



AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 18, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Santiam Room, City Hall/VIRTUAL

Approved: July 16, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Mel Huffman called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Chair Mel Huffman (remote), Chuck Kratch, Debbie Origer, Matthew Arck, and Ralph Menweg

Members absent: Rodney Moore (Excused)

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

Others present: Tony Hann, Yu Takahashi, Becky Breckenridge, Daniel Miltenberger, Penny Miltenberger, and Brian Deno.

Approval of April 16, April 22, and May 7, 2026, Minutes

3:39 p.m.

Chuck Kratch moved to approve the April 16, 22, and May 7, 2026, minutes as presented, Matthew Ark seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0.

Staff Updates

3:40 p.m.

Transportation Manager Robb Romeo reported that the Sewer Interceptor Project and associated Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) filings are underway, with planned drilling likely to require a coordinated runway closure in early August to avoid conflict with the Art and Air Festival. Additional boring is planned but should not require closures. Mowing and spraying are nearly complete despite equipment delays. The Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) project is beginning, and the Fixed Based Operator (FBO) project is nearing completion with final documents under FAA review.

Public Works Director Paul Trombino reported that the historic hangar lease has returned to the City and said this creates a fresh opportunity to plan improvements and consider a future nonprofit partnership. He outlined plans to review all hangar leases and uses to prioritize aviation activity, relocate the City's own non-aviation storage, and gather commission input to shape a market and business plan that will guide a later master plan update. Chair Mel Huffman encouraged moving from discussion to action by having each commissioner take responsibility for a specific focus area, such as the 1929 hangar, the southeast 5-acre parcel, or new hangars, and work with interested non-commission community members. He emphasized staying within public meeting laws and starting to develop concrete ideas that can later support the City's structured planning process. Commissioner Origer requested a simple flowchart of the steps, which Trombino agreed to provide to help organize the next actions.

FBO Updates

4:21 p.m.

Yu Takahashi (Taka) reported increased flight-training activity, strong fuel sales, new university partnerships, and a successful DC-3 emergency-response exercise. Tony Hann added that the FBO is seeking a larger hangar and working toward a Part 145 repair station. In response to Commissioner Kratch's request for periodic training statistics, Taka noted they are developing improved tracking tools and can begin providing summary reports.

Business from the Commission

4:29 p.m.

Commissioner Origer moved to hold the AAC meetings monthly on the third Thursday at 3:30 p.m. beginning in July. Commissioner Kratch seconded the motion, and it passed by a 5-0 vote. She also clarified that the pre-meeting gathering was intended to support forming a local Oregon Pilots Association chapter and is open to the public so long as no commission quorum is present. Ralph Menweg agreed to lead discussions on the southeast parcel and will coordinate with interested participants; he also received an update from Trombino confirming continued positive coordination with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on future transportation planning near the airport. No other commissioners had additional business, and Huffman will share his comments later with whoever leads the hangar-use focus area.

Public Comment

4:37 p.m.

Daniel Miltenberger raised concerns about hangar spacing standards, design limitations, and the use of outside consultants, urging greater local control. Hann presented a community-driven proposal to form a new 501(c)(3) to revitalize the historic hangar for aviation education and events, but after discussion, especially Trombino's recommendation to incorporate such ideas into the broader airport planning and business-plan process, the Commission voted to table the proposal pending further City input. Romeo provided an update confirming the runway closures are scheduled for August 3-17 and September 9-10.

Before adjournment, Huffman encouraged attendees to involve more pilots and community members in the upcoming focus-area discussions to strengthen public input into future airport planning.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on July 16, 2026.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Mel Huffman adjourned the meeting at 5:07 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.*