

ANOKA COUNTY/BLAINE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
17 October 2007

Commissioners Present: Don Rosacker, Anoka County Aviation
Dave Kelso, Circle Pines
Barbara Haake, Mounds View

MAC Staff Present: Scott Skramstad, Noise Program Coordinator

Others Present: Don Valenta, Lexington
Dot Heifort, Lexington

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

APPROVAL OF 18 JULY 2007 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were approved as written and distributed.

NORTHWEST BUILDING AREA UPDATE

Scott Skramstad, MAC, stated that the developer of the northwest building area will be addressing the Anoka County board on 23 October 2007 to re-negotiate and re-structure the original development deal. **Barbara Haake, Mounds View**, asked if that meant the developer would be seeking more time on the deal. **Skramstad** said he thought the developer would be seeking to re-negotiate financial terms related to the deal. **Don Rosacker, Anoka County Aviation**, noted there has been some change in the makeup of the developer's partnership and that the developer may want more infrastructure (i.e., blacktop) put in before development would begin. **Skramstad** said it sounds as if the developer group may be trying to put together a hangar development concept and building models for the development plan that would allow the rate structure to be similar to the rate structure the MAC uses. **Haake** asked if the rates would be higher or lower than the MAC rates. **Skramstad** said it is his understanding the developer could charge higher rates but that the developer would likely keep the rates similar to MAC's in order to not drive away business. **Skramstad** informed group members that they can contact Joe Harris, MAC, for further information.

REVIEW OF COMMISSION BYLAWS

Scott Skramstad, MAC, reminded the group that questions have been raised recently regarding the Commission's purpose and the need to meet on a regular basis. He noted that attendance at the Commission meetings has dropped off over the past five years and that questions have been raised as to whether or not the Commission is still an effective forum for addressing Anoka County-Blaine Airport issues. **Skramstad** noted that, in preparation for today's meeting, he had mailed to each Commission member a copy of the group's bylaws for review.

Skramstad noted that the original focus of the Commission, dating back to 1998-99, was to discuss issues related to development plans for Anoka County-Blaine Airport—including mitigation, wetlands management, runway extension, etc.— and to report back to the members' respective cities on the plans. In addition, the Commission discussed issues related to noise at the airport.

Skramstad noted the Commission's bylaws were drafted in 1999, although group members had been meeting informally as early as 1998. He pointed out that Article II of the group's bylaws state that the Commission's goal is to

"further the general welfare of the community and the Anoka County-Blaine Airport...through minimizing or resolving problems created by the aircraft operations at the airport...[and] to make all decisions on a consensus basis".

Skramstad noted the Commission has been operating according to the goals and purposes outlined in the bylaws and noted that, since the runway extension has been completed and the ILS has been installed, issues have tapered off over the past four years. He noted that Commission meetings are generally held now to provide updates to members and their respective cities.

Skramstad queried the group as to whether or not members feel the group's purpose is still being met, and as to whether or not members' cities feel the existence of the Commission is still valuable to them. He also asked members if the Commission should continue to meet every quarter, or if members would like to meet on a less-frequent basis.

Dave Kelso, Circle Pines, noted that he initiated the discussion about the Commission's purpose at a previous meeting and stressed that he feels it is important to keep the Commission in existence. He stated that noise complaints have risen since the runway extension was completed and that it is important for the Commission to remain in existence in order to continue addressing those complaints.

Haake stated that her city finds valuable the information she conveys to officials from the Commission meetings. She suggested the group meet semi-annually, rather than quarterly. She requested that, if the group meets less frequently than it does now, that members be provided direct contact information for MAC staff in order to address any issues that come up between meetings. **Skramstad** suggested meetings on a semi-annual schedule be held in April, which is prior to the beginning of the typical construction season, and in October because the majority of noise complaints are received during the summer and an October meeting would be a good opportunity to review noise data.

Rosacker and **Kelso** agreed that meeting semi-annually would be an acceptable schedule.

Don Valenta, Lexington, stated that he believes the cities find the information received from the Commission to be helpful. **Dot Heifort, Lexington**, agreed and added that it would be helpful if the minutes from Commission meetings could be distributed to the cities within two weeks of the meetings.

Valenta asked if the MAC had a long-term plan for the airport. **Skramstad** replied that the MAC is in the process of updating the long-term comprehensive plans for Anoka County-Blaine, Flying Cloud and St. Paul airports. **Haake** suggested an update on the comprehensive plans for Anoka County-Blaine Airport be on the agenda for the next Commission meeting so that the Commission can have input on them. She requested the Commission see drafts of the plans as they are developed, rather than being presented with a final draft. She noted that previous legislation limits runways at smaller airports to a maximum length of 5000 feet and that an agreement exists preventing the MAC from extending the north-south runway to 5000 feet, which makes the long-term comprehensive plans for the airport of interest to her community. **Haake** added that, if and when the economy improves, it is logical to anticipate increased operations and development at the airport.

Rosacker noted that operations at Anoka County-Blaine for 2007 are down. **Skramstad** added that the airport should see approximately 85,000 total operations for 2007 if operations continue to trend as they are currently.

Kelso asked if the decrease in operations would have an effect on rates and charges at the MAC reliever airports. **Rosacker** noted that the rate structure has changed recently. **Skramstad** clarified that the goal of the rate structure change is to assist the reliever airports in becoming financially self-sufficient.

Skramstad stated that, in January 2008, he would send out a request for appointment or re-appointment of Commission members and inform members of the change to a semi-annual meeting schedule. **Heifort** asked if complaint information would still be sent to Commission members on a quarterly basis. **Skramstad** said they would be. **Heifort** noted it would be helpful for the cities to receive contact information, especially the noise complaint line, to pass on to citizens when the cities receive inquiries. It was agreed that, beginning with the commencement of the semi-annual meeting schedule, minutes for Commission meetings will be sent to members two weeks after each meeting.

ANE NOISE COMPLAINTS FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2007

Scott Skramstad, MAC, noted there was an increase in the number of complaints received via the phone line during the 3rd quarter, especially during September. He noted that investigation showed the aircraft related to most of the complaints was a Lear 25 which is a Stage 2—and, therefore, noisier—aircraft. **Skramstad** said the Lear operations were the result of an arrangement between Medtronic and FedEx, in which supplies were flown in and then trucked over to the Medtronic building. **Skramstad** noted that, as of today's meeting, those operations had been completed for nearly three weeks and so a reduction in complaints is anticipated.

Barbara Haake, Mounds View, noted there were numerous complaints in August as well. **Skramstad** noted the majority of those complaints did not correlate to specific operations.

Dot Heifort, Lexington, asked if operations at Anoka County-Blaine Airport are limited to certain hours. **Skramstad** stated that operations at the airport occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He noted there is an agreement in place with the City of Eden Prairie, which calls for the city to not oppose expansion of Flying Cloud Airport in return for the MAC implementing a voluntary nighttime curfew at the airport between 10:00pm and 7:00am. The MAC also holds two pilot briefings a year at Flying Cloud Airport to inform them of noise abatement procedures related to Flying Cloud. **Skramstad** noted that development near and around Anoka Blaine-County Airport has made the noise issue more complicated.

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no additional items.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 16 April 2008 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Christene Sirois, Recording Secretary

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