



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, JULY 20, 2016 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.

Commissioner Mills called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

I. Roll Call

On roll call, the following indicated their presence: Commissioners Ackeret, Judge, Klaus, Mills and Rapp. Alderman Mazzuca and Administrative Specialist Brigid Madden were also present along with 16 residents.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. May 18, 2016

Moved by Commissioner Rapp. Seconded by Commissioner Klaus.
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

Roy Steffens has been a Park Ridge resident for 50 years. He explained the airport noise as having gone from bad to worse. He commented on the lack of progress. Mr. Steffens submitted for the record a letter written to Governor Bruce Rauner and a second letter to Senator Dan Kotowski.

John Dorow addressed property taxes in the area and explained that he expects taxes to be lowered due to the loss of property/land value.

Marty Piot agreed with Mr. Dorow. He explained that property tax assessments have significantly increased. Mr. Piot asked for clarification on the Granville runway and when it would open. Commissioner Rapp explained that the contract has just been awarded for its construction. It is expected to open in 2020.

All residents were provided a copy of the Fly Quiet rotation map as well as the Park Ridge flight impact map. Commissioner Rapp outlined the runways and the streets they correspond to.

Nancy Grabowski explained that she should not be experiencing any overnight noise from the Fly Quiet rotation based on her location in Park Ridge. She did express concern with constant noise between 10:00pm and midnight due to planes banking over the area of Northwest Hwy and Oakton St. Commissioner Rapp explained that FAA regulations do not allow planes to adjust their headings until they reach 3,000 feet. Ms. Grabowski also addressed concerns with increasing property taxes. She explained the airport noise which affects Maine South High School.

Peg Sherman asked what affect complaints have had on the Fly Quiet Rotation. Commissioner Mills explained that the rotation has just started and does not anticipate a reaction to the complaints yet. Commissioner Rapp stated that in addition to the survey specific to the rotation, residents should also file a complaint with the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA).

A resident questioned why runway 32L 14R would be closed when it is in good condition and helps distribute airport noise. Commissioner Rapp explained that FAiR has been fighting its closure for years, as well as an additional diagonal runway. He stated that both are long runways included in the Fly Quiet rotation which carry flights out over the Northwest Corridor and are best suited for overnight flights. Commissioner Mills added that these runways will also interfere with western access to the airport.

Sandra Diamond explained that adjusting property taxes in the areas affected by airport noise will have an adverse effect on Park Ridge as a whole.

Peg Sherman explained that the article in the Spokesman is the reason she attended tonight's meeting. She acknowledged the airport noise in her area but also the benefit of the City's close proximity to the airport. Ms. Sherman has noticed a decrease in plans going over her home on Belle Plaine in the recent weeks.

Another resident explained that additional education from the City is necessary and hoped for improved communication.

Noise monitors were discussed. A resident indicated that the monitors use a 24 hour average instead of analyzing the noise during peak times. Commissioner Rapp explained that this method skews the data in favor of the airport.

Commissioner Rapp provided details on the proposed cargo facility on the northeast side of the airport. He explained that the facility is currently under construction and one terminal will be at least a mile long to accommodate larger cargo planes. While runway use associated with this new facility has not been disclosed, Commissioner Rapp stated that the Granville runway does align with the facility.

Commissioner Rapp addressed the concern of a resident who does not live on a flight path but experiences noise. He explained that some plans might be making "off-site approaches," meaning that they are approaching the runways at different angles and do not align with the flight path until the plane is in its final approach. This happens on departures as well. Planes will depart the airport from the east during the day and then bank to head west.

A resident asked if the FAA can mandate Fly Quiet regulations instead of encouraging pilots to follow the rotation. Commissioner Rapp explained that FAiR has asked that Fly Quiet be mandated. The ONCC voted to test the rotation meaning that it is not mandatory. He explained that the problem with the rotation is that all runways are "in play," while the diagonal runways best suited for overnight use, the 32/14s are being decommissioned.

There was discussion on mandating quieter aircrafts.

Nancy Grabowski asked if the planes banking over her home were violating any regulations. Commissioner Rapp explained that they would potentially be in violation. He stated that it is unsafe to bank at altitudes lower than 3,000 feet, especially on departures. The National Transportation Safety Board is reviewing airport practices at O'Hare.

Peg Sherman asked if overnight air traffic is expected to increase. Commissioner Rapp explained that as capacity at the airport increases, air traffic will increase. Commissioner Mills stated that Mayor Rahm Emmanuel just received permission for additional gates at O'Hare Airport.

Marty Piot asked about the timing of the Granville runway and the completion of the cargo facility. Commissioner Rapp explained that both will be completed around the same time in 2020. Mr. Piot questioned the contours for sound insulation eligibility. As new runways are built the contour may expand.

A resident suggested the City petition for property taxes to be lowered due to the airport noise. Commissioner Rapp explained that "redlining" areas of the City affected by airport noise will bring property values down throughout the whole city.

Alderman Mazzuca explained that the City does not get particular revenue whether homes are assessed at a high value or a low value; it is a "zero sum game." He stated that the City works to be as efficient as possible. He explained that the City is "indifferent" regarding appealing property taxes. The City does not lose revenue, it would be a reallocation.

Alderman Mazzuca addressed communication from the City. He explained that airport issues have had a regular presence in the Spokesman newsletter. The Commission and City Council have discussed sending a mailer with water bills as well. As the City heads into strategic planning sessions, communication will also be addressed and it is a public meeting. Alderman Mazzuca suggested that residents sign up for "e-alerts" on the City's website. He stressed the importance of concentrating complaints with the CDA.

V. Fly Quiet Rotation

Alderman Mazzuca suggested that the City issue a press release to indicate which runways would be used each week during the Fly Quiet rotation. The Commissioners agreed that it would be beneficial to send the information weekly through the City's e-alert system.

VI. Environmental Study/Research

Commissioner Ackeret has been reaching out to various firms who conduct sound studies. She hopes to compile more information on what would be feasible for the study. She stressed the importance of the study being scientifically sound. Commissioner Ackeret discussed measuring pollutants and working with nearby municipalities to conduct the studies.

VII. Standing Reports

- A. Communication:** The Commission will continue to improve communication and submit an article for the next issue of the Spokesman.
- B. In the News:** Commissioner Mills distributed a report, which is available on the City's website
- C. Health/Safety Issues:** No additional report.
- D. City Council Updates:** Alderman Mazzuca explained that items that the former City Manager was working on will be presented to Acting City Manager/Finance Director, Joe Gilmore.
- E. Data:** No report.
- F. FAiR Update:** Commissioner Rapp explained that FAiR is continuing to fight against the demolition of the 6th east runway. Demolition is currently delayed, potentially as a result of the NTSB.
- G. Legislative Update:** No report.

VIII. Maine South Air Quality Monitor

Commissioner Mills explained that this was an item that the former City Manager was working on so it will be deferred until the next meeting.

IX. Residential Sound Insulation Eligibility List

Brigid Madden explained that the CDA sent letters to homeowners who are eligible for sound insulation in Phase 17 and have not yet responded.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.