



# Airlake Airport ADVISORY COMMISSION



ALAAC

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

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 4:00 p.m.  
Aloft Aviation  
22300 Hawker Lane, Lakeville, MN 55044

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The meeting started at 4:02 p.m. In attendance in-person or 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; K. Jech, Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce; P. Moynihan, Pilot; N. Sauber, Eureka Township; D. Wolbert, Pilot; R. Wood, Eureka Township

**MAC Staff:** M. Ross, Community Relations Manager; K. Verdeja, Recording Secretary; J. Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator

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

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Tom Fitzhenry, Co-Chair**, called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. There was a total of 14 participants. **Chair Fitzhenry** reviewed the purpose and goals of the council.

**2. Agenda Discussion**

**Chair Fitzhenry** reviewed the agenda. There was no discussion.

**3. Consent Items**

**Chair Fitzhenry** also opened a discussion regarding approving the minutes from the committee meeting on June 8, 2023. There were no changes.

**Representative Moynihan moved and Representative Sauber seconded to:  
Approve the Minutes from the June 8, 2023, meeting.**

**The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**4. Public Comment**

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

*Approved 12-15-2023*

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## 5. Noise Complaints Summary Q1 2023

**Michele Ross, Technical Advisor** explained the Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise and Operation System ([MACNOMS](#)) tool. **Ms. Ross** stated that 10,336 operations and 351 nighttime operations were recorded for Airlake Airport during the second quarter of 2023.

**Ms. Ross** also explained the Metropolitan Airports Commission Community Connection website which can be found at [www.metroairports.org/community-connection](http://www.metroairports.org/community-connection).

**Ms. Ross** stated there was one noise complaint during the quarter, none of which occurred at night. She also 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).

**Ms. Ross** responded to questions regarding the complaint. She noted it was a piston aircraft during the day. She also responded to questions regarding the increase in complaints from other airports.

## 6. Pan-O-Prog Update

**Chair Fitzhenry** introduced **Pat Moynihan**, a user at the airport, and a member of the Lakeville Lions Club that sponsored the Pan-O-Prog. The club started the event and moved it to Aloft Aviation's new "super hangar" on the airport's south side in 2023. It featured the Commemorative Air Force Red Tail squadron exhibit. **Representative Moynihan** reviewed the menu for breakfast and their new coffee machine. He noted the number of breakfasts served was 2,376. **Representative Moynihan** estimated that 1,200 to 1,500 people attended the post-breakfast event.

He reviewed the "Rise Above" exhibit about the Tuskegee Airman at the event. It was a successful event and was well received by the attendees. There was a truck and trailer that had a movie theater that showed a movie to attendants. There were also two aircraft that were a part of the exhibit. There was a second movie that showcased the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs).

**Representative Moynihan** also noted that the B25 bomber from the South Saint Paul Airport's CAF was there and the State Highway Patrol helicopter appeared. There was an aircraft honoring Prisoners of War (POWs) and Missing in Action (MIAs), which is also based at South Saint Paul Airport. There was an experimental aircraft that an Airlake tenant, Brian McKinney, shared. The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) brought some of their maintenance equipment out to show, and the kids could paint the plow blade of the MAC's plow. Representative Moynihan reviewed the other Fly-In exhibitors, including EAA Young Eagles, Pan-O-Prog, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Aloft Aviation, Pilots for Christ, and the Wings of the North Museum. He noted that there was news coverage by WCCO and showed the clip from the news event. It can be viewed at <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/video/plan-enthusiasts-flock-to-lakeville-fly-in-breakfast/>

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**Co-Chair Fitzhenry** asked about the hangar dance on Friday evening. **Aloft Aviation** sponsored it.

7. **ALAAC Airport User Highlight**

**Chair Fitzhenry** introduced an airport user, **Adam Forsberg, Aloft Aviation**. **Representative Forsberg** was asked to speak about the growth of operations at the airport. He noted the company was started the day the state closed due to the pandemic. In 2020, they had 523 flight hours and 550 instruction hours totaling roughly 1,100 aircraft hours. Currently, there are 3,000 to 4,000 hours of aircraft hours. He reviewed the year-to-date numbers for 2023. He noted there are currently nine aircraft, ten instructors, and over 80 students.

He reviewed the building progress of the new hangar. **Representative Forsberg** also noted they are doing “discovery” flights for Apple Valley High School. They have just been asked to do the same for Minnetonka High School, scheduled for late September and early October 2023. He gave an overview of the upcoming event. He also noted that the Lakeville Chamber of Commerce Gala is arriving soon.

**Representative Forsberg** noted that aviation fuel prices continue to rise. The local manufacturer is no longer making aviation fuel. It will now be coming from Texas. He also noted the increase in the number of mechanics at the airport.

There was a discussion surrounding the reliever airport manager changes. There was also a discussion surrounding the runway project delay. **Ms. Ross** suggested that the MAC’s airport planner, the reliever airport director, and the airport manager all be invited to the December 2023 meeting of the ALAAC to provide an update on the process.

8. **Meet the Fleet: Piper PA28**

**Michele Ross, Technical Advisor**, explained how the “Meet the Fleet” program began. She noted that this 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)

9. **Telly Award for Video: What is General Aviation?**

**Michele Ross, Technical Advisor**, explained that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) recently brought home a series of Telly Awards. The Telly Awards, launched in 1979, honor the best in video and television. The Tellys receives over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents.

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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** also noted that one of the “Meet the Fleet” videos was awarded a Silver Telly Award. Lastly, the MAC video, “An Inside Look at Airport Snow Removal” was honored with a Gold Telly Award.

#### 10. **Member Comments**

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

**Ms. Ross** noted that **Jennifer Lewis** will be contacting members regarding membership.

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

**Chair Fitzhenry** noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., with a location to be determined.

#### 12. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

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