

Draft Minutes
Athens Ben Epps Airport Authority Meeting
Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 3-5pm
Live stream on ACCGOV YouTube Channel
https://youtube.com/live/YjgU_GT29rY?feature=share

In attendance: Mike Mathews, Diane Napier, Mack Alexander, Keith Sanders, Sonny Wilson, Elizabeth Higgins, Bill Felt, Davin Welter, John Gurley (visitor), Holly Overdyke (Flock Realty)

Apologies:

Note-taker: Davin Welter

1. **Chair Updates and Announcements:** Dr. Napier welcomed the participants and guests and previewed the agenda.
2. **Minutes:** July Meeting Minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Dr. Napier called for corrections, followed by a vote. Mr. Sanders moved, and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.
3. **Airport Manager Reports**
 - a. Financial & Operations Report. Mr. Mathews reported about a meeting with Atlanta Center, Athens Control Tower and AHN personnel. Mr. Alexander asked about a reservation system similar to that used in Augusta during the Masters. Mr. Mathews said that this system was not discussed but he would like to explore it with Mr. Alexander. Mr. Mathews said that the airport is prepared for the fall football season. Mr. Mathews plans to work the Alabama and Texas games. He said that last year when incoming traffic was heavy we did “drop-and-go’s” but he has decided to not allow drop-and-go’s this season once a ground stop is in place. Once we are closed and full, the flights will have to go somewhere else.
 - b. Capital Improvement Project Updates. Mr. Mathews provided detailed updates on the following:
 - i. Taxiway Bravo refurbishment is going well. This started with the Southside of the taxiway first and the hope is for it to be done by the Texas game. The Alabama game might be impacted by the construction. The airport has shifted the phases which will hopefully make it easier during home games.
 - ii. Parking Lot plans are done, and we are not sure if it will be funded by GDOT or SPLOST.
 - iii. Tower design and plans are underway by the FAA but there are no updates for this past month.
 - c. Marketing & Outreach Activities. Mr. Welter reported that he gave a tour to LEAD Athens and has had two school groups reach out for tours. Mr. Mathews hosted the Chamber Networking lunch.
4. **Old Business:** Lexington Corridor Update. Dr. Napier offered a brief update on the continuation of projects along the Corridor. Technology issues have impaired meetings.
5. **Standing Committees: Issues & Updates**
 - a. Business/Finance: The Strategic Plan document has been updated with a couple of changes. The new manager in place may impact goals according to Mr. Mathews.
 - b. Operating Report: Mr. Alexander had no official report but there are some projects that might impact the airport and they include: Satterfield Park converting a baseball field to a football field. Lighting might be an issue. Mr. Mathews added that FAA studies have been demanded for this project, given the possible implications for the

airport. Preliminary plans are being discussed. The Hookah Lounge is another project, but we have yet to be asked to review it as it should not impact the airport.

- c. Air Service Development/Marketing Report: Mr. Mathews gave a general report that things are moving right now.
- 6. **Other Business:**
 - a. Mr. Sanders has agreed to lead the September meeting since Dr. Napier will be out of town. Mr. Alexander will be Mr. Sanders back up.
 - b. Dr. Napier announced that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, September 23, 2025
- 7. **Adjourn:** Dr. Napier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm with a unanimous vote following a motion by Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Sanders.

DBN August 18, 2025.

Deani S. Napier