

PDK Watch Newsletter, November, 1998

PDK Watch to the Rescue

Thanks to the diligence of PDK Watch members, an illegal operation causing congestion and safety problems was closed down on airport property. In May of this year, the owners of Oriental Mall allowed the flea market, which was previously at the I-85 drive-in movie, to operate in the parking lot along Dresden Drive. Most of this parking lot property belongs to the airport but is leased to the shopping center for parking only. An administrative variance was made by the county's development department in violation of an existing county lease. Persistence on the part of members of PDK Watch in reporting this illegal activity and monitoring the situation resulted in closing down the illegal market.

Airport Master Plan Update

In 1992 PDK Airport developed a master plan that included a list of infrastructure improvements to the airport. Now that most of the recommended improvements have been accomplished, airport management is seeking an architect/engineer to update this aspect of the Master Plan. This calls for WATCHING.

Noise Monitoring Equipment

Jim DuGuay, PDK Airport Noise Specialist, announced to the Airport Advisory Board on October 14, 1998, that the airport purchased a state of the art noise monitoring system, Airport Noise and Monitoring System (ANOMS), that will allow PDK airport staff to accurately monitor airplane noise. The airport staff projects the installation of the ANOMS system will occur in April 1999. This technology offers the airport staff an opportunity to develop and implement a written policy for dealing with noise.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments Get Community Input

Drew Valley Civic Association (DVCA) members, Taylor Murray and Carl Scharfe, along with Commissioner Judy Yates are protecting the quality of life in our community. When the Airport Advisory Board discussed Lee Rimmel's proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan during its September 1998 meeting, DVCA members recommended changing the proposed language to include the community's concerns. Their efforts resulted in amendments that the community could support. Commissioner Yates, who was also present at this meeting, was instrumental in guiding the revised amendments through the administrative process for inclusion in the comprehensive plan for the county.

Two statements in the adopted amendments establish policy that PDK Watch has long advocated. These are 1) "It is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to consider the impacts of development upon existing business and community areas." This recognizes that PDK Airport does not exist in a vacuum. 2) "As the owner and operator of DeKalb

Peachtree Airport we are unequivocally opposed to any change to our designation from a general aviation reliever airport to a non-hub commercial service airport or any category of commercial service airport.”

Airport Buy Out Report

With noise abatement funding from the Federal Aviation and Administration (FAA) and PDK Airport, DeKalb County purchased 49 properties adjacent to the airport. In late September the airport acquired a matching grant from the FAA of \$188,000 which will allow DeKalb County to purchase additional properties in the noise abatement program. After the purchase of each property is complete, the airport demolishes the home. Currently, DeKalb County maintains the properties as greenspace with no public plans for their ultimate use. This calls for WATCHING.

Airport Advisory Board Meetings

The Airport Advisory Board (AAB) meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. Airport Director Lee Remmel describes activities ongoing at the airport during the meetings. You can raise your concerns when public comment is heard at the end of the meeting. The next AAB meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 1998, at the Airport Administration Building (same building as the Downwind restaurant), 2nd floor Room 227 (follow the signs posted on the door of the Airport Administration Building). The airport administration Building is located off Clairmont road. For better directions and a meeting agenda call Cindy Walsham at the airport, 770-936-5440.

Disturbed by loud flights or flights at night?

Call the PDK Airport noise complaint line (770-936-5442) to report intrusive noise.

Support PDK Watch

Thanks to those of you who have sent your check to help with the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. To contribute to this fund, please make a check payable to Sven O. Lovegren and note on the check that it is for PDK Watch. Then please mail to:

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