

**Airport Community Liaison Committee Town Hall  
Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 7:00 pm**

**Minutes**

**Staff Introductions:**

Mitchell Wiskel, Parks Development, Community Services, overviewed the Oshawa Creek Recreational Trails being built along the east side of airport lands; construction is to begin 2018 and will have accessibility features.

Margaret Kish, Planning Services provided an update on the South Field Master Plan study which started in 2016. The Study is part of the City's business plan and will undergo reviews of:

- Policy;
- land use;
- zoning context review;
- heritage review;
- servicing and transportation review; and
- development land use options.

A report to Development Services Committee will be prepared in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2018.

Rob Fennel, Supervisor, Parks Forestry, Community Services, provided an overview of the Airport woodlot management and restoration in the south boundary of the airport lands. Landscape staff are continually monitoring trees for general ash borer damage.

Steve Wilcox, Airport Manager provided a brief history of the Oshawa Executive Airport from the date it was established to current day; and, the Runway Rehabilitation that has just concluded. Steve also provided an overview of ongoing environmental initiatives, noise and traffic management and indicated that no new flight schools will be permitted, only the two existing will remain operational at the Airport.

**Airport Noise**

In response to questions from an audience member (Matt), Steve Wilcox stated that the flights are able to arrive and depart at any time, day or night. Matt shared his concerns regarding the Airport not having any limitations to arrivals and departures and did not like the attitude taken that there is currently no control over the flight schedule.

In response to questions from Mike Waters, Steve Wilcox stated that the noise forecast (noise study) was last updated in 2005.

In response to a question from Julie McCrae regarding health and noise studies, Steve Wilcox stated that an annual open house is held and all are welcome to attend.

In response to a question from Alex Sosna, Steve Wilcox stated that the Minister makes all the decisions in regard to Airport operation, expansion, noise and traffic. Mr. Sosna indicated that the public process is important and that the residents surrounding Billy Bishop spoke up and were able to stop the proposed expansion.

In regard to the noise study, a local airport user, stated that a microphone was installed on his property and the study showed that the lawnmowers were louder than the planes flying overhead.

Christine Nash stated that she moved into Oshawa one year ago and now wants to move due to the noise of the planes.

### **Runway Reconstruction:**

In response to a question from Mike Waters, regarding the two runway emergency run-off areas as being an extension to the runway, Steve Wilcox overviewed the runway reconstruction project process and also stated that the airport parking did not expand. The project was identified in the 2017 Business Plan, and as the Airport Manager, it is my duty to ensure its completion.

A local resident (Paul) stated that he came tonight with an open mind however noticed that the new tower being constructed has not been mentioned. Is this tower being built using Tax Dollars? A representative from NAV Canada stated that the existing tower is at its end of life cycle and must be rebuilt with financing provided by the Federal Government.

### **Flight Schools**

In response to questions from Ian Mohas, Steve Wilcox stated that the two existing flight schools have been operating at the Airport for 35 years and utilize flight simulators which help to reduce air traffic and no other flight schools will be allowed to operate at the airport.

Steve stated that he has had conversations with the schools and they are aware of the issues however they are a business.

### **Airport Traffic**

Chris Neshevich, who operates his own business with rules that must be followed, questioned why are there no rules or regulations for the flights. There is flight traffic over my house all the time and they effect peoples lives.

Tom Carbon stated that September was very quiet. When jets come in at night, are they commercial planes, and if so, I have no problem however, can we know what the flights are? And, why did the directions of take offs change?

Steve replied that Tom could send an e-mail to the Airport and he will send out the information. Mostly they are medical flights at night, as well, Transport Canada states that when the wind speed is over 5 Knots, you must change your runway takeoff.

A resident (unnamed) stated that everyone here tonight has an asset, that being their home, please do not ruin that. The people at the airport have a business and they should be able to grow, it should be Council that makes the decision to control the flight movements and Steve Wilcox is to make the airport grow. We should have to go to the City to ask them to control the amount of movements.

Steve Wilcox replied that his job was to manage the Airport.

Kristine Nash, who also spoke at the Development Services Committee Meeting on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> shared concerns with house prices, neighbours who are afraid and the possible dumping of fuel and the height of landing/takeoff.

Steve Wilcox replied that a study of property values was done by a University Student and noticed that the properties had gone up in value, especially in the Glens. Steve stated that planes do not dump fuel, only if they are in trouble or during an emergency.

Don Midison stated that he bought his house knowing the airport was in existence and operational, I only hope it is being managed responsibly.

Lorraine Jackson stated that she is Realtor who is concerned about this area. Ms. Jackson stated that at 3:30 a.m. a plane flew over the house and blew the leaves off of the trees and if there is an increase in traffic, it will affect the prices, and airports cause cancer.

## **General Comments**

Diane Mash

We do not receive the minutes from the ACLC meetings; why? Steve Wilcox advised that the minutes are on the website.

Don Morian asked if there is a Q & A page on the City's website. Steve Wilcox stated that was a good suggestion and will look into it.

Matt asked that in future, if there are meetings, could we please be provided information to take home and read.

Julia McRae suggested that residents be invited to the property to see the rebuild. Ms. McRae also asked what the Planners were going to do with the South Field and asked if

there is a public meeting scheduled. In regard to Emergency exercises, are residents involved?

Margaret Kish stated that the Development Services Committee will direct when the Public Meeting will be.

Steve Wilcox stated that Emergency exercises are held annually and we can think about how to involve the residents in the future. Steve also stated that an Open House will be held in January to view the runway rehabilitation project.

An area resident (unnamed) questioned why the fighter jets were flying in Oshawa this summer.

Steve Wilcox stated that the Canadian Forces do the advise us when or why they are performing military exercises with the CF18's.

George Milosh stated that he likes planes and living at the Airport. This meeting is a good idea and we should go to our Council with our concerns not take our annoyances out on the Airport Manager.

## **Financial**

Frank Allen thanked staff for their presentations and stated that the Airport was not just about flights it is a business. Presented the City with a land deal.

Brad Grace asked about the economics of the facility; does the cost come from the tax payer; is there a fee for land/take offs; can Council change the fees?

Steve Wilcox stated that all of the fees are built into the fuel charges and Council sets the fees to charge.

An unnamed Whitby resident advised that the Airport is under-utilized and that more money should be generated.