

Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission 2008 Report and 2009 Goals and Work Plan

Charter

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 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.

2008 Accomplishments

The Commission’s approved goals for 2008 were threefold: To continue our focus on providing **education and information** about Flying Cloud Airport to various constituent groups, to increase visibility of and **communications** from the Commission, and continue to **monitor the Final Agreement**.

The Commission had a very active 2008. The Commission held its normal six meetings as well as two special events. The first was a Public Meeting, held June 12th at the Hennepin Technical College to discuss the upcoming airport expansion. Over 220 residents attended to get the facts about the expansion. The second was an extended meeting in July where the Commission toured the airport, met many of its business leaders and toured the tower operation. 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.

Education and Information

Two long-term projects began in 2008. First, the MAC-funded sewer and water project, bringing these services to the businesses on the north end of the airport property along Pioneer Trail was finished. This project brings increased safety and security to the airport and is the one project the Fire Department really wanted.

The FAA approved the Record of Decision (ROD) on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Flying Cloud Airport Expansion in May. FAA approval of the ROD indicates that the project and

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required mitigation are approved and eligible for federal funding, and that MAC is authorized to proceed with the project. With this approval, work began and was completed on the first phase of the plan, which extended runway 10L/28R to 3900'. Ground breaking was August 5th. Phase 2 of the project begins next spring and will extend 10R/28L to 5000'. The extensions of both runways will improve safety margins for current and future operators, and allow greater efficiency through increased fuel and passenger loads.



During the year, the City Council directed the Commission to prepare reports or take action on two areas impacting the City. These were **airfield security** and **nighttime noise**.

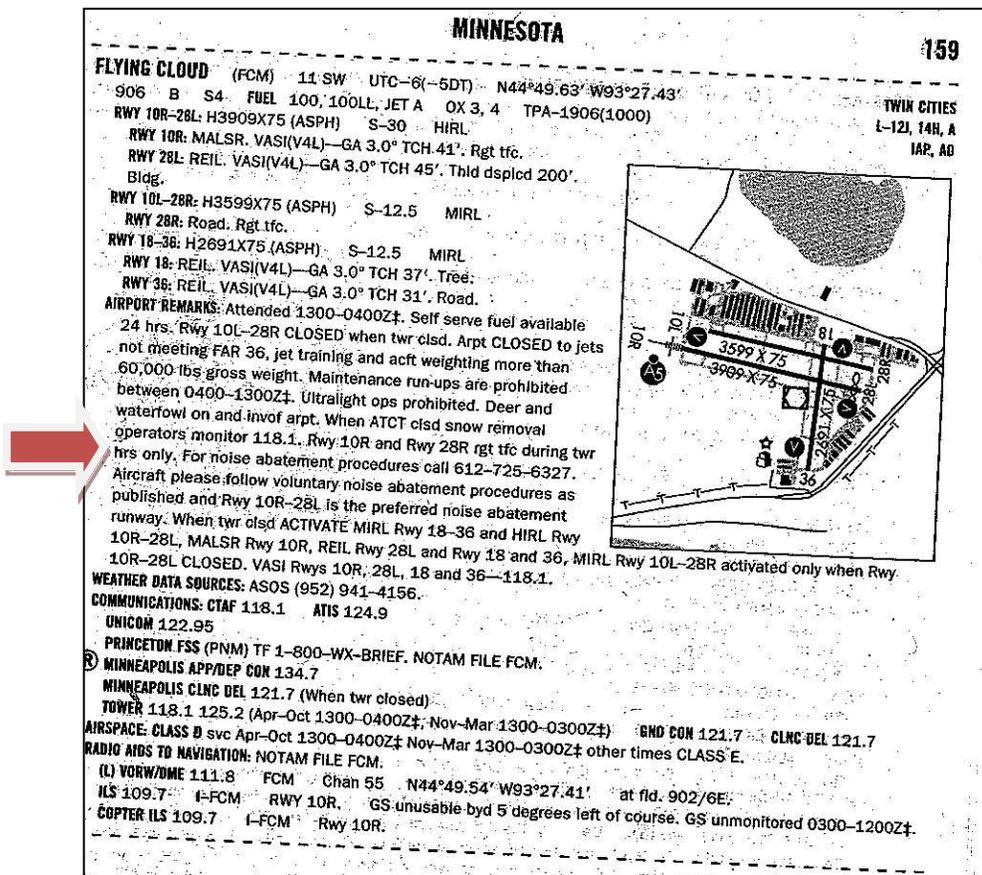
In the case of **airfield security**, the Commission was asked to update its report from the previous year to determine if security at the airport had continued to improve. Once again, the Commission dedicated a meeting to the topic and invited all the experts to determine the status. Attending were the FAA, TSA, Dept of Homeland Security, numerous MAC staff and the City chiefs of Police and Fire. The Commission found, as reported to the Council, the airport continues to be among the leaders in general aviation security. So much so that the Commission recommended to the Council security updates take place every other year going forward. Council accepted the report and recommendation. MAC and outside governmental parties continue to be impressed by the attention and cooperation concerning security that has been exercised by the City and its Police and Fire Departments. All report that the actions taken last year, including adding 16 new high intensity lights, replacing older lights, adding / replacing 250 signs and updating the security manual, have been effective.

