. Perschke warned against using wetland restoration claims because of myriad federal statutes protecting migratory bird.

**G. Request ONCC address City Council regarding OMP Update (Demeros)**

Commissioner Demeros contacted Jeanette Camacho, ONCC's Executive Director, two weeks ago. ONCC does make these presentations. When he requested information be sent to him, he was told

information would not be sent to a commissioner but it would be sent directly to the Mayor's office. Aldermen Maloney and Mazzuca are in favor of having ONCC address the City Council. Perhaps Acting City Manager Hamilton would follow-up and get this on an agenda.

**H. CAPP letter to OAC requesting letter to FAA (Argionis)**

Commissioner Ferraro would like to speak to this issue but is not here this evening. This will be on the next agenda.

**I. Communication strategy plan**

Not all residents have computer access. A mailing to each home would allow the Commission to relay information to all residents. Aldermen Maloney and Mazzuca, at a previous meeting, said to let them know the cost of a direct mailing to all residents.

**J. Other municipalities and several northwest Chicago neighborhood associations organizing against new runways**

There was an article in a paper recently about Chicago neighborhood associations organizing against the new runways at O'Hare. Chairman Argionis contacted each group mentioned in the article. Ms. Blix is here this evening from Edgebrook. He spoke with Robert Murphy of Forest Glenn, and attended one of its meetings yesterday. It was surprising to him to learn these communities are at the beginning stages and are unaware of these OMP developments. These communities are not receiving responses from their aldermen. He encouraged them to talk with their ONCC representatives. Sauganash and Edgebrook have written letters to FAA regarding the runways.

**VII. New Business**

Commissioner Ryan mentioned that, though we do not know what is happening next with the OMP, we can look at the website for the OMP, under contracts out for bid. It is extremely tedious, but everything is listed – janitorial services to runway bids. These can be tracked – out for bid; due date; awarded; project start date, etc. He will report at the next meeting on the items relevant to OAC.

Ms. Perschke commented that the biggest metric that controls CDA's interest is how many complaints it receives. ONCC is currently heralding the fact that they believe the complaint level is down. So the one thing that newer organizations especially can have some success with is getting the word out to call the O'Hare Noise Hotline number (800-435-9569). Complaints can also be logged at [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com). The more people that log complaints, the better for this effort. O'Hare may look at this differently if it notices a lot of complaints coming from the Chicago wards.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.