

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission
Residential Committee Meeting
May 13, 2020
Approved

Committee Chair Ralph Sorce called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

The following committee members were PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Skurski, Alternate, Bensenville
Mr. Frank Icuss, Member, Chicago Ward 41
Committee Chair Ralph Sorce, Designee, Melrose Park
Committee Vice-Chair Mr. Brian Gaseor, Designee, Norridge
Mr. Ernie Kosower, Alternate, Park Ridge
Mr. Brian Baugh, Alternate, Rosemont
Mr. Larry Fritz, Alternate, Schiller Park

The following committee members were ABSENT:

Des Plaines

There being a majority of committee members in attendance, a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

The following staff members were present: Jeanette Camacho—ONCC; Aaron Frame and Vildana Celik—Chicago Department of Aviation; Doug Blanchard, Norma Fragoso and Dustin Griesmann —Cotter Consulting; CDA Consultant; Maura El Metennani—ONCC Consultant

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kosower moved, seconded by Vice Chair Gaseor to approve the minutes of January 29, 2020. Motion passed.

Residential Sound Insulation Program Noise Audit Regulation and Guidance Presentation

Mr. Griesmann of Cotter Consulting covered what was in the previous presentation at the January meeting, which included:

- Reviewed several key fundamentals of acoustics that pertain to noise audits
- Outlined the two Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) noise reduction goals
- Discussed how we perceive changes in decibel (dB) levels
- Presented the two most common methods for conducting a noise audit:
 - Overflight Noise Audit (ONA)
 - Loudspeaker Noise Audit (LNA)

In Part II, the presentation will examine Noise Regulation and Guidance. Mr. Griesmann reviewed direct FAA regulations as well as guidelines, best practices and standards or research studies regarding sound insulation, noise measurement, testing methods and more.

Mr. Griesmann reviewed in detail when the two common methods should be employed, with the conclusion that the LNA is the most common approach throughout the industry, and the RSIP's preferred approach. He described the equipment used, and requirements for use. The presentation explained the LNA process how distance and angle impact the measurement, how and where speakers

are placed, testing for single or multiple facades, how the audio signal spread is measured, how exterior measurements are conducted. He explained that an aircraft noise spectrum or “curve” was created for each community using data of the most frequently operated aircraft type for each unique runway end.

Mr. Icuss requested a link to the files mentioned in the presentation. He asked about the pink noise generator used to simulate the noise. He asked about the 737 used in the example.

Mr. Griesmann said you could set it up to match the spectrum, but there will be certain frequencies where you can't get it loud enough to overcome the background level. You can adjust certain treble frequencies higher using the equalizer that gives very good signal to noise ratio, and you can individually determine what the reduction is and can apply to whatever curve you choose.

Mr. Icuss inquired if there was a difference in testing for city versus suburbs.

Mr. Griesmann stated that they do a sampling of each community.

Odorous Windows Update

CDA finished revised contract specifications. The state commission has not met due to the pandemic. CDA received the grant funding, but is not proceeding with work in the field until they can receive direction from the state advisory committee. They will distinguish between homes with odor problems versus homes with mechanical problems, they will be handled through different contracts.

RSIP Online Property Locator Update

Ms. Celik is working with the GIS team to update the RSIP online property locator feature. It is expected to be published this week. The new feature will be more intuitive with cleaner graphics and images and will be faster to load as well. It will have the same functionality, but will be more user friendly.

Mr. Frame noted that the updated locator will include the homes included in Phase 19. The resolution has not yet been passed by the full commission, it is expected to be voted on at the commission's June meeting.

Phase 17 and 18 Update

Mr. Blanchard provided an update on Phase 17 and 18. Phase 17 – 38 historical homes did not enroll. Phase 17 overall had 275 homes that did not enroll and were invited to Phase 19. The next contract for historical homes will go out to bid next month. Bids should be opened a month after that.

Phase 18 – 127 homes did not enroll. They will be invited to Phase 19. 281 inventories have been completed to date. Due to the stay-at-home order, all home inventories stopped March 16. 225 homes are included in Phase 18A. They are expecting to go out to bid in the 4th Quarter of 2020. 175 homes are anticipated for Phase 18B.

Ms. Celik reported that at the last meeting communities requested to be notified of basement bedrooms, basement conversions or egress windows. She stated that letters were sent to Wood Dale, Bensenville and Schiller Park asking for response. She wanted to follow up with those communities for responses.

Mr. Frame clarified that CDA will not be able to conduct the home inventories until they have direction from those communities.

Mr. Kosower asked if Phase 18 had the highest participation from Park Ridge to date.

Mr. Frame replied that it was. He explained that Phase 18 was largely people who called in response to a postcard they received or people who called in to inquire.

Phase 19 Status

1,131 homes are included in Phase 19 – 1,098 past program areas and 33 new invitees. This phase makes up all of the homes in the current noise contour. Homeowner briefings are normally conducted in banquet hall setting. Not able to do that now due to COVID. The staff prepared videos for Single Family Homes, Multi-Family Homes and Historical Homes and broadcast them over several dates and times. They also recorded an audio version for those who did not have video capabilities. An invitation was mailed to all homes with information on the video presentations.

Homeowners were encouraged to submit applications by July 1 for the initial group.

Mr. Blanchard reviewed the contract phases of Phase 19 – there will be four groups (A, B, C and D) with approximately 250 homes in the first three groups and the remainder in group D.

Mr. Icuss asked for clarification that invitations were sent to all eligible homeowners in the noise contour.

Mr. Blanchard confirmed that yes and stated the letters were sent out on April 29.

Mr. Frame encouraged committee members to reach out and ensure that their colleagues attend the next ONCC general meeting (June). The Phase 19 resolution was not passed at the last ONCC meeting due to lack of quorum. It is imperative that the resolution pass at the June meeting so the program can remain on schedule. He also noted this is the last and final phase of sound insulation under the OMP noise contour. If homeowners do not participate at this time, they may not be eligible again. It is likely that the CDA will generate a future noise contour, but it remains to be seen when that will happen and when it will be approved and we do not know what a future noise contour will look like.

Next Meeting

The next ONCC Residential Sound Insulation Committee is scheduled for September 9, 2020.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Gaseor moved, seconded by Mr. Kosower to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m. Motion passed.