



AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 16, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Santiam Room, City Hall/VIRTUAL

Approved: August 20, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Mel Huffman called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Chair Mel Huffman, Chuck Kratch, Debbie Origer, and Ralph Menweg

Members absent: Matthew Arck (excused), and Rodney Moore

Staff present: Transportation Manager Robb Romeo, Public Works Director Paul Trombino III, Engineering Administrative Assistant Madalyn Cornelius

Others present: Tony Hann, Becky Breckenridge, Brian Deno, Richard Babbitt, Daniel Miltenberger, and Penny Miltenberger

Approval of June 18, 2026, Minutes

3:32 p.m.

Chuck Kratch moved to approve the June 18, 2026, minutes as presented, Ralph Menweg seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-0.

Staff Updates

3:33 p.m.

Transportation Manager Robb Romeo reported upcoming runway closures, progress on taxiway lighting upgrades, and recent mowing and site cleanup. Huffman asked Romeo about a retest and FAA order that Huffman will share with the Commission for review.

In response to the staff report, Huffman sought clarification on recent flight-check testing and was informed that it had passed. Questions were raised about the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) order governing airport sponsorship and management, and it was noted that a newly updated version released in March would be emailed to the commission for review. Members were encouraged to read the document to better understand regulatory requirements, including allowable hangar use. The Public Works Director agreed to review the updated order and share their perspective once completed.

Trombino presented the Albany Airport Marketing Business Plan (Draft) and the Albany Airport Next Steps Schedule (Draft) and requested Commission feedback on both.

FBO Updates

3:41 p.m.

Tony Hann noted preparations for the airport closure and relocating aircraft to Salem. He's monitoring intermittent Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) issues and plans routine summer cleaning of the fueling area. Flight training remains busy, with expansion underway in Eugene and pending approval for foreign students. He also raised concerns about vehicles parking

in the no-parking fire access area during events and suggested coordinating with the City or nearby hotels.

Business from the Commission

3:53 p.m.

Menweg asked about initiating hangar development on the five-acre southeast parcel at the Albany Municipal Airport, and staff noted the City would begin with an RFI (request for information) since it cannot fund construction. Trombino explained that any hangar development must follow the [2016 Airport Master Plan](#), with updates requiring FAA involvement and several years of saved funding, targeting 2028–2030 for completion.

Kratch highlighted continued interest in new hangars, discussed possible Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) training partnerships, and raised concerns about focusing too heavily on the southeast parcel. He also referenced successful youth aviation programs at the Independence State Airport as models.

Debbie Origer emphasized coordinating improvements to the 1929 Historic Hangar with preservation groups and noted available historic grants, while staff reviewed requirements for public access and event planning.

Public Comment

4:31 p.m.

Public commenters raised concerns about limited parking for future events, asked about adding a historic plaque for the hangar, and sought clarity on the City Council's support for the airport. Additional comments addressed FAA regulations, repeated survey requirements, and environmental mandates. Suggestions included exploring lease extensions for existing hangars to encourage investment. One commenter emphasized the need for city commitment to support hangar construction, while another described past collaboration with the City on lease terms. Richard Babbitt provided updates on maintaining amateur radio equipment in the historic hangar and requested permission to bring in a small table and chair for his work.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on August 20, 2026.

Hearing no further business, Chair Mel Huffman adjourned the meeting at 4:38 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.*