



**ANOKA COUNTY- BLAINE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
(ACBAAC)

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

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m.  
Atlantic Aviation ANE  
9877 N Airport Rd, NE, Blaine, MN 55449

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The meeting started at 4:05 p.m. In attendance were:

**Representatives:** K. Devries, Lexington; C. Daml, Northstar Flyers; S. Erkel, East Bethel; B. Haake, Mounds View; T. Newland, Blaine; B. Orr, Atlantic Aviation; D. Quimby, Lino Lakes; T. Ryan, Blaine; K. Sislo, EAA Chapter 237. M. Lawrence, Anoka County Aviation Association M. Wolfe, City of Blaine, and participated virtually.

**MAC Staff:** M. Ross, Manager, Community Relations, P. Tiedemann, Manager, Anoka County-Blaine Airport

**Others:** J. Krack, Reliever Airports Advisory Committee; N. Zikmund – Mounds View

**1. Introductions**

**Chair Orr** called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. He asked all attendees to introduce themselves briefly. There were 15 participants.

A quorum of three User Representatives and three Community Representatives was established.

**Public Representatives:** S. Erkel, T. Ryan; K. Devries; B. Haake, D. Quimby

**User Representatives:** B. Orr; C. Daml; M. Lawrence; K. Sislo

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 10, 2023**

**Chair Orr** opened the item for discussion, approving the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes.

**Representative Erkel moved and Representative Ryan seconded to:**

**Accept the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**3. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

*Approved 4-10-2024*



#### 4. **Airport User Spotlight:**

**Chair Orr** introduced **Kevin Sislo**, President of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 237, their group provides a great introduction to aviation to the children in the community. **Mr. Sislo** explained that their chapter is located on the south end of the airfield and has about 150 members.

**Mr. Sislo** explained that EAA supports general aviation overall. The experimental side of their organization allows them to build aircraft themselves. The chapter meets on the fourth Monday of every month at their chapter building. The public is invited. These meetings have a social hour, a business discussion, and a speaker.

The EAA hosts the Young Eagles Program, serving 2.3 million 8 to 17-year-old children and has flown since 1992. It offers introductory flights to inspire kids to pursue aviation. There are hundreds of EAA chapters worldwide and the flight time is donated freely by local pilots. **Mr. Sislo** explained what the Young Eagles Program includes. Locally, Chapter 237 has flown 9000 kids over 30 years; so far, in 2023, there have been 550 kids that have flown. There are over 100 kids who signed up to participate on October 14. **Mr. Sislo** noted that their Chapter has 12 active pilots and 5-10 ground crew members. The local chapter is trying to involve the local community, they fly scouting organizations, school groups, and birthday parties. Home-schooled families have also been participating. **Mr. Sislo** explained the scholarship process and how the chapter has helped students obtain their training. He also thanked Atlantic Aviation, MAC and the Anoka Tower for the support of their Young Eagle Chapter.

Mr. Sislo showed a photo of a plane currently being built and explained the process in the future.

For more information regarding EAA Chapter 237, please visit:

<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea237>

For more information regarding the Young Eagles Program, please visit:

<https://www.eaa.org/ea/youth/free-ye-flights>

#### 5. **Airport Manager Update**

**Philip Tiedeman, Manager – Anoka County – Blaine Airport (ANE)**, gave an overview of the construction projects. This included noting that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) had Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) replacements scheduled for this year but due to grant challenges, have moved the project to next year. The demolition of the Anoka Tech building has been put up for bid. It needs commission approval before it can be scheduled. **Mr. Tiedeman** updated the commission on the construction of Taxiway A.

**Mr. Tiedeman** also gave an update on the Long-Term Comprehensive Plan. He noted that Eric Gilles, MAC's Airport Planner, is currently working on the plans for Saint Paul Downtown Airport and expects to start on ANE in 2025.

