



# Anoka County-Blaine Airport ADVISORY COMMISSION

ACBAAC

## METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.  
Blaine City Hall, Cloverleaf Farm Rooms A & B (2nd Floor)  
10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine, MN 55449

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The meeting began at 4:05 p.m. 22 people were in attendance: 18 in person, 4 via Teams.

**Representatives:** C. Daml (via Teams), Northstar Flyers; K. DeVries, City of Lexington; S. Erkel, City of East Bethel; C. Ford, City of Blaine; S. Klobucher, Atlantic Aviation; T. Newland, City of Blaine; M. Percy, City of Circle Pines; K. Sislo, EAA Chapter 237; K. Smith (via Teams), City of Mounds View; M. Lawrence (via Teams), Anoka County Aviation Association.

**MAC Staff:** R. Anderson, Manager of Community Relations; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator; C. Metcalfe, Assistant Manager of Community Relations; P. Tiedeman, Manager - Anoka County-Blaine Airport; S. Lakku, Intern; T. Rosemeier, MAC.

**Others:** Justin Vossen (via Teams), Bolton & Menk, on behalf of Metropolitan Council; Erik Thorvig, City of Blaine; Jeanna Zunker, Recording Secretary; Dylan Girgen, US Aviation Academy; John Krack, RAAC/ACAA, storage tenant; Joseph Block, MN Department of Aeronautics.

A quorum of at least 3 User Representatives and 3 Public Representatives was established.

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and invited those present to introduce themselves.

*Approved 11-12-2025*

**8891 Airport Road, Box C-1, Blaine, MN 55449**  
Phil Tiedeman, MAC Airport Manager • philip.tiedeman@mspmact.org • 763-717-0001



## **2. Consent Items**

### **2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 6, 2024**

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** opened a discussion regarding approving the minutes from the committee meeting on February 12, 2025. There was no discussion and no changes made.

**REPRESENTATIVE DEVRIES** motioned and **REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND** seconded to approve the February 12, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **2.2 Aircraft Operations & Noise Complaints Quarterly Report**

**MS. LEWIS** commented that the report was contained in the meeting packet and that she was happy to answer any questions or give more detail.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** opened a discussion and called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

## **3. Public Comment**

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** introduced the public comment period. There were no comments made.

## **4. Business**

### **4.1 ANE Open House Discussion**

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** expressed interest in getting the public into the airport and interested in aviation. Atlantic is willing to open their ramp to accommodate or could look at spaces on airport property. He asked for ideas and suggestions. The timeline is fall of 2026 or spring/summer of 2027 for the first event.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** requested volunteers for a planning committee to help build community engagement and awareness of the airport and what it offers.

**MR. GIRGEN** expressed interest in hosting, sponsoring, opening ramp space, and being on the committee.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired if anyone online wanted to comment. There were no comments made.

**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** remarked that he has been working on this for the last five years, asked if there are people showing interest.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** listed many various interested parties.



**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** invited everyone to their event at the end of the month and requested to be a member of the committee, also interested in promoting EAA. He expressed the need to work soon, hoping to start soon after their event, to pull the committee together.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** talked about combining forces.

**MR. KRACK** requested to be kept in the loop.

**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** said it should be an airport-driven event for users to draw people to the airport.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** expressed the need for marketing.

**REPRESENTATIVE DAML** indicated an interest in helping.

**REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND** noted that the City is interested in helping and asked whether this was to coincide with the Blaine Festival.

**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** indicated that was the original intent, having the event in the morning because the festival doesn't start until around noon.

**REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND** clarified there is a parade at 11:00, agreed to piggyback to make it easier, expressed possible interest in an open house, remarking that Aviation Day was well attended.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** remarked that a one-day event is a good start, which could be built upon if successful.

**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** clarified this year will have two seminars. Life Link will be bringing a helicopter and invited State Patrol, Controllink. There will be pedal planes, breakfast, and Twin Cities Model A Ford Club will display cars.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** indicated that the next step is to build a committee, asked J. Lewis for clarification on how to accomplish that.

**MS. LEWIS** informed them they have the authority to form a subcommittee. The life of the committee follows the life of the co-chairship, recommends formulation ASAP.



**CO-CHAIR ERKEL, CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER, REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND, REPRESENTATIVE SISLO, MR. GIRGEN, and MS. LEWIS** discussed the logistics of setting up a committee and a future meeting date.

## **5. Information**

### **5.1 MN Department of Aeronautics: Joseph Block**

**MR. TIEDEMAN** introduced Joseph Block.

**MR. BLOCK** gave information regarding electric aviation and the study they are doing for MnDOT. He defined advanced air mobility (AAM) and described various types of aircraft, discussed trying to produce OEMs to reduce emissions, lower noise, reduce OPES, and strengthen regional airports. Mr. Block discussed the uses for these electric aircraft, displayed the distances they could cover. He displayed the current charger network and discussed the Minnesota Electric Aviation Network objectives and what's next.

