

# Minutes

SASY Neighborhood Association, Inc.

October 13, 2022, 6:30pm, Goodman Community Center

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## 1. Introductions / Quorum

- a. Board members present: *Megan Williamson, Brad Hinkfuss, Dan Lenz, Ryan Koglin, Franzo Law III, Davey Mayer, Betty Chewing, Aaron Embury, Michael Vickerman*
- b. Board members absent: Jason Tish, Heather Hanson, Ginny Jenkins, Doug Johnson,
- c. Quorum achieved: Yes
- d. Guests present: Steve Klafka (Safe Skies); Dan Smith (Garver Events)

## 2. Approval of minutes from September 2022 board meeting

MOTION: Megan notes correction to Solace presentation.

SECOND: None, Motion deferred to November board meeting.

WITHDRAWN:

## 3. Amendments/Additions to the Agenda

- a. Steve Klafka - Safe Skies

## 4. Appointment of Goodman Representative (Susan Ramspacher - Volunteer Mgr.)

MOTION: Davy nominates Susan Ramspacher to serve as Goodman Rep.

SECOND: Megan W.

PASSED: Unanimously

## 5. Invited Guests and Presentations

- a. Steve Klafka (Safe Skies)
  - i. Update on F-35s
  - ii. Currently up to County airport to predict noise impacts and provide abatement - airport is beginning process
  - iii. SASY provided comments on EIS in 2019 - significant complaints from SASY
  - iv. Eastmoreland recently wrote to Joe Parisi. So did MTI.

*MOTION: Betty C., that SASY write a letter to Dane Co. Exec. Parisi urging further action to mitigate noise from F-35 training exercises*

*SECOND: Williamson*

*WITHDRAWN: Chewing proposes same action by electronic vote. All concurred.*

*MOTION BY ELECTRONIC VOTE: Oct. 23, 2022, Tish, to submit the attached letter (APPENDIX A) to Dane County Executive Joe Parisi regarding noise mitigation planning for the incoming fleet of F-35 fighter jets.*

- b. Dan Smith (Garver Events)
  - i. ALRC meetings coming up - finalizing contracts to be license-holder for Olbrich Gardens; Change in conditions - extending hours to 1 AM for Saturday events to accommodate Saturday weddings.
  - ii. Hoping to do an informational event in November in conjunction with November's SASY Meeting for changes in use.

## **6. Elected-Official Update**

- a. County board - Yogesh Chawla
- b. Alder, Dist. 6 - Brian Benford
- c. Alder, Dist. 15 - Grant Foster

## **7. Committee Updates**

- a. Transportation - B. Chewing
- b. AtwoodFest - G. Jenkins, M. Williamson
  - i. MOTION: Lenz, that SASY approve involvement in AtwoodFest 2023
  - ii. SECOND: Chewing
  - iii. PASSED: unanimous on voice vote
- c. Membership - D. Mayer
- d. Environmental - M. Vickerman
- e. Communications - J. Tish
- f. Sustainable Finance - H. Hanson
  - i. 2023 Budget
  - ii. Amend bylaws re: fiscal year

## **8. Community updates**

- a.

## **9. Action Items for Oct.-Nov.**

- a.

## **10. Adjourn**

- a. MOTION:
- b. SECOND:
- c. PASSED:

APPENDIX A:

*Letter to Dane Co. Exec.Parisi regarding noise mitigation for incoming fleet of Air Force F-35s.*

October 26, 2022

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi  
City County Building, Room 421  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

RE: SASY Neighborhood Association Request for Improvements  
Dane County Regional Airport Part 150 Noise Abatement Study

Dear County Executive Parisi:

The Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association (SASYNA) represents residents and businesses on the near east side of Madison. We work hard to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in our neighborhood. Since we are located south of the Dane County Regional Airport, we are frequently reminded of the noise and other pollution generated by its operations. For years our residents have submitted many noise complaints and have asked you and the county airport to reduce its impacts on our neighborhood. We think it is essential that when the county airport updates its Part 150 noise plan, that it addresses impacts on our neighborhood, especially the children, who are exposed to the noise created by airport operations, including current and proposed fighter jet training by the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

This past spring, the county airport began updating its Part 150 noise plan. This update is necessary to address the noise impacts of the incoming squadron of F-35 fighter jets at Truax Field. Sadly, the Air Force decision to station these new jets in Madison ignored vocal opposition including resolutions by the Madison Common Council, our School Board and numerous other public organizations. Of the over six thousand comments submitted on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for five potential sites, 89% were submitted regarding Truax.

