



# City of Ann Arbor

## Formal Minutes

### Airport Advisory Committee

801 Airport Dr.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

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Wednesday, March 15, 2023

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 5:15 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), Melanie McNicholas (Ann Arbor), Mark Perry (Scio Township), Fred Hall (Ann Arbor), Chris Watson (Ann Arbor), Erica Briggs (Ann Arbor), Rosemary Faulkner (Ann Arbor)*  
*Committee members absent: Theresa Whiting, Kelly Burris*  
*Ex-officio members present: Matthew Harshberger, Matthew Kulhanek*  
*Public in attendance: Chadwick Stradling, Kathe Wunderlich*

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*The January 18, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.*

**A-1**

Airport Advisory Committee Minutes - January 18, 2023

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

*The Chair welcomed those in attendance and explained the process for public comment. There was no public comment.*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*The Committee reviewed three items of correspondence*

- B-1** Airport Operations through January, 2023
- B-2** Airport Fuel Usage through January, 2023
- B-3** Airport Hangar Occupancy through February, 2023

**AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT****C-1 Project Update - Environmental Assessment**

*Public comment and agency comment periods for the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Runway Safety Extension Project ended in mid-January. The project team has mostly completed the response to public comment and is working on the response to agency comments. A lengthy agency comment was submitted by Pittsfield Township and is requiring a more significant investment in time to complete. Once both responses to comments are completed, they will be reviewed by the FAA which is likely to take some time. Making good progress but thoroughness takes time.*

**C-2 Other Items**

*The Airport Manager reported that staff is trying to get concrete repairs scheduled for Alpha Taxiway this spring. The renovation of the Pilot's Lounge in the terminal building is complete but waiting on some new furniture before we reopen it for use. The furniture was special order and will take a little time to get. Aviation Center has vacated the FBO building and the City is finalizing insurance documents before signing the lease with Beacon Aviation. The airport is waiting on a proposal from the USDA for deer control within the fenced in area of the airport. This is completed every few years to improve safety for our flying public and area residences.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**D-1 Pittsfield and Lodi Townships Reports - M. Harshberger & J. Godek**

*There was no Township reports at this time.*

**D-2 Discovery Area Report**

*Chair Farris reported of his work with the A2GA2 in preparation for fundraising. Project brochures are complete and the hope is that fundraising will kick off in late spring.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****E-1 Airport Noise - Peer Search of Other Airport Voluntary Noise Abatement Programs - Pattern Impacts**

*The Committee reviewed the results of the peer search of other airport's voluntary noise abatement programs as they relate to pattern traffic. As requested, the Airport Manager will reach out to these peer airport's to see if they have noticed a change in noise complaints, the level of pilot compliance with the voluntary programs, or other areas of focus these airports have. A sub-committee of Mark Perry, Greg Farris, Matthew Harshberger and the Airport Manager will meet with local flight schools to get a better understanding of potential impacts to their operations if pattern traffic is changed.*

**E-2 Airport Agricultural Activity**

*The Airport Manager reported on follow-up conversations with other airports and the USDA regarding potential changes to the agricultural activity at the airport. From these conversations, it became apparent that what type of replacement vegetation and the mowing height of that vegetation is of significant importance to minimizing birds in the area. They also determined that there is not a fail safe process and each airport will need to monitor activity and adjust as needed to find the right safety balance based on their environment. The Committee concurred that the airport eliminate agricultural activity within the fenced area of the airport starting with the 2024 growing season. Ag activity will continue outside of the fenced area while the impact of the interior changes are evaluated. As discussed previously, airport t-hangar rates will be increased 1.85% to specifically adjust for the loss of agricultural revenue and increased mowing costs for this land being removed from tillage. Additional research will continue to determine the most appropriate*

*ground cover for this area.*

**E-3 Airport Meeting Room / Public Wifi**

*As a brief follow-up to the discussion of this item at last month's meeting, the Airport Manager reported the following. The Pittsfield Township Fire Marshall reviewed the basement meeting room and offered three recommendations, all of which have been completed. The primary recommendation being the installation of release latches on the two exterior terminal entrance doors. The Airport Manager has also submitted a formal request to the City's IT department for the installation of public wifi in both levels of the terminal building. City IT is in the process of upgrading public wifi in other City facilities so a time frame for the improvement was not yet available. Further updates will be provided during the Airport Manager report when available.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**F-1 FY2024 Proposed Airport Budget - Summary**

*The Airport Manager provided a review of the proposed airport budget for FY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24). On the revenue side, T-hangar rates are scheduled to increase by 8.85%, the first increase in three years. 7% of that increase was going to occur based on increase operational costs and the additional 1.85% increase is tied to reduction of agricultural activity revenue and increased mowing expenses. All other annual lease increases are tied to the CPI. Expenditures are increasing in most areas with a significant increase in inter-governmental charges. This is the charge from the City for services they perform for the airport such as payroll, accounts payable and receivable processing, legal work, IT, property/liability insurance, etc. A sizeable increase this year is related to sustainability operations. The airport expects to benefit from these operations with the installation of solar facilities at the airport which should provide significant reductions to the airport's electricity expenses. The Mayor and Council will be considering this proposed budget in May.*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*Nothing anticipated at this time.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, 2023 @ 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 comment. Caller Kathe Wunderlich expressed her appreciation for the ongoing efforts to minimize the noise impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods. There was no additional public comment.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 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**

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