



Anoka County-Blaine Airport ADVISORY COMMISSION

ACBAAC

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

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
Blaine City Hall Cloverleaf Farm Rooms A & B (2nd Floor)
10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine MN 55449

The meeting began at 4:08 p.m. 19 people were in attendance: 17 in person, 2 via Teams.

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

Representatives: C. Daml, Northstar Flyers; K. Devries, City of Lexington; S. Erkel, City of East Bethel; N. Fleischhacker, City of Blaine; S. McChesney, City of Circle Pines; T. Newland, City of Blaine; M. Percy, City of Circle Pines; K. Sislo, EAA Chapter 237; K. Smith, City of Mounds View

MAC Staff: S. Lakku, Intern - Community Relations; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator; P. Tiedeman, Manager - Anoka County-Blaine Airport

Others: P. Antonen, City of Circle Pines; J. Block (via Teams), MnDOT; J. Krack; M. Sandmann; H. Shah; J. Vossen (via Teams), Bolton & Menk; Ryan Ziegler, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome & Introductions

CO-CHAIR ERKEL called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL noted Agenda Items 4.2 and 6.1 would be postponed.

Approved 3-4-2026

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



2. Consent Items

2.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 11, 2025

CO-CHAIR ERKEL opened a discussion regarding approving the minutes from the Commission meeting on June 11, 2025. There was no discussion and no changes were made.

REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND motioned and REPRESENTATIVE MCCHESENEY seconded to approve the June 11, 2025, meeting minutes as drafted. No further discussion was held. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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. There were no comments made.

4. Business

4.1 ACBAAC Event Subcommittee Update

CO-CHAIR ERKEL gave an update regarding the subcommittee, including the new official event name of “Anoka Aviation Festival” and a planned date of June 12, 2027. This timeline was selected to give time to prepare for a large and exciting event at Atlantic Aviation. The mission of the Festival is to engage the community with airports and services and to showcase airport capabilities (including lifesaving medical flights), operations, and education. She detailed anticipated aspects of the event, including booths, vendors, police and fire, a pancake breakfast, fly-ins, aircraft displays and tours, helicopter and airplane rides, food vendors, entertainment, local music and art activities, games, drone demonstrations, and more.

She added that the organization will be a nonprofit and will need a board. The next meeting of the planning committee will be November 19. Updates will be provided periodically from the separate group, and they hope to meet monthly. She passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in getting involved with the committee.

4.2 Minnesota Electric Aviation

This agenda item was postponed.



5. Information

5.1 Tenant Highlight

MR. KRACK introduced himself and his history in aviation and his work with the Reliever Airports Advisory Council (RAAC) and the Anoka County Aviation Association (ACAA). He highlighted the successful collaboration between ACAA and MAC on projects and initiatives over many years. He said the relationship between MAC and ACAA is very good and has improved greatly. He discussed the upcoming long-term comprehensive plan and MAC's transparency with local communities and users on the plan's development.

He then discussed working to offer the EAA program "Flying Start," which gives an overview seminar on what it takes to become a pilot, licensure, aircraft, training, and more. He brought attention to the aircraft mechanic's school that opened at Anoka a little over a year ago (US Aviation Academy), which trains mechanics and has good program incentives. He stated that students come out with a license for aircraft and power plant mechanics for an affordable price and that it provides a great opportunity for those interested in aviation mechanics.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked if any small airports do not have a tower, as **Mr. Krack** had noted that Anoka County-Blaine Airport did not have one until 1996.

MR. TIEDEMAN noted that most small airports do not have a tower.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time. She thanked **Mr. Krack** for his presentation.

5.2 Community Spotlight

MR. ANTONEN introduced those present at the meeting from the City of Circle Pines. He gave basic city information such as location and neighboring cities.

REPRESENTATIVE PERCY discussed the history and formation of Circle Pines, which started as a cooperative, as well as their structural changes over time. He highlighted the city's growth due to proximity to both downtowns and to Anoka County-Blaine Airport. He reviewed major infrastructure rebuilding work done since 2008.

