

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Chair Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Sara Goodman; Commissioners: Nick Ruiz, Nichole Boehmke, Ted Trenzeluk, Marjorie Savage,

Absent: Kevin Sathre, Brian Barner, Vacancy; Unexcused: Patti Mikulski

3. Presentations

A. Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise Oversight Committee Update

Michele Ross, Community Relations Manager for Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), presented an update 2023-2024 update on MAC, the MAC Noise Oversight Committee and MSP airport. The PowerPoint presentation reviewed the following topics:

Metropolitan Airports Commission

- Purpose is to provide exceptional airport experiences so Minnesota thrives
- The MAC operates Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (or MSP) and six general aviation airports.

The MAC Airport System

- The MAC was established in 1943 by the State of Minnesota.
- With 7 airports, MAC operates one of the largest airport systems in US
- 652,370 system-wide operations
- MSP Airport is 19th largest commercial airport in North America
- Delta's second largest hub
- Sun Country home base
- Legislated purpose:
 - Promote efficient, safe, economical air commerce
 - Develop the full potentialities of the metropolitan area as an aviation center
 - Minimize the environmental impact from air transportation and the public's exposure to noise and safety hazards around airports
- Can own airports within 35 miles of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul

Current Commission

- The MAC is governed by a 15-member policy board.
- The chair and 12 commissioners are appointed by Minnesota's governor (8 from the Twin Cities metro and 4 from greater Minnesota).
- The mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul each appoint one commissioner.

Operations

- 700+ employees
- Operates much like a city, with its own Police, Fire, 9-1-1 dispatch, Building inspection, Planning, Maintenance Department
- Funded by rents and fees paid by airport users, not by general tax dollars
- Safety & Security are priorities
- Provide the amenities needed to accommodate more than 100,000 travelers each day

Air Service

- North America domestic travel fully recovered last year from the impacts of the pandemic, and international travel had a strong rebound year in 2023.
- Non-stop international destinations from MSP next year will surpass pre-pandemic levels (31 direct flights).
- Sun Country announced new service to 12 domestic markets from MSP that will operate between May and June through early fall of 2024.
- Sun Country will be the only airline serving three of those nonstop destinations:
- Houston Hobby - TX, Oakland - CA, Syracuse - NY
- Those new flights will increase Sun Country's total destinations next year from MSP to 98. That's compared to about 40 destinations when Jude Bricker took over as CEO in 2017.
- By March of 2024, Sun Country will provide an additional 320,000 seats out of MSP, year-over-year.
- And just announced yesterday, Frontier Airlines is doubling its activity at MSP, with the launch of five seasonal destinations this spring- including new routes to Atlanta, Dallas and Philadelphia.

MSP Infrastructure Investments

- Constantly evolving and improving the customer journey as we invest in facilities to sustain growth and create a more positive passenger experience.

Reviewed updates to:

- Terminal 1 Departure and Arrival Area Improvements
- Concourse G Expansion and New Delta Sky Club
- Terminal 2 North Expansion

Innovating the Travel Experience

- Focused on positioning the MAC for changes in the aviation industry and elevating the travel experience through new services and innovation.

Review accessibility and accreditation updates

Aircraft Noise Basics

- Residents can learn more about who makes flight decisions, or file noise complaints at: <https://metroairports.org/community-connection/aircraft-noise>

Roles & Responsibilities

- U.S. Congress: Creates laws that govern aviation in the U.
- Federal Aviation Administration: Regulates airports, regulates airlines, operates Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities
- Airlines: Transport people and products domestically and internationally, determine number of flights, aircraft types and flight times based on customer travel preferences
- Metropolitan Airports Commission: Owns and operates MSP and six reliever airports, provides a facility for airlines to conduct air commerce activities and does not determine where aircraft fly, runway use, or flight procedures

MSP Noise Oversight Committee

- Established in 2002
- 6 Community Representatives
- 6 Airline Industry Representatives
- Preceded by the Metropolitan Aircraft Sound Abatement Council (MASAC), established in 1969
- Balanced forum and advisory committee to the MAC Board
- Bimonthly meetings
- Roles include:
 - Provide policy recommendations or options regarding airport noise issues to the MAC PD&E Committee and full Commission regarding airport noise issues
 - Identify, study and analyze airport noise issues
 - Monitor compliance with established noise policy at MSP

NOC Work Plan and Accomplishments

- Quarterly Listening Sessions
- Received updates on on-going outreach activities including the Meet the Fleet series.
- Passed a resolution honoring Jeff Hart for his service to the MSP Airport noise community.
- Received an update on the MSP Long Term Plan and associated Stakeholder Engagement Program.
- Celebrated the 20-year anniversary since the NOC first met in 2002.