The Air Force decision ignored the findings of the project EIS which showed that Truax was one of two sites where "there will be disproportionate impacts to low income and minority populations, as well as children." The EIS showed that Truax would experience the greatest environmental impacts of all sites, even though it did not even consider noise and safety impacts on the surrounding urban area and the 60,000 people living within 3 miles of Truax, including our neighborhood. By selecting Truax Field, the Air Force showed exceedingly poor and irresponsible judgement. It promoted environmental injustice and environmental racism in our community. The decision did not reflect the values of the SASYNA neighborhood and perhaps yours as well.

We hope you recall our letter to you on September 10, 2019 when we asked for your opposition to the F-35 fighter jets. At that time, we also asked:

*"that you commit now to demanding real investments in broad-base mitigation measures should the F-35As come here. Mitigation has never been taken seriously in our community as it has in many others. There are*

*investments that could be made in soundproofing homes, relocating the affected people, altering flight paths, and many other measures.”*

With the F-35 fighter jets scheduled to arrive next year, it is time to demand effective noise mitigation measures. The county airport preparation of its noise abatement plan is your opportunity to protect the quality of life and health of residents and businesses of our neighborhood, as well as the many other neighborhoods on the east and north sides of Madison.

There has been little public involvement in the Part 150 noise study procedures. The open house held on April 26th and the single summer newsletter suggest the county airport will conduct as little evaluation of noise impacts as necessary to meet federal FAA requirements. Should the study only consider the daily average noise level for comparison with the 50-year old FAA noise standard, it will be a wasted effort and fail to provide meaningful information to understand the impacts on our community. We request that a more robust study be conducted which helps us understand noise impacts on our neighborhood as well as the children, teachers, and schools near the county airport and its flight paths.

We concur with the following improvements to the study that have previously been provided to county airport staff:

- The study should estimate noise impacts on all schools, daycare centers and community centers on the north and east sides of Madison. At this time, none of these will be included in the study.
- The study should estimate peak noise levels on the north and east sides of Madison. At this time, it will only predict daily average DNL noise levels, not the peak noise levels we actually hear. Even the Air Force EIS evaluated peak noise levels at select locations.
- The study should estimate the impacts on educational performance and children's health. At this time, the study will use the FAA's 50-year old daily average noise standard of 65 decibels DNL which is based on outdated annoyance studies. In his letter to Vermont public officials, Peter Bingham, Professor of Neurology and Chief of the Pediatric Neurology Division at the University of Vermont Medical Center, explained the effects of noise from their F-35 fighter jets on children including: decreased reading skills; increased risk of mortality due to heart attack; increased anxiety and depression; increased attention problems; and, increased aggressive behavior.
- At the April 26<sup>th</sup> open house, a study area extending 5 miles from center of the airport was proposed. Noise levels should be predicted throughout this entire area and not be limited just to areas above the FAA noise standard of 65 decibels DNL. This will assure our neighborhood is included the results.
- The study should estimate impacts at lower levels than the 65 decibels DNL. Predicting lower levels such as 60 decibels, as used by the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and 55 decibels as required by the State of Oregon, will include more households and children that live on the north and east sides of Madison who are impacted by aircraft noise. It will inform the public of the full extent of neighborhoods impacted by county airport noise.
- The study should identify the amount of low-income and families of color that live in neighborhoods that surround the county airport and their noise impact levels. Even the Air Force EIS identified environmental justice impacts by assessing the number of low-income and families of color impacted by noise levels. At this time, only land use types will be evaluated.
- The study should provide a transparent process that includes meetings within impacted neighborhoods such as ours that explain the procedures and results. At this time, only one open house at the airport has been conducted and only one more is anticipated

After noise impacts are estimated and it comes time to evaluate noise abatement measures, we have the following requests:

- Extend noise abatement funding to residences and businesses within the 60 decibel DNL impact area, similar to the procedures used by the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.
- Provide improvements at all schools on the north and east sides of Madison including funding for air conditioning systems and their operating costs. At this time, there will be no noise abatement for area schools.
- Implement a flight tracking system to identify the flight paths of commercial and Air National Guard planes so planes causing significant impacts on our schools can be identified.
- Install a noise monitoring system, similar to that for the Burlington Airport, which includes area schools, so we can assess actual noise exposure. At this time, the study will predict noise levels through computer modeling with no plans to measure actual noise levels.

We hope you share our appreciation for our neighborhood, as well as the many unique neighborhoods on the east and north sides of Madison and will take steps to assure an informative noise study and abatement plan which protects them. Our community, especially our children, have been burdened by the Air Force decision to deploy F-35 fight jets to the county airport and Truax Field.

Sincerely,

**Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association**

Ryan Koglin, President

cc:

Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway <mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
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Dane County Supervisors <county\_board\_recipients@countyofdane.com>  
Airport Director Kimberly Jones <Jones.kimbery@msnairport.com>  
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SASYNA Board of Directors