



AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 16, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Santiam Room, City Hall/VIRTUAL

Approved: June 18, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Mel Huffman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Chair Mel Huffman, Rodney Moore, Matthew Arck, and Ralph Menweg

Members absent: Debbie Origer, Chuck Kratch

Staff present: Transportation Manager Robb Romeo, Public Works Director Paul Trombino III, Engineering Clerk III Anita Dodd

Others present: Tony Hann, Yu Takahashi, Daniel Miltenberger, Penny Miltenberger, Stan Boshart, and Becky Breckenridge.

Approval of February 19, 2026, Minutes

3:30 p.m.

Ralph Menweg moved to approve the February 19, 2026, minutes as presented, Rodney Moore seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Staff Updates

3:31 p.m.

Paul Trombino III, the new Public Works Director, introduced himself, shared his extensive background in transportation and airport-related work, and expressed enthusiasm for supporting the Albany Municipal Airport and collaborating with the group.

Transportation Manager Robb Romeo reported progress on airport projects, including nearing completion of grant work, submitting a new FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) grant for runway maintenance and lighting replacement, and recent fixes to the fuel island display and gates. Routine maintenance like mowing is upcoming. He noted an upcoming meeting with ECONorthwest on May 22, 2026, to review the fiscal analysis. Romeo also described a recent military training event at the airport and mentioned interest in attracting more training-related operations.

FBO Updates

3:48 p.m.

Tony Hann reported increased flight training activity, steady new student interest, and strong fuel sales driven by competitive pricing and the new fuel system. The FBO is planning summer fuel-discount events and exploring partnerships with the on-field restaurant. They are monitoring future demand for sports pilot training but currently continue standard training in Cessna 172s.

Business from the Commission

3:54 p.m.

Commissioners shared brief updates. Huffman is exploring options for the unused five-acre area and ideas to attract visitors, such as on-site food options, while discussion of the historic hangar

was deferred. The group discussed ways to attract more visitors, such as hosting events, food carts, and long-term planning, including future EV and electric aircraft infrastructure and business development on the southeast side of the airport. They noted FAA and airport layout plan constraints but agreed these concepts should be considered in future planning and economic development efforts.

Public Comment

4:11 p.m.

Public comments centered on whether the airport should add food options, such as a café or food truck, to attract more pilots and make the airport a destination. Some supported the idea; others raised access and traffic concerns. Commenters also discussed leveraging existing businesses, available tie-downs, and enhancing access between the airport and downtown. Additional remarks covered upcoming meetings and advisory commission openings.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on May 22, 2026.

Hearing no further business, Chair Mel Huffman adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Signature on File

Signature on File

Anita Dodd
Clerk III

Robb Romeo
Transportation Manager

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cityrecorder@albanyoregon.gov.*