



# City of Ann Arbor

## Formal Minutes

### Airport Advisory Committee

801 Airport Dr.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

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Wednesday, January 17, 2024

5:15 PM

Electronic Meeting

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**This meeting will be audio only. To listen or speak at public comment call: 888.788.0099  
or 877.853.5247  
Meeting ID: 530 745 4665**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Farris called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. The Chair announced that this was an electronic meeting and provided phone numbers and the process for public comment.*

#### **ROLL CALL**

*Committee members present (location they are participating from): Greg Farris (Ann Arbor), Rosemary Faulkner (Ann Arbor), Erica Briggs (Ann Arbor), Chris Watson (Ann Arbor), Mark Perry (Scio Township), Fred Hall (Ann Arbor)*

*Committee members absent: Kelly Burris, Alex Arts, Melanie McNicholas*

*Ex-officio members present: Matthew Harshberger, Matthew Kulhanek*

*Public in attendance: David McCalla, Chad Stradling, Pat Gray*

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*The November 15, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.*

**A-1**

Airport Advisory Committee Minutes - November 15, 2023

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute limit per speaker)**

*The Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided the process for public comment. David McCalla of Broadview Farms announced that he and his brother Nathan were available for questions when the Committee*

*discusses the Airport Agricultural Activity item under Unfinished Business.*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

*The Committee reviewed three items of correspondence.*

- B-1**                    Airport Operations through November, 2023
  
- B-2**                    Airport Fuel Usage through November, 2023
  
- B-3**                    Airport Hangar Occupancy through December, 2023

#### **AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT**

*The airport manager provided the Committee with information on the aircraft accident that occurred on December 10, 2023. The hard landing caused damage to the aircraft but no injuries to the three persons onboard. The emergency response policy of the airport, air traffic control tower and Pittsfield Township Fire Department worked well and the manager thanked the control tower staff and fire department for their handling of the accident. The manager also reported that Pittsfield Township and the local opposition group had filed a Petition for Review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) in the US Circuit Court of Appeals. The FAA and Michigan Department of Transportation, as signers of the Finding of No Significant Impact, were named as respondents. With the EA completed, the manager reviewed the next steps for the project. Runway design requires a scope and cost be developed in a proposal, an independent fee examination must be completed by a second engineering firm, reconciliation if needed, review by MDOT-Aero before submitting to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission for grant funding consideration, engineering contract development with the City, all before the City Council considers the engineering design and grant contracts many months in the future. Once all that is in place, design work begins with additional reviews by MDOT-Aero and the FAA. Upon completion of design, bids will be solicited, grant funding will be coordinated with MDOT-Aero and the FAA, back to the Aeronautics Commission for grant funding approval, construction contracts developed, and a construction and grant funding award to be considered by City Council. With the extensive amount of work to be done and the grant funding timing, it is anticipated that construction, if approved, would likely begin in spring of*

2026. The manager further reported that the flooring was recently replaced on the main level of the terminal building as the airport continues to make improvements. Airport crews are busy dealing with this first winter storm of the season and the accompanying cold temps.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### C-1 Pittsfield and Lodi Townships Reports - M. Harshberger & J. Godek

Member Harshberger introduced Deputy Chief Pat Gray who will be attending Committee meetings for a smooth transition as Chief Harshberger retires in June. It is anticipated the DC Gray will be the new Committee representative from Pittsfield Township in June.

### C-2 Discovery Area Report

Chair Farris reported on preliminary discussions with the airport manager to install some benches and a pavilion, similar to the size used for the airport picnic, in the proposed Discovery Area to the west of the terminal. Nothing additional to report at this time.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### D-1 Noise Concerns - Voluntary Noise Abatement Program Brochure

Having completed a peer review of the proposed voluntary noise abatement procedure brochure, the Committee reviewed the modified brochure. There were a few areas of focused discussion by the Committee, with guidance provided by the Tower Manager. Member Harshberger also shared a citizen complaint regarding touch and goes on New Year's Day and will reach out to the flying club whose aircraft was involved. The manager will incorporate the proposed changes and work with the graphic designer to finalize the brochure with a final submittal to members of the Committee for review before moving to publication.

### D-2 Airport Rules & Regulations Update

The sub-committee has a meeting scheduled for January 26, 2024 to continue this effort.

### D-3 Airport Agricultural Activity - Broadview Farms Proposal

*Broadview Farms provided multiple proposals for amendments to the Committee's previous recommendation on agricultural activity at the airport. The various Broadview Farms proposals, the original Committee recommendation, and the USDA Wildlife Hazard Assessment were all reviewed and thoroughly discussed by the Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve Broadview Farms option 3 as the plan for farming in 2024. The motion was approved on a 5-1 vote. Option 3 would eliminate farming 37 acres south of runway 06/24, eliminate farming the 14 acre field between the runway 06 and runway 12 ends, prohibit the planting of corn inside the airport fence areas and encourage the planting of soybeans in these locations. Corn could still be planted outside the airport fence. The recommendation includes that the airport strive to monitor and report on wildlife activity in these areas to determine if this change helps reduce the wildlife activity within the fenced area of the airport.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **E-1 Runway Safety Extension Project - Environmental Assessment Summary**

*The airport manager provided a summary of the recently approved environmental assessment (EA) study to the Committee. With the significant size of the EA document, the link for the complete EA and all supporting documents was provided. Committee members were encouraged to review the EA with discussion and a recommendation to Council targeted at the next Committee meeting if the members are ready at that point.*

### **E-2 Election of Officers for 2024**

*A motion was made to nominate Greg Farris for the Airport Advisory Committee Chair position for 2024. No other nominations were received. A motion to close nominations and approve the selection of Greg Farris as Committee Chair for 2024 was unanimously approved.*

*A motion was made to nominate Rosemary Faulkner for the Airport Advisory Committee Vice-Chair position for 2024. No other nominations were received. A motion to close nominations and approve the selection of Rosemary Faulkner as Committee Vice-Chair for 2024 was unanimously approved.*

## **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*The environmental assessment discussion will be moved to Unfinished Business. The Committee will discuss the impacts of the approved ag activity changes on the related 2023 t-hangar rate increase and how to move forward.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024 @ 5:15 p.m. Please call the airport manager's office (734.794.6312) by Monday before the meeting if you cannot attend.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute limit per speaker)**

*The Chair explained the process for public comments. David McCalla thanked the Committee for their willingness to modify the previous agricultural activity decision.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.*

**All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: [cityclerk@a2gov.org](mailto:cityclerk@a2gov.org); or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:**

**City Clerk's Office  
301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

**Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.**