NOC 2024 Work Plan

- Residential Noise Mitigation Program
 - Review Residential Noise Mitigation Program Implementation Status
- MSP Community Relations Specific Efforts
 - 2023 Actual Noise Contour Report
 - MSP Fleet Mix and Nighttime Operations Assessment
 - MSP Annual Aircraft Noise Complaint Data Assessment
 - Runway 30L and 30R Departure Analysis. 12L/30R will be closed for construction from June - September 2024. Aircraft will be directed to use

open runways at that time. Inver Grove Heights residents may notice unusual activity during this timeframe. A project website will be created and the MAC NOC will receive updates throughout the construction period. Updates will also be shared by MAC through email distribution updates and a press release. This is the first phase of a two-year project. Next summer, 30L/12R will be closed but for a shorter duration. Updates will continue to be shared in the same manner as the first construction phase.

- Status of FAA Center of Excellence/ASCENT, TRB, and FICAN Research Initiatives
- Guest Speaker: Brian Ryks, MAC Executive Director / CEO
- MSP Construction Updates
- Converging Runway Operations at MSP
- Noise Policy Review
- VOR-MON Program and RNAV Procedure Development
- Continue review of public input

2023 MSP Update

- Reviewed the following updates
 - Changes in operations from 1990-2024
 - MSP Runway Use
 - MSP Average Passengers per Flight
 - IGH Complaints

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked how the runway closures will be communicated to the public. Mrs. Ross stated MAC NOC is developing a project website with project details, schedule, potential impacts. MAC will also share updates at the NOC meetings, email updates, press releases, and news articles. Commissioner Trenzeluk requested the City share this information with the public as it's received.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked why there was a reduction in complaints in 2023. Mrs. Ross responded that it is challenging to speculate but it could be due to a variety of factors such as different weather patterns affecting which runways were used for extended periods. This resulted in more complaints for some communities and less complaints for others.

Commissioner Ruiz asked what the process is when someone complains about noise. Mrs. Ross explained that MAC NOC has a website, phone number and email for people to submit complaints to. Staff review all complaints and follow up with all questions received. Some items may also be added to a NOC agenda. Mrs. Sutherland what the website URL is for residents to submit a complaint. Mrs. Ross said complaints can be submitted at www.macnoms.com or www.customers.macnoms.com/customers. Both pages require that you first create or sign into your account, then submit the complaint.

Commissioner Boehmke asked how a resident could determine if they are eligible for household noise reduction mitigation related to aircraft noise. Mrs. Ross stated MAC has a sound insulation program for residential units available through 2032. Homes built before 2007 that are within the annually approved noise contour boundary are eligible for this program. There are some homes in Inver Grove Heights that were mitigated in the past through this program.

Commissioner Savage asked what MAC NOC's noise policy includes. Mrs. Ross stated NOC does not develop policy but instead advises the MAC board on noise issues. The mission of the NOC is to understand and disseminate information on airport noise at MSP airport, and to coordinate and collaborate with communities to share that information and hear their concerns. The FAA regulates the noise policy which dictates noise levels.

Chair Goodman reiterated that the press release and project information on the planned runway construction should be shared by the City.

Commissioner Ruiz asked if there is any information on the jets continuing to be quieter. Mrs. Ross shared that the aircraft fleets have been transforming over the pandemic. At that time, a lot of airlines retired their older aircraft and transitioned to newer aircraft. These are much quieter and more efficient which translates to fewer carbon emissions. The amount of newer and quieter aircraft being utilized continues to increase.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, October 26, 2023, and Thursday, November 16, 2023 Environmental Advisory Commission Meetings.

Motion by Chair Goodman, second by Commissioner Trenzeluk, to approve the minutes from Thursday, October 26, 2023 and Thursday, November 16, 2023 meetings, as submitted.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

A. 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar Discussion

Item is tabled until the March 28, 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission meeting.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Goodman, second by Commissioner Trenzeluk, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0 Motion carried.