In the case of **nighttime noise**, Mayor Young requested the Commission meet with the FAA and MAC to determine what could be done to reduce the impact of nighttime noise on residents.

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Meetings were held with FAA officials and MAC officials to discuss options. The following was determined.

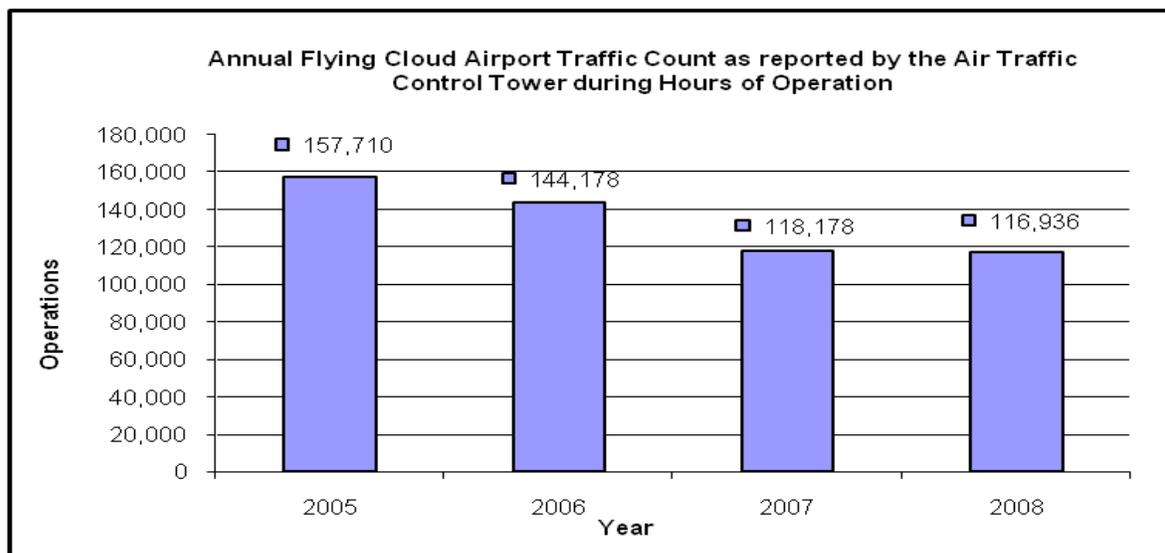
- FAA cannot make the curfew mandatory but offered to cooperate and support actions that they could to reduce noise.
- City to ask the FAA to have MSP air traffic control approach/departure (TRACON) to give turbo props a southbound heading, just like they do for jets departing under IFR rules, when departing Flying Cloud.
- MAC to ask the FAA to have the Flying Cloud tower add a noise abatement and voluntary restriction notice to its outgoing Automated Terminal Information Service (ATIS) message.
- MAC got the Airport Facility Directory to add to its language about FCM, to include details about the voluntary nighttime curfew and noise abatement procedures.



