



AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 19, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Santiam Room, City Hall/VIRTUAL

Approved: April 16, 2026

Call to Order

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

(Due to technical difficulties, the Call to Order and Roll Call were not captured on video.)

Roll Call

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

Members absent: Matthew Arck (excused)

Staff present: Transportation Manager Robb Romeo, and Engineering Clerk III Anita Dodd

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

Elect Chair and Vice Chair

3:33 p.m.

Chuck Kratch nominated Rodney Moore for Chair. Moore nominated Mel Huffman. Upon a vote by raised hands, the commission voted as follows: 1 for Moore, 2 for Huffman, and 1 abstention. The motion passed, and Huffman was retained as Chair.

Kratch nominated Debbie Origer for Vice Chair; Origer declined. Kratch then moved to appoint Moore as Vice Chair. Upon a vote by raised hands, the commission voted to retain Moore as Vice Chair. The motion passed with 3 in favor and 1 abstention.

Approval of December 18, 2025, Minutes

3:35 p.m.

Kratch moved to approve the December minutes as presented. Upon a vote by raised hands, the motion passed 5-0.

Staff Updates

3:36 p.m.

Transportation Manager Robb Romeo provided updates on ongoing airport projects, including lighting adjustments and facility improvements, and noted that two grant projects are still in progress. He also shared that the City is preparing to apply for additional funding for runway resurfacing and related upgrades. Romeo discussed the ECONorthwest airport funding study, which is posted online, and encouraged members to review and stay involved as the study moves into its next phase.

Hangar owners criticized being excluded from the request for qualifications process, questioned the study's cost and accuracy, and raised concerns about accountability and unclear finances. Commissioners urged public engagement and noted Phase 2 of the study is upcoming.

FBO Updates

3:52 p.m.

Tony Hann reported fuel sales dropped about 30% due to issues with the old terminal, which will be replaced in March with a promotional event planned. Flight school activity is increasing, with a new instructor hired and plans to expand into Eugene for better training facilities, while maintaining Albany operations.

Business from the Commission

4:08 p.m.

New member Ralph Menweg expressed support for keeping the airport open and willingness to assist. Moore suggested exploring aviation events like National Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL) competitions to attract visitors and revenue. Origer reported progress on planning an aviation museum exhibit during the Art and Air Festival and emphasized the need for volunteers and partnerships. Commissioners discussed preserving airport history, improving gates and signage, and potential economic development opportunities, including leasing unused land for aviation-related businesses. Budget review and planning for the next biennium will occur later this year.

Public Comment

4:32 p.m.

Becky Breckenridge from the Oregon Pilots Association introduced herself and offered support in advocacy and collaboration for the airport. Public comments highlighted concerns about lost revenue during COVID due to suspended transient tax and stormwater fees. They also emphasized the airport's economic importance, noting frequent business-related flights and potential for growth through hangar development and leasing opportunities. Suggestions included exploring incentives for new hangar construction and considering fly-in housing on available parcels. Concerns were raised about the accuracy of the consultant's data and lack of stakeholder interviews.

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

Hearing no further business, Chair Mel Huffman adjourned the meeting at 4:47 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.*