



Anoka County-Blaine Airport ADVISORY COMMISSION

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**METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION
ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Blaine City Hall Cloverleaf Farm Rooms A & B (2nd Floor)
10801 Town Square Drive Northeast, Blaine, MN 55449

The meeting began at 4:09 p.m. 17 people were in attendance: 15 in person, 2 via Teams.

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

Representatives: J. Belany, Life Link III; C. Daml, Northstar Flyers; K. Devries, City of Lexington; S. Erkel, City of East Bethel; D. Girgen, US Aviation Academy (via Teams); G. Kranz, North Central Aviation (via Teams); S. McChesney, City of Circle Pines; K. Smith, City of Mounds View;

MAC Staff: R. Anderson; K. Gerads; D. Lafferty; J. Lewis; M. Ross; P. Tiedeman;

Others: C. Carleton; V. Meyer; R. Ziegler.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Co-Chair Erkel called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Consent Items

2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 12, 2025

Co-Chair Erkel opened a discussion regarding approving the minutes from the Commission meeting on November 12, 2025. There was no discussion and no changes were made.

Representative Devries motioned and Representative McChesney seconded to approve the November 12, 2025, meeting minutes as drafted. No further discussion was held. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved 6-3-2026

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



2.2 Aircraft Operations & Noise Complaints Quarterly Report

Co-Chair Erkel explained that the report was contained in the meeting packet.

3. Public Comment

Co-Chair Erkel introduced the public comment period.

Carolynn Carleton of Blaine asked why aircraft, especially in the summer, arrive after midnight or as early as 5 a.m. She finds the nighttime noise annoying. She thought the airport closed overnight and has learned it does not.

Ms. Lewis was granted permission to respond and stated that Anoka County-Blaine Airport is a public use airport that is open 24 hours a day, although with far fewer nighttime operations than daytime operations. MAC encourages people to avoid unnecessary flying during nighttime hours, but many of the nighttime flights are cargo and medical operations, including Life Link flights. She added that pilots are required to train during nighttime hours at least one hour past sunset, and in seasons with longer days, those training flights also contribute to noise.

Co-Chair Erkel thanked **Ms. Carleton** for her comments and **Ms. Lewis** for her response.

There were no further public comments made at this time.

Co-Chair Erkel then mentioned the Airport Festival committee and asked those present with access to public marketing to get the word out that volunteers are needed to assist with the festival and its preparations.

4. Business

4.1 Co-Chair Elections

Co-Chair Erkel explained the role of Co-Chairs.

Co-Chair Erkel then noted **Co-Chair Klobuchar** as nominated to continue in the position of Airport User Representative Co-Chair. She asked if anyone would like to make a nomination or run for that position. No further nominations were made.

Representative Devries motioned and **Representative Smith** seconded to approve

Co-Chair Klobuchar to continue in the role as Airport User Co-Chair. There was no further discussion at this time. A vote was taken, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.



Co-Chair Erkel stated she was running for the position of Public Representative Co-Chair. She asked if anyone would like to make a nomination or run for that position. No further nominations were made.

Representative Devries motioned and Representative McChesney seconded to approve Co-Chair Erkel to continue in the role as Airport Public Co-Chair. There was no further discussion at this time. A vote was taken, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4.2 Approval of 2026-2027 Work Plan

Co-Chair Erkel introduced the topic of approval of the 2026-2027 Work Plan.

Representative Devries motioned to approve the 2026-2027 Work Plan as drafted.

Representative Daml asked for more information about the work plan.

Mr. Anderson and **Mr. Tiedeman** pointed out that the work plan was displayed on the screen, and the representatives reviewed the information.

Representative McChesney seconded the motion to approve the 2026-2027 Work Plan as drafted. Co-Chair Erkel asked for further discussion or questions, and there were none at this time. A vote was taken, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Information

5.1 Airport Long-Term Plan (Michele Ross)

Co-Chair Erkel opened the topic and invited **Ms. Ross** to present.

Ms. Ross introduced herself and explained her role with regard to long-term planning and environmental review. She discussed the Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) that is part of the planning process, noting that all representatives had been emailed regarding participation. She indicated that MAC completes long-term planning at a regular cadence. She said it is a lengthy process with many components involving the FAA and all stakeholders to create an airport plan through 2045. As part of the process, existing conditions and facilities are reviewed to understand growth-accommodation capability.

To inform that process, the SAP is convened to hear from airport users and the community. The group meets approximately four times over 18 months, and the first



meeting, including an overview of the process, will occur this spring. She discussed forecasting data used in the process and stated that the SAP will look at proposed future changes and provide feedback.

