

# Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission 2006 Report

## Purpose of this Document

In order to facilitate the best possible communication between the new Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission and the City Council, the Commission has determined to write a report summarizing its first year. In the future, the Commission is planning to write reports to the City Council on a regular basis (if desired) and is very pleased about having an annual workshop with the City Council.

## Charter and 2006 Focus

The Commission was chartered in 2006 by the City Council to “advise the City Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission with regard to matters affecting the operation of Flying Cloud Airport.”

The Commission focused its first year on its **education** with regard to the operations of the airport, the businesses at the airport, the final agreement with MAC and its audit, the MAC and its operation and other items related to the airport as a part of the Eden Prairie community. Additionally and importantly, at each of its meetings, the Commission also reviewed all noise complaints sent to the MAC via telephone or the internet.

As a part of its education effort, various Commission members and the Staff Liaison have taken part in numerous events:

- Flying Cloud airport tour, including tower tour
- Attendance at MBAA's *Very Light Jet (VLJ) Day* at ASI Jet Center at the air field
- Tour of Minneapolis Community College's facility on the FCM property
- Personal visit and tour with each business owner on the air field
- Presentation regarding VLJs and their potential impact to FCM
- Attendance at MAC award presentation of “Operator of the Year” at FCM to ASI Jet Center
- Introductory meeting with MAC deputy executive director Tim Anderson and director of reliever airports Gary Schmidt at the MAC offices
- Tour of NWA's Operations Center at MSP
- Tour of MSP Tower and approach/departure control
- Tour of Anoka County/Blaine, Crystal and St. Paul Holman airports and towers
- Flight “around the reliever airports system” , including landings at each airport
- Tour of the FAA's Farmington enroute air traffic control center
- Attendance at numerous MAC Commission meetings and its various subcommittees

The City Council charged the Commission with the following roles and responsibilities:

- A. Advise the Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission with regard to matters affecting the operation of the Flying Cloud Airport, including: the classification of the airport under federal and state law; rules and regulations of federal and state agencies governing the operation of the Airport; the ongoing monitoring and implementation of the Final Agreement Concerning Flying Cloud Airport and MAC Ordinance 51 between the City of Eden Prairie, Minnesota and Metropolitan Airports Commission, dated December 2002 (Final Agreement); other noise abatement methods to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on the community; and such other matters as the City Council may direct from time to time.
- B. Cooperate with the Metropolitan Airports Commission Staff in reviewing for the benefit of the Council matters affecting the use and control of the Flying Cloud Airport, including the Final Agreement, and shall make its recommendations to the Council and the Metropolitan Airports Commission upon request with regard to any proposal affecting the use or operation of Flying Cloud Airport.

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The Commission reports the following noteworthy items relative to its roles and responsibilities above:

- MAC adherence to the Final Agreement is on track
- MAC Capital Improvement Plans (CIP)
  - Sewer and water work is in the MAC 2007 CIP as a 2008 project but as in previous years may remain unfunded. Pioneer Trail road work is also to begin in 2008.
  - The beginning of the runway expansion and south building projects are listed in the MAC's CIP for 2008, are unfunded at this point.
  - It is unclear to the Commission how the MAC will fund either of the above items.
- All noise complaints sent by residents to MAC via telephone or the internet are recorded. Complaints are researched as thoroughly as possible. MAC reacts appropriately to the complaints. The Commission reviews MAC's Noise Complaint Report at each of its meetings.

The Commission was pleased that the City Council agreed to the Commission's request to change the meeting frequency of the Commission from quarterly to bi-monthly. The Commissioners believe in taking the time to fully understand the range of issues facing the airport from all the various angles. The Commission strongly believes in its mission and is working hard on behalf of the City Council to educate itself to maximize its value to the City Council and city residents.

## **2007 Focus**

At its January meeting, the Commission discussed and agreed to its goals for 2007. Our plan is to continue our focus on providing **education and information** about FCM to various constituent groups, increase visibility of and **communications** from the Commission, continue to **monitor the final agreement** and suggest ways in which the City can take advantage of having the airport within its City limits. We look forward to the City Council Workshop on February 20, where we will review our 2007 plans and seek your input and direction so that we may best serve the City Council.

## **Staff Support**

The Commission has enjoyed exceptionally good cooperation and support from the City Staff, especially its liaison, Scott Kipp. His exceptional knowledge and advice has greatly benefited the Commission. The Commission would also like to thank Carol Pelzel, the City recorder, for her tireless work on our behalf. The Commission would like to thank the MAC and its regularly attending staff (Joe Harris, Scott Skramstad, Chad Leque, Gary Schmidt), all of whom have been extremely supportive to us as we did our run up during our first year of operation.

Finally, we are very encouraged by Mayor Young's desire to increase communication between the Mayor, City Council and the City's Commissions. We view this as an extremely positive development and look forward to playing our part. The Commission anticipates a highly productive 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission:** Joe Harris, Jeff Larsen (vice chair), Greg McKewan, Mark Michelson, Rick King (chair), Scott Kipp (staff liaison), Kurt Schendel, and Brad Stratton.