

**CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**AIRPORT RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES
June 9, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Mendota Heights Airport Relations Commission was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, Minnesota.

The following Commissioners were present: Liz Petschel, Chair; Robin Ehrlich, Vice Chair, Sally Lorberbaum, Lyle Odland, Bill Dunn and Joe Hennessy.

Also present were: Jill Smith(resident), Assistant to the City Administrator Jake Sedlacek, Gretchen Keenan (Sunfish Lake).

Not Present: David Sloan (excused)

Approval of Minutes

Commissioners noted two changes – Commissioner Ehrlich’s name was spelled wrong on the first page, the Planning Commission Meeting should be 5-25-2010. A motion was made by Commissioner Sloan, seconded by Commissioner Dunn, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010, ARC meeting as corrected. Commissioner moved approval of the minutes as corrected, Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Unfinished and New Business

A. Randy Jones Award of Excellence Application

The commission reviewed the draft application, nominating the MAC Noise Oversight Committee for the Randy Jones Award for Excellence in Noise Mitigation. Several changes were discussed, the commission supported making the changes as discussed, and submitting the application.

Commissioner Lorberbaum made a motion to proceed with the nomination with the suggested changes. Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. H.R. 915

Jake Sedlacek described the Library of Congress web page which can be used to track bill status for federal legislation – the site is easy to navigate, laid out in a similar fashion to the MN Legislature’s own bill tracking web site. Jake recommended that commissioners take a moment to check out <http://thomas.loc.gov>, when they have an opportunity.

Chair Petschel discussed how NextGen technology is a sticking point for the legislation as proposed – airlines are (generally) willing to pay for upgrades for aircraft, but no one is stepping forward with funding for the ground technology. HR 915 includes FAA reauthorization, which needs to be passed, but it may continue to be delayed as NextGen issues are worked out.

C. MSP Long Term Comprehensive Plan

The Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee is set to discuss the MAC Long Term Comprehensive plan on Monday, June 14. Chair Petschel, Jill Smith and Jake Sedlacek explained the process so far, and how we are participating in the process to get three conditions added to the approval of the LTCP:

- Five-Year reviews of the document
- Recognizing the 60dnl as the regional standard for noise mitigation
- Establishing some set number of operations when further study for airfield capacity needs to occur

The Commission also reviewed a letter sent to Met Council member Richard Aguilar, who represents Mendota Heights at the Metropolitan Council. The idea of finding the FAA standards for comprehensive planning was also considered. The City could make a Freedom of Information Act Request of FAA, so that we could compare what the plan is supposed to include, and how it stacks up. Commissioner Hennessy mentioned that staff should utilize the FAA website to look for the related advisory circular as a good starting point.

D. Noise Oversight Committee

Chair Petschel served as our representative at the May NOC meeting. Commissioner Ehrlich also attended the meeting. Chair Petschel noted that the City of Inver Grove Heights (IGH) had a staff person attend the meeting, as the City is attempting to distance itself from a pair of activist residents. Airport noise will be a challenge for IGH, as they seek to develop considerable land under the current turning point for many planes departing south off the parallel runways.

The NOC agenda included a new section: an “operations report” where MAC noise staff will seek out trends at the airport, specifically night time operations and corridor excursions.

The Commissioners took a little time to explain to Jill Smith how the ARC tracks airport operations utilizing monthly reports from MAC.

Chair Petschel was pleased to announce that MAC is moving ahead with a new flight-tracking program, which is scheduled to go live on August 31. The new “multilateration” software will provide residents flight tracks and information approximately 10 minutes after a plane passes overhead. The ARC discussed potential for promoting this new resource, as well as inviting Chad Leve to present the information later this year.

E. Updates for Introduction Book

The commission reviewed the night time departure spreadsheet, and provided staff with feedback on a chart tracking excursions from the Eagan/Mendota Heights corridor. The commission explained to Jill Smith, that we keep a close eye on corridor compliance, and that 3% of flights outside of the corridor is viewed as acceptable, in order to accommodate for wind and weather. The Commission made some suggestions/requests for format, which staff will make for next month's report.

Acknowledge Receipt of Various Reports/Correspondence

- a. Monthly Statistical Review
- b. April 2010 ANOM Technical Advisor's Report
- c. April 2010 ANOM Eagan/Mendota Heights Departure Corridor Analysis
- d. April 2010 Runway 17 Departure Analysis Report
- e. Airport Noise Report, May 7, 2010
- f. Airport Noise Report, May 14, 2010
- g. Airport Noise Report, May 21, 2010
- h. Airport Noise Report, May 28, 2010

Reports acknowledged

Other Commission Comments or Concerns

The Delta fleet is currently changing – we can expect to see a significant increase in the number of MD 80's and 90's operating at MSP. This is an unfortunate turn for our region, as these planes are noticeably louder than the Airbus planes that Northwest had operated.

Upcoming Meetings

- City Council Meeting 6-15-10 7:00 p.m.
- MAC Meeting 6-21-10 1:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting 6-22-10 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments

None.

Adjourn

Commissioner Dunn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Odlund to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Sedlacek

Asst. to the City Administrator