She said that each SAP meeting will be followed by a public open house to receive community feedback and spread awareness. The process culminates in a public comment period of approximately 45 days and a final open house. Feedback will be taken continuously throughout the process. She then asked if there were any questions.

Co-Chair Erkel inquired as to when representatives needed to respond to the SAP email.

Ms. Ross said that, unless a representative lets her know they do not want to participate, she will continue to solicit feedback and attempt to get responses from all in order to get input from as many stakeholders as possible.

She indicated Blaine City Hall would be a likely location for SAP meetings and public open houses.

Co-Chair Erkel asked if only Commission representatives will participate in the SAP.

Ms. Ross answered that other stakeholders will be included, including chambers of commerce, Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, some airport tenants, and additional participants. She invited representatives to give suggestions for stakeholders to be included.

Co-Chair Erkel noted representatives could invite others during upcoming community meetings.

Ms. Ross indicated that spreading awareness is great and would be welcomed.

Co-Chair Erkel asked if MAC staff might come to city council or chamber meetings to discuss the long-term planning process.

Ms. Ross said MAC would absolutely be willing to do that and that it could be a nice opportunity to get the word out.

Co-Chair Erkel asked if there were any further questions or discussion topics regarding the long-term plan at this time, and there were none. She thanked **Ms. Ross** for her presentation.



Co-Chair Erkel noted a few announcements, including tenancies being renewed and that this is a hybrid meeting with a Teams option for participation. She also announced that Agenda Item 5.2 was postponed.

5.2 Sustainable Aviation Summit (Joe Block)

This agenda item was postponed.

5.3 Airport Manager Update

Mr. Tiedeman gave an update on airport operations, focusing on upcoming construction projects. He discussed the new equipment building, which is nearly complete.

Temporary certificates of occupancy have been obtained. Punch list items are still being completed, but the building is otherwise nearly finished. He expects everything to be finalized this spring. He stated the building is a big improvement in maintenance and efficiency for the airport.

Co-Chair Erkel asked where the new building is located.

Mr. Tiedeman indicated it is near the existing maintenance facilities off the service road, southwest of the control tower.

He then reviewed 2026 construction plans, including the Rice Creek Watershed District ditch cleanout, electrical vault building improvements, and gate controller replacements.

Mr. Meyer inquired about the location of the ditch cleanout work and whether that was contained within airport property.

Mr. Tiedeman noted that what he had discussed was work on airport property, but that it was part of a larger project in which additional cleanout work was done north of airport property.

Mr. Tiedeman then reviewed additional 2026 construction projects, including edge lighting and PAPI replacement on Runway 9/27 and fence improvements. He reviewed information on each project and their projected timelines.

Representative Daml asked where the fencing improvement work is planned.

Mr. Tiedeman indicated it will be next to the control tower.



Representative Smith inquired if the fencing being discussed was to the east of Radisson Road.

Mr. Tiedeman said that portion of the fencing was not likely to be included as part of the project.

He noted that Runway 18/36 construction had been anticipated for 2026, but that the FAA wants additional review and redesign of the Taxiway A1 and A5 Runup areas. The project has been, therefore, postponed. He did say that a bonus of the delay is that two runways will not be closed at the same time so that the airport will always have a runway open.

He asked if there were any questions for him, and there were none at this time.

6. Members: Community Events/Around the Room

Co-Chair Erkel opened a discussion for community events and announcements.

Representative Smith announced that Mounds View Festival in the Park will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on April 4 with over 15,000 eggs that have been prepared with the help of seniors in the area. She stated the same group is hosting a car show at Turbo Tim's Anything Automotive on May 2, weather permitting.

Co-Chair Erkel said East Bethel is planning a flea market/ice cream social event for June 13.

Representative Girgen indicated he is happy to be a part of the Commission and noted that US Aviation Academy is planning a pancake breakfast for the summer and that they are willing and able to work with vendors in the area interested in partnering with them.

Representative Smith asked about the date for the pancake breakfast.

Representatives Daml and **Girgen** indicated the breakfast was scheduled for June 27.

No other members had further updates or announcements at this time, and **Co-Chair Erkel** thanked everyone for their participation and updates.

7. Review 2026 Meeting Dates: June 3, September 2, and December 2, 2026

Co-Chair Erkel reiterated the planned meeting dates for 2026 and said she hopes for



higher attendance at future meetings. She gave the remaining meeting schedule for 2026: June 3, September 2, and December 2.

8. Closing Remarks

Co-Chair Erkel thanked everyone for coming and asked for any further comments, and there were none at this time.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Erkel adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