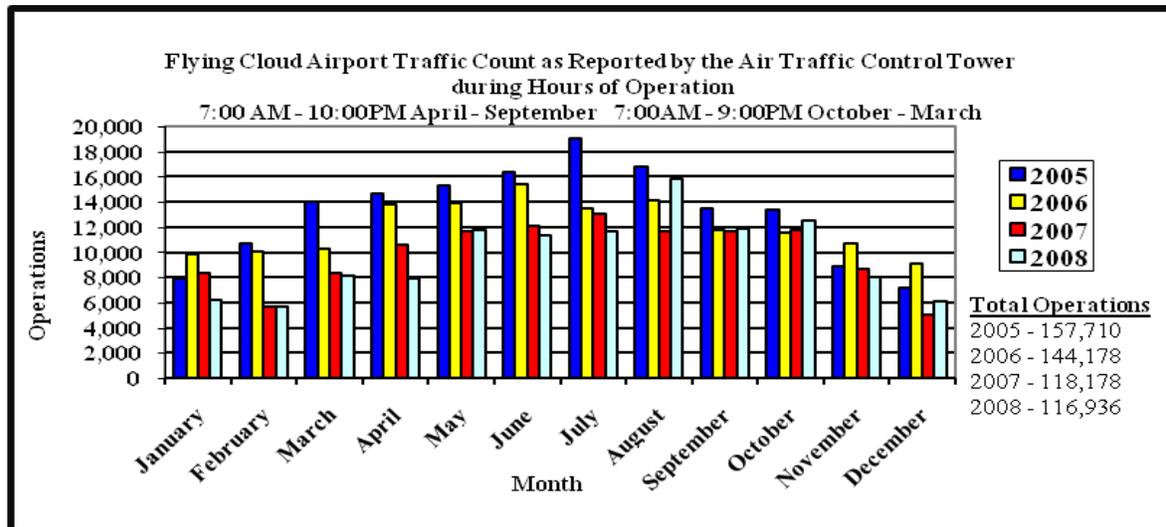
- MAC and the Commission will conduct 1:1 meetings with Top 10 operators to discuss ideas about limiting nighttime noise.
- The Commission will assist MAC in studying whether to ask for the Tower to modify their hours by adding direct control from 5-7 am vs. 9-11 pm.
 - Note: North parallel is closed when the tower is closed.
 - Note: When South parallel is closed next year for construction, noise will change.

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- The Commission implemented a public comment section as a standard part of its meeting agenda. Several residents attended the meetings and a few chose to speak.
- Guest speakers at our meetings included
 - MAC Commissioner Molly Sigel
 - FAA manager Glen Orcutt
 - FCM Tower Chief Warren McVey
 - TSA Inspector Mark Starkey
- MAC Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for 2008-2014
 - Sewer and water work on Pioneer Trail was completed by the MAC in 2008. The project cost approximately \$3.8M. This improvement has already resulted in two new hangar redevelopment projects to begin on the north side of the airport.
 - The 300' extension to runway 10L/28R was completed in 2008.
 - The 1,100' extension to runway 10R/28L is scheduled for 2009.
 - The south area building projects are listed for 2010 and beyond.
 - The Commission will continue to monitor developments of these projects and inform the Council as warranted. We will continue to be an information conduit for the Council and citizens.
- The Commission reviewed and commented on the City's Comprehensive Guide Plan. It also assisted the City Planning Department with developing Airport and Airport Safety zoning districts to address building material standards for new hangar construction, and to keep approach corridors clear of structures.
- Zero Expansion (Laura Neuman and Vicki Pellar Price) addressed the Commission at its January meeting. This helped the Commission understand the views of another airport constituency.
- The Commission monitored FAA planning for the Republican National Convention, which occurred the first week of September, in anticipation of increased aircraft activity at Flying Cloud. The airport did experience an increase in operations and some air cargo activity was temporarily shifted to Flying Cloud during the week.
- Overall operations held flat year over year through October despite fuel prices. As prices have dropped, GA flights are expected to pick up. Corporate Aviation continues to be strong.