MR. ANTONEN discussed several milestones and achievements of Circle Pines, including being the only city in the seven-county metro area that owns its own utility, a natural-gas distribution company, which is a great benefit to the community. He discussed city amenities, including that approximately one third of the city is parks or trails. He noted the city's strong leadership and volunteerism. He then reviewed recently completed municipal projects as well as plans for upcoming projects.



REPRESENTATIVE MCCHESENEY discussed airport relations, including with Lino Air Park, Surfside Seaplane Base, and Anoka County-Blaine Airport. He reviewed some history and local connections and invited **Mr. Sandmann** to add something on community relations.

MR. SANDMANN added that he has always loved airplanes and that the airport is great for the community, especially area children. He highlighted the wonderful observation area. He noted that everyone has done a good job to make Anoka County-Blaine Airport a great neighbor.

MR. ANTONEN talked about Circle Pines's 75th anniversary celebration last summer, which included festivities over two days. He showed a video that reviewed some of the highlights of the event and then closed the presentation and asked if any representatives had questions.

REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND inquired as to how the city got its name.

REPRESENTATIVE PERCY stated it came from the cooperative history of the community and historical use of pine trees with a circle as a symbol for people working together cooperatively.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked about Circle Pines's involvement with Met Council.

MR. ANTONEN stated they are involved with Met Council.

REPRESENTATIVE PERCY and **MR. ANTONEN** gave further information about the city's cooperative history, including the interviews and pledges that were a part of the cooperative stage and how the community then moved on to become a village after two years.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked about the electric vehicle charging project that had been mentioned and asked if they had received grants.

MR. ANTONEN said they did receive a grant to fund part of the project and that the charging stations should go live next week.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time.

5.3 Fly Neighborly Program Comparison

MS. LAKKU gave an overview of the noise abatement program for Anoka County-Blaine Airport and its goals. She discussed the FAA's restrictions and limitations placed on airports, including that all Anoka County-Blaine Airport's noise abatement measures are voluntary, but noted that voluntary measures can still be effective. She reviewed findings and insights of her



comprehensive study of 25 general aviation airports around the country. She compared noise abatement features available at Anoka County-Blaine Airport to those at the other 25 airports.

She discussed how the MAC works to educate pilots and flight schools to raise awareness and give clear guidance to help pilots reduce their noise impact. She showed results of her analysis and benchmarks for procedures, including the noise complaint system, advisory board, pilot resources, and many other procedures and resources in place at Anoka County-Blaine Airport. Further information can be found at <https://metroairports.org/fly-neighborly>.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL noted appreciation for the thorough analysis and thanked MAC staff.

5.4 Airport Manager Update

MR. TIEDEMAN gave an update on the equipment building at Anoka Airport, which is almost completed. He noted that they hope to move equipment in later this month. A new diesel fuel system for MAC equipment has also been installed and should go live next week.

He noted that his main focus currently is preparing for winter operations. Anoka County-Blaine Airport has a full-time staff of four maintenance employees, and the airport should be staffed seven days a week, including full staffing for snow events. They are busy training, prepping equipment, and gathering supplies. They work with the National Weather Service on forecasting and are able to access advanced forecast models for large snow events. The biggest priority is communications, including NOTAMs with runway conditions, snow totals, and airport conditions to get airport users accurate information as quickly as possible. He discussed equipment used to clear snow.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL inquired as to the age of the equipment and if any replacements were due.

MR. TIEDEMAN said there is some new equipment coming next year. He discussed how equipment is sometimes received from Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (MSP) and how they prioritize replacing equipment that has issues. He said the mechanics do a great job of maintaining equipment and that supplies are kept for emergencies, with MSP as a resource to share supplies and support if needed.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked about serious inclement weather and if that causes flights to be canceled or makes it impossible to land.

MR. TIEDEMAN noted there are times when that can occur, like in ice conditions where pavement is down to nil, or no braking action, at which time the airport must be closed. He discussed new practices for snow events such as using brooming and chemicals as opposed to



plowing, which helps avoid ice buildup and decreases downtime.

