



St. Paul Downtown Airport Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 3:00 PM
770A Bayfield Street, Saint Paul, MN 55107
The Learning Jet

Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the St. Paul Downtown Airport Advisory Council (DAAC) was held Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at The Learning Jet. **Chair Weibel** called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. In attendance were:

Representatives: T. Rehkamp, Hubbard Broadcasting; L. Gregg, Best Jets International; D. Wagner, Minnesota National Guard; G. Weibel, At-Large Representative; L. Hinsperger, Carlson Companies; G. Brown, District 4 Community Council – Dayton’s Bluff; D. Schaab, District 5 Community Council – Payne-Phalen; J. Fure, District 17 Planning Council – Capitol River; A. Jerve, - City Planner City of St. Paul; A. Wall, Manager - South St. Paul Airport; D. Napier, Mayor – West St. Paul; M. Mach, Federal Aviation Administration

Staff: R. Brown, MAC Administrative Assistant; M. Wilson, MAC Airport Manager, Saint Paul Downtown Airport; J. Lewis, MAC Community Relations Coordinator; M. Ross, Manager, MAC Community Relations; E. Gilles, MAC Senior Airport Planner; J. Sonju; MAC Acoustics Coordinator; T. Jefferson, Manager, MAC Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; K. Verdeja, MAC Administrative Specialist

Other: M. Smith, D. Dahlseide, S. Hurvitz, The Learning Jet; D. Sullivan-Nightengale, FAASTEAM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Weibel called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. There was a total of 24 participants.

A quorum of three User Representatives, two Public Representatives and one Government Representative was established.

User Representatives: T. Rehkamp, L. Gregg, D. Wagner, G. Weibel, L. Hinsperger

Public Representatives: G. Brown, D. Schaab, J. Fure

Government Representatives: A. Jerve, A. Wall, D. Napier, M. Mach

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 18, 2022

Chair Weibel opened the item for discussion, approving the minutes from the October 18, 2022 meeting.

**Representative Rehkamp moved and Representative Wall seconded to:
Accept the October 18, 2022 meeting minutes as presented**

Approved 10-17-2023

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment

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

4. Information Items

a. Airport Manager Update

Mike Wilson, Airport Manager, Saint Paul Downtown Airport, gave an update on the Airport.

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of the floodwall. Deployment of the floodwall began on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. All of the planks are in, and the painting was completed this afternoon, but there is still some electrical work that needs to be done. Mr. Wilson hopes to have the runway open by 6:00 pm this evening.

Mr. Wilson responded to an inquiry regarding how high the water would have been currently if the floodwall was not already deployed. He also explained the difference of the runways when the walls are deployed.

b. Tenant Highlight

Mike Wilson, Airport Manager, Saint Paul Downtown Airport, introduced Steve Hurvitz, Darlene Dahlseide, and Mike Smith, all from The Learning Jet. Mr. Hurvitz gave a short overview of the Learning Jet and how long it has been here at the airport. The Learning Jet is the first nonprofit organization of its kind in the nation. Their mission is to spark students' interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) by exposing them to fun, engaging, and practical aviation education programs and activities. The project started when FedEx donated an aircraft. More information can be found at www.thelearningjet.org

Mr. Hurvitz responded to inquiries regarding cost and donations, the anticipated participation in 2023, and how learning days work for students.

c. Aircraft Operations and Noise Complaints Summary and Trend 3rd Quarter 2022

Jennifer Lewis, Community Relations, gave an overview of the MAC Reliever Interactive Reports, the MAC FlightTracker, and MACNOMS which stands for Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise and Operations Monitoring System. **Ms. Lewis** shared the link for more detail about operations which is available at <https://customers.macnoms.com/reports/>

Ms. Lewis compared aircraft operations between Q1 2022 and Q1 2023 at STP (Saint Paul Downtown Airport). She explained the operations for Q1 2023 and a breakdown by aircraft type. **Ms. Lewis** stated there were 6,995 operations and 553 nighttime operations recorded at

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St. Paul Airport during the quarter. For the same period, there were 64 noise complaints from 10 locations and 27 nighttime complaints from 6 nighttime locations in Q1 2023. **Ms. Lewis** explained the noise complaint location map. Ms. Lewis responded to an inquiry regarding how household totals equate to complaints.

d. STP Annual Sound Study

Michele Ross, Manager of Community Relations, gave an overview and a history of the Annual Noise Study. The purpose of the St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP) Annual Aircraft Sound Study is to evaluate STP aircraft operations and associated noise events occurring in neighborhoods that surround the airport. MAC conducts an annual study in accordance with the commitments of the Supplemental Conditions of Agreement for the airport floodwall. Ms. Ross explained that each study assesses seven consecutive days aircraft activity and these studies have been conducted each year since 2007. Studies in August include 2010, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022. She also mentioned 2020, 2021 and 2022 studies were augmented with an Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) analysis. **Chair Weibel** clarified the way the sound study monitor process worked.

Representative Rehkamp noted that there is a discrepancy between the two maps shown on the presentation with the number of sound events and the number of minutes. The bar graphs are measured and modeled results on each slide. **Ms. Ross and Ms. Lewis** answered numerous questions by **Chair Weibel, Representative Brown, Representative Rehkemp and Representative Wall** regarding modeling versus monitoring. There was a consensus among the attendees to try the AEDT modeling version of the STP Sound Study in 2023 without conducting monitoring.

5. Member Comments

Chair Weibel suggested some ideas for raising funds for The Learning Jet. Ms. Ross did mention that MAC is currently working on ways to partner with The Learning Jet. Ms. Ross also noted that MAC is considering inviting students from neighboring schools at each of the Reliever Airports to participate as council members.

Chair Weibel offered to meet with community groups on behalf of the Council.

6. Set next meeting date: October 17, 2023

Chair Weibel polled the group and recommended the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 3:00 pm at the St. Paul Downtown Airport.

Chair Weibel adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.