

Chicago Executive Airport Board of Directors  
City of Prospect Heights City Council  
Village of Wheeling Board of Trustees

Hilton Chicago/Northbrook  
2855 N Milwaukee Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062

**Open Workshop** – At 7:02 PM, CEA Chairman Court Harris opened the Joint Workshop. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present for Chicago Executive Airport, the City of Prospect Heights and the Village of Wheeling.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Chicago Executive Airport** – Airport Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Wolanik, Director of Finance Griffith, Director of Economic Development Sakas, CEA Board Director Saewert, CEA Board Director Kearns, Airport Executive Director Miller, Board Chairman Harris, Administrative Assistant Colht, CEA Board Director Hellyer, CEA Board Director Kiefer, CEA Board Director Berman, Airport Operations Coordinator Mackey. CEA Board Director Lang.

Penny Merritt of C&S Companies and the Quieter Home Program Manager.

**City of Prospect Heights** – City Administrator Wade, Assistant City Administrator Falcone, Mayor Helmer, Treasurer Tibbits, Aldermen – Cameron, Quinn, Morgan-Adams, Dash, Dolick, Deputy Clerk Schultheis.

**Village of Wheeling** – President Horcher, Trustee Lang, Trustee Vito, Trustee Papantos, Village Clerk Brady, Village Manager Sfondilis, Village Attorney Ferolo, Trustee Ruffato, Police Chief Dunne, Fire Chief McGreal, Public Works Director Kaup, Director of Economic Development Ainsworth, Director of Community Development Klicker (Trustees Vogel and Krueger were absent with previous notification).

**Welcome/Opening Remarks by Chairman Harris, Mayor Helmer, President Horcher, Airport Board Directors –**

**Chairman Harris** – Noted that this was the first time in two years that the Joint Workshop has met in person. He said that the Airport was in good shape. He welcomed the new Executive Director Jeff Miller.

**Mayor Helmer** – said that the airport was an all-service airport with the opening of the Customs Building.

**President Horcher** – noted that the airport was an asset to the community.

**Citizen Comments and Concerns**

Steve Neff – Said that he is a member of CARE – Citizens Against Runway Expansion. He would like more noise abatement. He discussed the metrics for logging noise complaints. He said that the FAA considered nighttime flight logging to be 10 PM – 7 AM for noise studies; but the CEA only uses the times of 10PM – 6 AM. He claimed that the CEA was not following the guidelines. He added that he believed that some of the pilots were not following the noise abatement protocols. He would like to see runways used that fly over industrial areas rather than the residential areas.

He concluded by saying that he has been attending the Joint Workshops to discuss noise abatement since 2015.

**State of the Airport Presentation by Director of Economic Development and Strategic Planning, George Sakas; and Director of Finance, Jason Griffith –**

**Director Sakas** – he said that the airport was striving for operational excellence, strategic planning, fiscal responsibility and to be a good neighbor. He stated that some of the facts and figures showed that in the first six months of 2020, the impact of COVID had not hit; just as in the last few months of fiscal 2021, the positive impact of the vaccine showed a turnaround.

He said that the Airport saw the greatest amount of flight operations since 2008. Customs is up 28% and fuel flowage is up 38%. Flight schools have gone from 4 to 6.

**Director Griffith** – said that FY 21/22 Budget is \$5,117,000. This is the highest ever projected. The projected net income is \$30250.

62% is from rent/26% from fuel/11.6% from fees

**George Sakas** – The Airport adds \$441 million in economic impact to the region, as well as 2,134 jobs (700 of which are directly related to the airport), and \$4.1 million in state and local taxes.

RSIP – Residential Sound Insulation Program – there are currently 457 applications and \$685,000 has been spent on sound insulation (100% reimbursed by the FAA for this phase). Next will be the Pilot Phase – ten homes were tested, and none qualified. The qualifications called for single family homes which will receive new windows, doors, paint and HVAC systems. The installation will begin in March, 2022.

Next week, testing of apartments and condos will begin. Also, 30 single family homes will be added to the those that qualify for relief – this will be in 2023.

December 1 will be the next Noise Committee Meeting.

There is FAA funding in the pipeline - \$9.4 million through 2026.

Other events – Rock and Run the Runway which will be June 25, 2022.

- the Fourth of July parade with Prospect Heights

-Spookfest with the Prospect Heights Park District

- National Nite Out with the Police Department

-Aviation Academy –meetings are back in-person. Lewis University has Fall/Spring classes for District 214 students who want to learn about aviation. They receive high school credit toward graduation and three credits toward a Lewis University degree.

-Young Eagles program depends on local, single prop pilots to take children ages 5-18 on free plane rides. The program is held on four Saturdays. It is limited to 40 children. The hope is to expand the program in 2022,

-It was noted that between \$4 and \$ million dollars is spent by the airport on local goods and services. The airport hires locally, buys locally and partners locally. The Fire Department also uses the airport for training.

-Midway Airport requested the CEA Staff to evaluate their first responders and Staff.