**REPRESENTATIVE PERCY** asked a question regarding recharging time, and Mr. Block clarified.

**REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND** asked where the noise video can be found, and Mr. Block clarified.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** referenced the lack of sound generated and then opened questions from online participants.

**MR. THORVIG** asked about cost versus standard aircraft, and Mr. Block clarified that the cost would be more expensive than piston or turbine equivalent. There are some unknowns on insurance price. Fuel and maintenance will be cheaper.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** inquired about favorability ratings, and Mr. Block indicated that Anoka is high on the list and scored well.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** thanked the presenter for the informative presentation.

### **5.2 Community Spotlights: ACBAAC Community Members**

**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** indicated that their June 28 fly-in drive in pancake breakfast will be held, courtesy of US Aviation, on their ramp space. There will be displays, maintenance seminars, tours, and vendors from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**MR. ANDERSON** inquired as to Young Eagles Flights.



**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** stated that there will be Young Eagles this weekend but in a different location.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired if anyone had any comments or questions, and there were none.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** indicated that July 19th is their East Bethel Booster Day community event, invited anyone from airport to bring aircraft, has open space and wants to integrate the airport community and this commission with their community.

**REPRESENTATIVE SISLO** inquired what time it will be.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** clarified that it starts at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast and goes all day with vendors, car show, kids' events. The event goes all night through fireworks.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** indicated that with St. Paul being closed, there may be an increase in noise complaints. There is an increase in traffic and tenants, which is big for the area to show what Anoka Airport is capable of.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** said this is a good opportunity and inquired if there were any questions. None were heard.

**REPRESENTATIVE PERCY** stated that Circle Pines is having a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event the first weekend in August featuring music, food, fun run, and collecting oral histories from people in the area.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** asked which days.

**REPRESENTATIVE PERCY** clarified that activities run Friday evening through Sunday.

**REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND** indicated that the Blaine Festival is June 27<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> with lots of information online. Mr. Newland also mentioned that the City manager is retiring after a 30-year career. Erik Thorvig will be the acting City manager until they get a permanent one. Development is coming along very quickly. He would like to get a charter to see it by air and will follow up. At the end of July, there is a 3M golf tournament, which is a good spotlight for the city.



**REPRESENTATIVE DEVRIES** indicated that the City of Lexington is having a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event the third Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in September with vendors, petting zoo, bouncy houses, fire and police departments, fireworks, and bands.

**MR. METCAFFE** recounted that **REPRESENTATIVE SMITH** mentioned that Mounds View is having their festival on August 15 and 16 in the park for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### 5.3 Airport User Spotlight: US Aviation Academy

**MR. TIEDEMAN** introduced Dylan Girgen, who talked about operations of the US Aviation Academy and discussed the program, student involvement, and how it helps people.

**CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** inquired into the comparison of accelerated schedule versus the other programs, and Mr. Girgen clarified that it is based on proficiency and moves more quickly.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired into the cost of the eight-month program, and Mr. Girgen indicated that it is \$36,000, which includes everything.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired as to the average pay upon graduation, and Mr. Girgen said it is between 60 to 80,000, depending on if you are at a local or the airlines, six-figure job within a few years if you work overtime. They are close partners with Delta and Sun Country.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired whether they assist in acquiring employment after school, and Mr. Girgen said they give assistance and basically do everything but hire them.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** asked for locations, and Mr. Girgen clarified.

**MR. BLOCK** commented on other programs and high demand from airlines.

**MR. GIRGEN** indicated that they have resources to do things more streamlined than the others and start classes every five weeks.

### 5.4 Airport Manager Update

**MR. TIEDEMAN** gave an update on the equipment building construction, working on installing the last door. Substantial completion is expected July 25. An above-ground diesel fuel tank is being put in to replace the current underground aging tank, expecting to break ground soon. There is a new weather system replacement happening this summer. There should be no impact to the tenants.



**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired into above-ground tanks in regard to cold temperatures.

**MR. TIEDEMAN** clarified that there is a heating system and additive to address temperatures.

#### **6. Member Announcements and Events in 2025**

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** inquired if there were any more announcements and events, and there were no comments.

#### **7. Review 2025 Schedule, Next Meeting Date: November 12**

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** reminded of the future meeting date on November 12.

**REPRESENTATIVE PERCY** inquired as to the location.

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** and **CO-CHAIR KLOBUCHER** discussed the current location being more spacious and the ability to house more participants, and J. Lewis will look at the schedule and plan to have it the same location or some other room based on availability.

#### **8. Adjourn**

**CO-CHAIR ERKEL** adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

