



AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 7, 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, Chuck Kratch, Debbie Origer, Rodney Moore, Matthew Arck, and Ralph Menweg

Members absent: None

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

Others present: Tony Hann, Yu Takahashi, Becky Breckenridge, Brian Deno, and Conan Schleicher

Staff Updates

3:30 p.m.

Transportation Manager Robb Romeo reported that mowing is underway, with equipment repairs nearly complete, and the first full round of mowing should finish next week. Spraying is also in progress. He noted continued progress on the AIP grant for the slurry seal and runway lighting upgrades. All gates are functioning, and overall airport operations are running smoothly.

Business from the Commission

3:31 p.m.

The commission held a special meeting to prepare input for the May 13 city council session. Mel Huffman outlined ideas to support the airport's long-term viability, including improving airport access, planning for future aviation needs, and identifying potential revenue opportunities. He asked all commissioners to email their suggestions to Romeo so those ideas can be compiled for presentation at the May 13 City Council meeting.

Rodney Moore raised community questions about whether a future relocation or expansion of the airport could ever be feasible, noting current runway limitations but acknowledging the practical and financial challenges of such an idea.

Debbie Origer supported using the southeast parcel for aviation-related development, especially an A&P (Airframe and Powerplant) training program that could partner with local schools and meet workforce needs.

Ralph Menweg and other commissioners emphasized the southeast parcel as an important revenue opportunity; potentially supporting aviation businesses, mixed-use development, or an A&P school; and stressed the strong need for more hangar space. They also highlighted the importance of monitoring planned transportation improvements near the airport, exploring EV and electric aircraft charging, and considering ways to utilize the Historic 1929 Hangar. Overall,

commissioners aimed to identify ideas that could be incorporated into a unified message to Albany City Council.

Origer asked whether a Phase 3 design would be pursued, and Huffman clarified that no Phase 3 exists unless council initiates a new Request for Proposal. Public Works will present recommendations on May 13, and commissioners may also submit input. Huffman emphasized the importance of providing organized recommendations to council

Public Comment

4:00 p.m.

Public commenters highlighted funding and regulatory challenges related to runway extension and southeast-corner development, while stressing the strong need for additional hangars. Several speakers encouraged preparing land for private hangar development and maintaining ground-lease renewals to support investment. Comments also raised questions about master plan updates, stormwater fees, and how other airports fund improvements. Suggestions included exploring aviation training uses, helicopter facilities, and better marketing. One commenter asked about next steps following the May 13 council presentation, and staff clarified that council would provide direction after receiving recommendations. Additional concerns were raised about preserving airport land for aviation uses, with support expressed for keeping future development aviation-focused.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on June 18, 2026.

Hearing no further business, Chair Mel Huffman adjourned the meeting at 4:35 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.*