*Approved 4-10-2024*

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Phil Tiedeman, MAC Airport Manager • philip.tiedeman@mspm.com • 763-717-0001



Events that took place at ANE included educational outreach with the University Avenue School, some homeschooling groups, and day programs take tours. The airport barbeque took place on September 11 with about 150 attendees, and the Burger Bash that the EAA hosted had a great turnout. Four members of MAC attended the Oshkosh for the Air Show.

In response to an inquiry from the last commission meeting, **Mr. Tiedeman** noted that, on average, five to ten tenants turnover each year. He gave an overview of the tenant application and hangar construction processes. He also noted that MAC staff are gearing up for the winter season.

#### 6. **ACBAAC Accomplishments 2022-2023**

**Michele Ross, Technical Advisor**, noted that the two-year work plan that the commission approved is ending. She reviewed the commission's accomplishments, which convened on May 11, 2022, November 2, 2022, May 10, 2023, and October 11, 2023. Those accomplishments included:

- Reviewed Data and Received Updates about Aircraft Operations and Noise Complaints
- Received Airport Manager Updates, Including Construction and Airport Improvements
- Received Updates about the Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Learned about Airport Users and Tenant Highlights
- Received Updates Regarding the Long-Term Plan and Airport Developments
- Participated in Airport Tours and Other Airport/Community Events
- Listened to Ideas Presented by Other Members
- Viewed the MAC's Production of Videos, Including the General Aviation Video and Meet the Fleet

The MAC received a Silver Telly Award for, "What is General Aviation", which detailed operations at the MAC's Reliever Airports and the services they provide. You can view the video at: <https://youtu.be/gRBKnHR1xds>

**Ms. Ross** explained how the "Meet the Fleet" program began. She noted that the Piper Archer is the first video with a general aviation aircraft. This video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/fozqvhUs7h0>.

The other aircraft videos can be found at [Meet the Fleet | Metropolitan Airports Commission \(metroairports.org\)](https://metroairports.org)

#### 7. **Aircraft Operations and Noise Complaints Summary Q3 2023:**

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023**

**Michele Ross, Technical Advisor** explained the Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise and Operation System ([MACNOMS](https://www.macnoise.com)) tool, its updates, and how the operations were tracked. **Ms. Ross** also explained that more detail about complaints and operations is available at [www.macnoise.com/tools-reports/interactive-reports](https://www.macnoise.com/tools-reports/interactive-reports)

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**Ms. Ross** stated there were 335 noise complaints from 14 locations and 90 nighttime complaints from 8 nighttime locations. There were 19,328 operations of which 1,274 were nighttime operations recorded for Anoka County-Blaine Airport during the quarter. She broke down the aircraft types generating ANE noise complaints in Q3 2023.

**Ms. Ross, Mr. Tiedeman and Chair Orr** responded to a question regarding aircraft traffic.

**Representative Wolfe** noted that she interacted with residents in Blaine and asked if there is a way to determine if complaints had been resolved.

#### 8. **Member Remarks and Feedback**

**Chair Orr** opened the floor to ideas and suggestions.

**Representative Haake** asked for clarification on the long-term plan for the airport. She also suggested incorporating community involvement into the process as early as possible. She thanked the group for the recent airport tour.

Mr. Krack, a Reliever Airports Advisory Committee member, commented that historically, there has been a lot of community involvement in the long-term planning process at the other reliever airports.

#### 9. **Membership Renewal**

**Michele Ross, Technical Advisor**, noted that many of the representatives' terms expire soon. **Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor**, will contact representatives directly regarding reappointments or new appointments. Co-Chair elections will be held in 2024.

#### 10. **Set 2024 Meeting Dates**

**Chair Orr** led a discussion regarding the dates for the 2024 meetings. It was decided that the second Wednesday of April and October works well. The commission agreed that Wednesday, April 10, and Wednesday, October 9, 2024, will be set for the calendar year. The location will be determined later.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

*Approved 4-10-2024*

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