-Customs Facility – 50-60% of international bookings are to and from Canada. The standard is to hit 400 clearances; 320 clearances is typical. Director Sakas pointed out that when international fliers enter the CEA they are greeted by a sign that reads “Welcome to the United States of America – Wheeling and Prospect Heights, IL.” He said that shows that the two municipalities are international ports of entry into the US.

-The FAA wants trimming of trees and bushes for safety reasons and as a buffer.

- the wildlife program is an active program for the non-lethal riddance of wildlife from the airport. There is a dog trained to chase coyotes and geese. The CEA was the first airport in the country to use nonlethal means to get rid of geese. The CEA is one of four airports testing lasers on geese to coax them away from the airport.
- the FAA awarded the CEA \$2.5 million to update the airfield lining.
- the FAA will re-survey – which will allow for more accurate property taxes.
- \$800,000 is expected from the state infrastructure awards. The money is generated from gas tax hikes in 2020.
- the CEA purchased a \$725,000 snow blower
- the CEA will do a stormwater drainage study
- the CEA will upgrade security and computers
- in May, 2022, the CEA will participate with the Governor’s office on Aviation education.

**City Aldermen and Village Trustees: Questions and Comments**

Trustee Papantos asked how the CARES funds will be used. Director Griffith said that the airport had received word of the funds after the Budget had passed. The funds have not been allocated yet, and there are no restrictions on how the funds can be used. They can even be used for personnel.

Trustee Papantos asked what percentage of the Plum Creek condos have been tested for RSIP qualification. Project Manager Merritt said that the FAA requires 30% qualification for the whole building to qualify. However, individual condos could qualify.

Trustee Papantos asked when the Airport would get reimbursement for the Master Plan. Director Sakas said that the reimbursement was based on the approval by the FAA on the layout of the Master Plan. He said that the FAA had some questions regarding Runway 1230. Reimbursement for the study will be for taxiway reorientation. Trustee Papantos asked if the taxiway had to wait for FAA approval of the plan. Director Sakas replied, yes. Trustee Papantos said that this reimbursement issue had been going on for years. Director Sakas replied that the Airport called the IDOT and the FAA every Monday for updates.

Mayor Helmer said that even though the CEA is an elite airport, the operations office was old and in desperate need of updating. Chairman Harris replied that every director has had the same concern about the office, but the priority had been to get the Customs Building operational. He noted that the CEA was actively looking for space and a way to finance a new headquarters. Executive Director Miller said that the concept of a newbuilding had been brought up during his interview.

Alderman Quinn – wanted to know what the 10% decibel penalty was, and who paid for it? Director Kearns replied that this was not a dollar penalty. He stated that noise contours get affected by the noise decibels during that time period. Alderman Quinn wanted to know what was being done about the noise level at night. She said that she could hear jets at 4:30 AM from her home. Chairman Harris said that millions of dollars are being allocated to replace windows and doors, and that a portion of the budget is committed to alleviating this issue. Director Sakas said that noise computations are in the noise study, and that there was \$300,000 allocated to that study.

Alderman Dolick – said that it would be important to consider runway 1230 usage, because it extends over an industrial area. This would significantly alleviate noise over populated areas.

Alderman Morgan-Adams – asked about the closure of a third runway. Director Sakas replied that there is an environmental study assessment that needs to be completed. The Airport is putting together a request for proposals on this study.

Mayor Helmer said that a change in jet routes at O’Hare is probably what residents are hearing at 4 AM. He did not think that CEA jets would be a problem over the Prospect Heights areas at 4 AM.

Treasurer Tibbits – noted that decibel levels at 10DB meant they were three times louder. He stated that it is a big difference. Director Sakas said that is why there is individual testing. He noted that the airport is using the FAA maps as guidelines.

**Closing comments from Chairman Harris, Mayor Helmer, President Horcher –**  
All three thanked the Airport Staff and Board, and the municipalities involved.

**Adjournment –**

**At 8:10 PM, Mayor Helmer asked for a roll call for adjournment from the Prospect Heights Council. There was unanimous approval.**

**Roll Call -**       AYES –           Cameron, Quinn, Morgan-Adams, Dash, Dolick  
                      NAYS -           None  
                      ABSENT-       None

Motion carried 5 – 0

**Trustee Lang moved to Adjourn; seconded by Trustee Vito.**

**Roll Call -**       AYES –           Lang, Vito, Papantos, Ruffato  
                      NAYS -           None  
                      ABSENT-       Krueger, Vogel

Motion carried 4 – 0, 2 absent

**CEA Board Director Kearns moved to Adjourn; seconded by CEA Board Director Lang. There was unanimous approval.**

**Roll Call -**       AYES –           Kearns, Lang, Saewert, Kiefer, Hellyer, Berman  
                      NAYS -           None  
                      ABSENT-       None

Motion carried 6 – 0

Approved by the City Council of Prospect Heights on this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2021.

  
Deputy Clerk Schultheis



  
Mayor Nicholas J. Helmer