



## ULI MN Community Development Council

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

12:30pm – 5:30pm

Metropolitan Airports Commission  
6040 S 28th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55450

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**Co-chair:** Grant Fernelius, City of Coon Rapids **phone:** 763.767.6451 **email:** gfernelius@coonrapidsmn.gov  
**Co-chair:** Anne Kane, City of White Bear Lake **phone:** 651.429.8562 **email:** akane@whitebearlake.org

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**12:30pm** *Lunch and networking*

**12:45 pm** *Welcome and introductions*  
Grant Fernelius and Anne Kane, Community Development Council Co-Chairs

### Presentations

**1:00pm** **Developing and Operating the MAC's Seven-Airport System**

Brian Ryks, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer

Brian D. Ryks, A.A.E. was appointed Executive Director/CEO of the Metropolitan Airports Commission in May 2016. Before arriving in Minneapolis, he held a similar position as Executive Director/CEO of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While there, Mr. Ryks oversaw the completion of several significant projects including an airport re-branding campaign, a transition from a county controlled airport to an airport authority, a major expansion and renovation of Concourse B, construction of a state-of-the-art stormwater/aircraft deicing natural treatment system, a new general and corporate aviation arrivals terminal and initiated a 45-million-dollar terminal expansion and consolidated TSA passenger screening checkpoint. Ryks also led an innovative funding campaign to raise \$20 million in private capital in support of the terminal expansion. During Ryks' tenure, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport set all-time records for passengers in 2014 and 2015 and was rated in 2015 as the number one airport in North America by size by the Airports Council International Airport Service Quality survey. Prior to his time in Michigan, he was the Executive Director at the Duluth Airport Authority overseeing the Duluth International Airport in Minnesota and Sky Harbor, a general aviation airport. During his ten years in Duluth, Mr. Ryks oversaw the completion of \$135 million in airport improvements, culminating with a \$77 million new terminal project. Prior to arriving in Duluth, Mr. Ryks was employed for five years as the Airport Manager at the St. Cloud Regional Airport and two years as the Airport Manager in Aberdeen South Dakota. Mr. Ryks holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Cloud State University, is a licensed pilot with an instrument rating and an Accredited Airport Executive with the American Association of Airport Executives. He currently serves on the Airports Council International North America (ACI-NA) Board of Directors Finance Committee 2nd World Governing Board. He also holds a professional affiliation with the Great Lakes Chapter of AAAE (GL-AAAE) and is Past President of GL-AAAE. He was awarded a TSA Partnership Award in 2006, a Patriot Award in 2008 from the Employee Support of National Guard & Reserve, a 2009 Minnesota Council of Airport's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Promotion of Aviation, a 2012 Minnesota Council of Airports Distinguished Service Award and was named the 2015 Newsmaker of the year in Economic Development by the Grand Rapids Business Journal.

**2:00pm** *Break*

**2:15pm** **Tour: MSP Airfield**

**4:30pm** *Cocktail Hour (5-8 Club, 5800 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417)*

**5:30pm** *Adjourn*