REPRESENTATIVE SISLO asked about what the downtime can be.

MR. TIEDEMAN explained the process of clearing the priority runway and taxiway surfaces first to minimize downtime.

REPRESENTATIVE SISLO asked about the process for clearing hangar areas.

MR. TIEDEMAN stated snow is first cleared down the center of the pavement and then further cleared from areas between hangars. He again highlighted the importance of communication so they can prioritize the areas that airport users may need to access first.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time.

5.5 ACBAAC Accomplishments 2024-2025

MS. LAKKU reviewed a list of Commission accomplishments for 2024 and 2025.

MS. LEWIS explained that typical Commission work plans are for two years and further highlighted work done in the last work plan period. She stated the term for the current group ends on December 31 and that a new work plan will be set up in 2026 for the next two-year period. Some continuing items will also be included in the next work plan.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time. She thanked the Commission members and MAC staff for their great and productive term.

6. Airport/Community Events in 2025

6.1 Minnesota Business Aviation Association Recap

This agenda item was postponed.

6.2 Tree of Hope 2025

CO-CHAIR ERKEL noted that Tree of Hope is a great cause and invited **REPRESENTATIVE DAML** to give further information.

REPRESENTATIVE DAML stated the event will be held at Anoka Airport on December 6 at Atlantic Aviation. She reviewed details of the event and how it works as a nonprofit that collects toys for hospitalized kids. Last year, 42 hospitals were served as well as Ronald McDonald Houses and shelters.



REPRESENTATIVE PERCY said it's a fantastic program and thanked **REPRESENTATIVE DAML** for her work.

REPRESENTATIVE DAML added it has been in operation for 35 years and reviewed some of the program's history and growth.

REPRESENTATIVE SISLO added it is fun to stop by during the event to see all the toys and the sorting process.

REPRESENTATIVE DAML invited those present to bring a toy to Atlantic Aviation or to help sort on December 6 and emphasized the role of volunteers to make the program happen each year.

7. Members: Around the Room

CO-CHAIR ERKEL opened a discussion by members of community events or announcements. She shared that East Bethel will be having a town hall on November 13 and noted that town hall meetings occur twice a year. East Bethel will also have a tree lighting ceremony on December 5 and is working on more ways to get the community together.

REPRESENTATIVE NEWLAND stated Erik Thorvig was appointed as permanent city manager of Blaine, with a reception for him to be held November 13, to which all are welcome.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCHESENEY discussed a retirement party on December 11 for 20-year Circle Pines Mayor Dave Bartholomay.

REPRESENTATIVE SMITH noted that Mounds View hosts turkey bingo every Sunday from now to the end of the year. There is also food pickup for those in need at the Mounds View Community Center. For the upcoming holiday season, Mounds View is planning a tree lighting and will also be part of the Santa Claus Fire Truck Tour.

REPRESENTATIVE DEVRIES said Lexington will also be part of the Santa Claus Fire Truck Tour. He discussed a holiday house decoration competition that is funded by the Fire Department Relief Association where the winners receive a cash prize and also get pictured in the city newsletter.

No other members had further updates or announcements at this time.

8. Membership Renewal

MS. LEWIS reiterated that the two-year terms for the Commission's membership expire December 31 and that cities will need to reappoint representatives for a new two-year period to run from 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2027. She explained that the Commission's user



representatives are appointed by the airport manager. She expressed gratitude to all the representatives for their efforts and contributions. She stated that further communication regarding the new two-year term would be forthcoming. She asked that appointments be received no later than January 31 if possible.

CO-CHAIR ERKEL asked if there were any questions, and there were none at this time.

9. Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule: March 4, June 3, September 2, December 2, 2026

CO-CHAIR ERKEL reminded the group of the planned change in meeting frequency to four times a year. She gave the meeting schedule for 2026: March 4, June 3, September 2, and December 2.

10. 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 5:13 p.m.

