



# City of Ann Arbor

## Formal Minutes

### Airport Advisory Committee

801 Airport Dr.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

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Wednesday, November 16, 2022

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 5:25 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), Theresa Whiting (Ann Arbor), Erica Briggs (Ann Arbor).  
Committee members absent: Kelly Burris  
Ex-officio members present: Matthew Harshberger, Matthew Kulhanek  
Others in attendance: Kathe Wunderlich, Andy Fowler*

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*The July 20, 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.*

#### **A-1 Airport Advisory Committee Minutes - July 20, 2022**

**The Minutes were Approved by the Committee and forwarded to the City Council due back on 12/19/2022.**

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

*The Chair welcomed those in attendance and explained the process for public comment. Andy Fowler, President of the Michigan Flyers, encouraged the Committee to consider Fred Hall for an appointment to the Airport Advisory Committee.*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*The Committee reviewed three items of correspondence as presented.*

- B-1** Airport Operations through September, 2022
- B-2** Airport Fuel Usage through September, 2022
- B-3** Airport Hangar Occupancy though October, 2022

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

*The draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Runway Safety Extension Project has been completed and is currently available to the public for review and comment. An open house style public hearing will be held on December 13, 2022 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at the 2nd floor Council Chambers, Larcom City Hall. Public comments on the draft EA will be accepted until January 13, 2023.*

**C-2 Other Items**

*The Airport Manager reported that additional tree removal is being completed today to address actual or near penetrations of the airport's obstacle clearance surfaces. The handful of remaining penetrations are on private property and the airport will work with these property owners to address them. The concrete repairs on Alpha Taxiway have been delayed due to concrete supply issues. If we are unable to complete the repairs this fall, they will be scheduled for the spring. There was a deer/aircraft incident last week at the airport. A pilot reported striking something as we taking off. After circling around to land, the aircraft showed minor wing and landing gear damages. No sign of the deer other than some broken antlers near the reported impact site. The lease for Beacon Aviation is scheduled for City Council consideration on November 21, 2022. The proposed F row hangar project is still active and should be bid over the winter.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

*Member Harshberger reported that the noise complaints have dropped significantly with the change in weather. Additional discussion will be covered under Unfinished Business on this agenda.*

**D-2 Discovery Area Report**

*Chair Farris continues to work with the A2GA2 regarding the Discovery Area. He has also been actively recruiting interested parties to assist on the project in various ways.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**E-1 Airport Noise - Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedure Brochure**

*Member Perry discussed the history of the airport's voluntary noise abatement procedures. In reviewing the document, the Committee felt the information was still relevant and should be re-packaged. It was suggested to have the brochure put through a peer review process and target a spring re-release of the brochure. Since most of the noise complaints come from the traffic pattern, looking to bulk up that portion of the brochure was recommended. There was discussion on the steps needed to make it a mandatory noise abatement procedure instead of voluntary, though there appears to be many obstacles to that effort. The Airport Manager will do a document search of other airport noise abatement programs to see how they handle traffic patterns, he will also research the process, equipment, and other considerations for making the program mandatory.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**F-1 Airport Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2030**

*The Airport Manager reviewed the Airport Capital Improvement Plan recently submitted to MDOT-Aero and the FAA. He also discussed the difference between this and the City's capital improvement program. No action was necessary since this has already been submitted to the State.*

**F-2 Proposed Airport Solar Project**

*The Airport Manager reviewed the proposed locations for the installation of solar panels at the airport. This is part of a larger City effort to reduce non-renewable energy consumption. The proposed sites are sized to and tied into specific meter locations based on the average electrical consumption at that meter. These are different than the commercial solar*

*farm proposed by DTE in 2014. Approvals by the City's contractor from the Township and FAA will still need to be sought. No action needed.*

**F-3** Airport Agricultural Activity

*The Airport Manager discussed recommendations from the USDA Wildlife Hazard Assessment that was part of the recently completed draft EA. One of those recommendations was reduce or eliminate agricultural activities at the airport to reduce wildlife attractants. While we have had very few wildlife strikes at the airport, they can and do happen. Additionally, we do receive occasional complaints from hangar tenants, primarily in the NW t's, that during harvesting they get dust and crop detritus blown into their hangars. The airport has about 180 acres in ag production. Land lease revenue is generated from ag production and it also removes about 180 acres of land that we have to maintain with brush hog mowing. Any reduction in ag revenue and/or increase in mowing expenses would have to be offset with a t-hangar rate increase. The Committee discussed a number of options to consider including no change, eliminate ag production inside the fence, or eliminate it completely at the airport. The Airport Manager will do additional research on these options and carry this item over as Unfinished Business on the next meeting agenda.*

**F-4** Airport Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule - 2023

*The 2023 Airport Advisory Committee meeting schedule was unanimously approved as presented.*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*Election of officers is held at the first meeting of the year.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 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 and welcomed those still in attendance to speak. There was no additional public comment.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.*

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**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.**