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Communications

- Commissioner Greg McKewan continued to work with the City Communications Department to make the City's Airport web site more effective as a tool to improve resident access to key data about the airfield. Many pages and data were added, as was a full video of the Public meeting held in June. The impact has been great as more information is available to residents. The most popular items viewed by residents are the flight tracks and the Commission's meeting schedule. Over 5500 hits have been made to the airport section of the City's web site in 2008. This is a 20% increase over 2007. Please visit the site.
- We conducted our Third Annual 1:1 meeting with businesses based at the airport during our extended July meeting to highlight the eight businesses and their nearly 400 employees. This year's event included tours of the tower, Elliott Aviation, a privately owned T-Hanger, Modern Avionics, In Flight Training and a drive around the perimeter.
- The Commission will continue to present information to the public to help citizens have a better understanding concerning the issues surrounding the airfield.
- The Commission welcomed two student members for the first time. We welcome Michael Dennis and J.P. Maslyn.
- MAC Commissioner Molly Sigel attended our September meeting to discuss the MAC system of airports, including Flying Cloud. This was her first appearance at an FCAAC meeting.
- The **MAC FCM Operator of the Year Award** was presented to **Executive Aviation** at the Commission's November meeting by the FCAAC Chair.
- Three of the seven Commission seats representing Eden Prairie residents, Eden Prairie businesses and airfield business owners will be up for appointment in April 2009. The current incumbents of these seats are Mark Michelson, Vice Chair Jeff Larsen, and Kurt Schendel.



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MAC adherence to the Final Agreement is on track

- There has been an increasing number of noise complaints during the voluntary restriction period (10pm – 7am)
 - The Commission has succeeded in its education efforts as an increased exposure to noise reporting has caused more reports while the number of flights has not increased between these hours. Interestingly, there has been a reduction of flights during the voluntary hours.
 - The Commission plans to add to its 2009 work plan an objective to work to reduce nighttime noise.
- Since the inception of Ordinance 97, we have seen a decrease in the number of complaints in regard to nighttime maintenance run-ups. This is partly because of our continuing education efforts, but more or less the decrease in traffic.
- Helicopter and other medical flights were among the largest violators but were reduced somewhat by the introduction of alternative arrival and departure paths.
- All reported incidents were reviewed to the fullest extent possible.
- All noise complaints sent by residents to MAC via telephone or the internet are recorded and researched as thoroughly as possible. MAC reacted appropriately to the complaints. The Commission reviews MAC's Noise Complaint Report at each of its meetings.
- The City and the Commission, along with the MAC are in the process of auditing the Final Agreement.
- The MAC agreed, at its own cost, to add Flying Cloud Airport to its Multilateral Project. To improve the quality of flight track data, ensure better data integrity, availability, reliability and to ensure more timely and accurate reporting. This project was to be done only at MSP but thought the Commission's good relationship with MAC, MAC agreed to extend it to FCM. The project is part of the ANOMS or Airport Noise and Operations Monitoring System.

Goals for 2009

The Commission proposes similar goals for 2009. We want to continue our focus on providing **education and information** about Flying Cloud Airport to various constituent groups, continue to increase visibility of and **communications** from the Commission, and continue to **monitor the Final Agreement**. We also want to add explicitly to our goals working to **reduce nighttime noise** and work with the city and MAC to **improve the appearance** of the airport.

Staff Support

The Commission has 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, our recorder, for her tireless work on our behalf. Thanks are also extended to the MAC and its regularly attending staff (Joe Harris, Scott Skramstad, Chad Leque), all of whom have been extremely supportive of us as we conducted our business. Their responsiveness to our requests for flight maps and special graphics has added immeasurably to the Commission's and the public's understanding of flight operations and to the Commission's ability to fulfill its mission for the City Council.

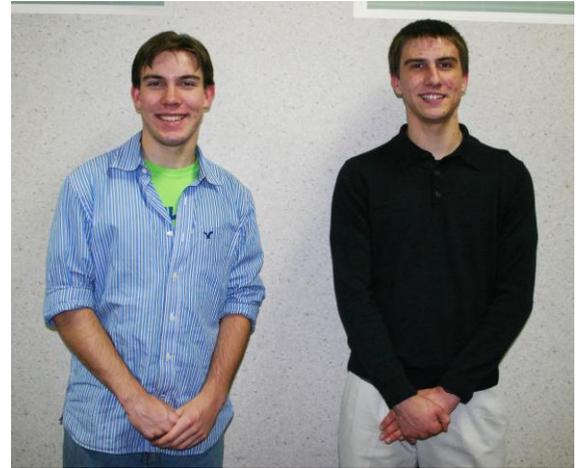


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The Commission anticipates a busy and highly productive 2009.



Respectfully submitted,



The Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Commission: Front: Joe Harris, Kurt Schendel, Judy Gentry, Scott Kipp (staff liaison). Back: Jeff Larsen (vice chair), Greg McKewan, Rick King (chair), Mark Michelson. **Student members:** J. P. Maslyn and Michael Dennis.