



**METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION  
AIRLAKE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

\*Teleconference Only\*\*

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The meeting started at 4:00 p.m. In attendance by teleconference were:

**Representatives:** H. Bernatz, City of Farmington; J. Bermel, City of Lakeville; K. Chatfield, Dakota County; T. Fitzhenry, Airport User; A. Forsberg, Aloft Aviation; T. Goodroad, City of Lakeville; S. Guetter, Penguin Flight; K. Jech, Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce; E. Laberee, Dakota County; P. Moynihan, Pilot; N. Sauber, Eureka Township; D. Wolbert, Pilot; R. Wood, Eureka Township

**MAC Staff:** Y. Bizen, Commissioner, Metropolitan Airports Commission; R. Dockry, Airport Manager – Airlake Airport; J. Egan, Assistant Manager – Community Relations; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator; D. Nelson, Director – Stakeholder Engagement; K. Verdeja, Recording Secretary

**Other:** B. Eilers, Eureka Township

A quorum of at least three User Representatives and three Public Representatives was established via roll call.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

**Tom Fitzhenry, Co-Chair**, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. There was a total of 20 participants. **Chair Fitzhenry** reviewed the purpose and goals of the council.

2. **Recognition of LVN Airfield Crew**

Due to inclement weather, this agenda item was tabled to the June 8, 2023 meeting.

3. **Agenda Discussion**

**Chair Fitzhenry** led a discussion regarding the agenda. He noted that agenda item **2. Recognition of LVN Airfield Crew** was tabled.

**Representative Bermel moved and Representative Moynihan seconded to:  
Approve the Agenda for today's meeting.  
The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Approved 6-8-2023

8140 220th Street West, Lakeville, Minnesota 55044

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#### 4. Consent Items

**Chair Fitzhenry** also opened a discussion regarding the approval of the minutes from the committee meeting on December 8, 2022. There was no discussion.

**Representative Guetter moved and Representative Moynihan seconded to:**

**Approve the Meeting from the December 8, 2022, meeting as presented.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### 5. Public Comment

**Chair Fitzhenry** introduced the public comment period and reminded attendees of the ground rules for public comment. There were no comments made.

#### 6. Airport Manager's Update

**Rob Dockry, Manager – Airlake Airport**, thanked the commission for wanting to recognize the maintenance crew at Airlake Airport. **Mr. Dockry** also announced that Aloft Aviation received their certificate of occupancy. He also reviewed the operations for the Airlake Airport in the fourth quarter of 2022. He explained the Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise and Operation System ([MACNOMS](#)) tool.

**Mr. Dockry** mentioned the number of flights that used Airlake Airport last year and compared it to other reliever airports as well as Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). More information regarding the 2022 operations can be found at: <https://metroairports.org/news/mac-reliever-airports-supported-342000-operations-2022>

**Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor**, explained what unknown operations could be. There were 138 unknown operations at Airlake. These operations have no detail, registration number, or flight plan.

#### 7. Aircraft Operations and Noise Complaints Summary

**Jennifer Lewis, Technical Advisor**, explained the Metropolitan Airports Commission Community Connection tool which can be found at [www.metroairports.org/community-connection](http://www.metroairports.org/community-connection). **Ms. Lewis** stated there were 8,656 operations and 35 nighttime operations recorded for Airlake Airport during the fourth quarter of 2022.

**Ms. Lewis** stated there were no noise complaints during the quarter. **Ms. Lewis** explained that more detail about complaints and operations is available at [www.macnoise.com/tools-reports/interactive-reports](http://www.macnoise.com/tools-reports/interactive-reports). She also showed examples of flight tracks at Airlake Airport (LVN). She showed runway 12 taking off and landing pointed southeast.

**Ms. Lewis** responded to questions regarding noise and how far it travels. She also reviewed the noise abatement plan at Airlake Airport. **Representative Wolbert** also commented on the noise

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from airplanes landing at the lake nearby. **Ms. Lewis** also responded to an inquiry about Eureka Township and flight traffic.

#### 8. Schedule Airport Tour

**Chair Fitzhenry** began the discussion about scheduling an airport tour. There was some discussion of hosting the meeting at Aloft Aviation's new hangar. There was also discussion about showing different airplanes and noting the flight patterns if there are aircraft taking off and landing at the time of the tour. Chair Fitzhenry made the suggestion that the tour start at 1:00 pm. The final information will be sent out prior to the meeting on June 8, 2023.

#### 9. Civil Air Patrol Update

**Tom Fitzhenry, Airlake User Representative and Co-Chair** gave an overview of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). He explained the numbers of members nationally and in the Minnesota Wing. **Mr. Fitzhenry** reviewed the types of aircraft used by the CAP, including fixed-wing, drones, gliders and hot air balloons. The Minnesota Wing has 17 Cessna Aircraft, one glider and 25 drones.

**Mr. Fitzhenry** explained how the Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, to mobilize the nation's civilian aviation resources for national defense service. He also explained that as a Total Force partner and auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, Civil Air Patrol is there to search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster and work to keep the homeland safe. He also explained the mission for CAP, which has evolved since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

**Mr. Fitzhenry** reviewed the Search and Rescue and Disaster Recovery Missions. He also explained that they offer educational flights, flood watch, fire watch, military support missions (intercepts), and communications. He went on to explain that the CAP is the largest small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) operator in the world. They have over 3,000 registered drones. They also provide training to all members and support Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Law Enforcement Emergency Management.

The membership of CAP is comprised of Cadets (ages 12 to 18 years old) and Seniors (18 years and older). **Mr. Fitzhenry** also explained the presence at the reliever airports of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). At Airlake Airport there is the 130<sup>th</sup> composite squadron, at Lake Elmo Airport there is the Lake Elmo St. Croix squadron, at Anoka County-Blaine Airport is the Anoka squadron. The Viking squadron is based out of Flying Cloud Airport and the oldest squadron, North Hennepin, is based at Crystal Airport. **Mr. Fitzhenry** explained cadet flight training. Lastly, he reviewed the value of the Civil Air Patrol.

#### 10. ALAAC Member Comments and Announcements

**Chair Fitzhenry** thanked all in attendance for participating and opened the discussion to the representatives.

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**Representative Moynihan** shared that the Lions are having the Tuskegee Airman exhibit, “Rise Above” in July come into Airlake Airport. More information will be published in the surrounding areas.

11. **Announcements 2023 Meeting Dates/Times and Locations**

**Chair Fitzhenry** led a discussion regarding the date of the next meeting. It was decided in December 2022 that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., with a location to be determined with the potential of representatives participating in an airport tour. The tour will start at a different time and be announced once the agenda is set. Other future meeting dates are September 14 and December 14, 2023.

12. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

*Approved 6-8-2023*

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