

Athens Ben Epps Airport Authority Meeting

May 27, 2025, 3:00PM

Minutes

Live Stream on ACCGOV YouTube Channel

<https://youtube.com/live/jOvxDoxl3Jk?feature=share>

In attendance: Mike Mathews, Diane Napier, David Asman, Mack Alexander, Keith Sanders, Sonny Wilson, Davin Welter, Holly Overdyke (Flock Realty Group), Andrew Bolin (RS&H Inc.), Commissioner Patrick Davenport

Apologies:

Note-taker: Davin Welter

- 1) **Chair Update and announcements:** Dr. Napier welcomed the participants and previewed the agenda and introduced new Authority member Sonny Wilson. With reference to the By-laws (Article V, Section 2), she reviewed the protocol for visitors to monthly meetings of the Authority. While the meetings are open to the public, persons wishing to speak as visitors should send the Secretary a request six days before the meeting, and plan to limit their presentation to 3 minutes. Visitors wishing to sit in on the meeting are requested to introduce themselves to the Chair and to state their interest in attending the meeting.
- 2) **March Meeting Minutes:** Dr. Napier called for a vote on the April minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted, per unanimous vote. Mr. Sanders moved and Mr. Alexander seconded to approve the minutes.
- 3) **Airport Manager Reports**
 - a) Financial & Operations Report: Mr. Mathews reported that the airport continues to do well and the financials look good. Jet fuel sales were strong in April. Mr. Sanders asked about hanger tenants. Mr. Welter responded that our hangers are 100% rented and there is a waiting list of 25 aircraft. Mr. Welter stated that the lease rate adjustment announcement has been drafted and will take effect on July 1.
 - b) Capital Improvement Project Updates: Mr. Mathews reported that the Taxiway Bravo project is in the preliminary phase before construction starts. Mr. Mathews is working on purchasing a new fire truck for the airport which will require an RFP. Mr. Mathews stated that RS&H will assist with this purchase. Mr. Mathews continues to meet with the FAA about the control tower construction. Parking lot design is nearing completion. Mr. Mathews informed the Authority that the airport will be receiving some EV charging stations through a SPLOST project.
 - c) Marketing & Outreach: Mr. Mathews reported that the airport staff had given a couple of tours to student groups from local area schools.
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) **Lexington Corridor Update:** Dr. Napier provided an update on the work of sidewalk projects along the Lexington Corridor. She stated that the access road from Lexington Road for a potential new entrance to the airport continues to remain in the plans for the corridor projects. Dr. Napier showed several maps that show the opportunities that exist for connectivity with the community in the ACC/TSPLOST plans for the projects in the Bike/Ped Master Plan. She added that the Airport Micro Park is shown on the proposed ACC Future Land Use Plan Map. In addition, she reported on the Urban3 presentation by Joe Minicozzi on May 8, 2025 “Building a Stronger and Smarter Community” and focusing on tax and land use policies in ACC related to the Future Land Use Plan and ACC Budgets forthcoming, with some implications for the Airport.

5) New Business

New Authority members: Dr. Napier recognized Mr. David Asman and expressed the Authority's appreciation for his two terms of service that will conclude on June 30 of this year. She also reported that we will have an additional two new Authority members whose terms will begin on July 1, 2025. They are Mr. William Felt and Ms. Elizabeth Higgins. Mr. Sonny Wilson's term took effect immediately, per Mayor Kelly Girtz's May letter of appointment, as Mr. Wilson is to complete the remaining time of Jeff Benjamin's term.

6) Standing Committees: Issues & Updates

- a) Business/Finance: Mr. Sander discussed the update to the Fact Sheet distribution list. Mr. Mathews passed out copies of the printed Fact Sheet. Commissioner Patrick Davenport offered favorable comments on the Fact Sheet and its contents.
- b) Operating: Mr. Alexander said the committee did not have a report.
- c) Air Service Development (ASD)/Marketing: Mr. Mathews said that he has reached out to Mead and Hunt who is the AHN consultant for ASD. Mr. Mathews said that he will send a letter to renew our federal grant (SCASDP). Mr. Mathews also said that he continues to be in conversation with an airline about commercial service. He is waiting for an airline to approach us and that it will take some time.

7) Other Business:

- a) The **next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 3-5 p.m.**, in the conference room in the Flight Center Building.

8) Adjourn: 4:04 PM Mr. Sanders motioned and Mr. Wilson seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved, DATE:

Diane Napier, Authority Chair

Diane S. Napier

Davin Welter_____