

**Athens Ben Epps Airport Authority Meeting**  
**January 28, 2025, 3:00PM**  
**Minutes**  
**Live Stream on ACCGOV YouTube Channel**  
<https://youtube.com/live/Rml7WpWASyY?feature=share>

**In attendance:** Mike Mathews, Diane Napier, David Asman, Craig Westwood, Mack Alexander, Davin Welter, Bryce Hix (WA Engineering), Ross Watson (citizen, Cedar Creek Civic Association representative), Max Day (ACC Planning Department)

**Apologies:** Jeff Benjamin, Keith Sanders

**Note-taker:** Davin Welter

- 1) Chair Update and announcements:** Mr. Westwood welcomed the participants and previewed the agenda. He let members know that Chair Benjamin was unable to attend the meeting because of an out-of-town situation.
- 2) October Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Westwood called for a vote on the October minutes. The October minutes were approved as corrected, per unanimous vote. Dr. Napier moved and Mr. Alexander seconded to approve the minutes with the addition of Mr. Alexander as present at the October meeting.
- 3) Airport Manager Reports**
  - a) Financial & Operations Report: Mr. Mathews reviewed the airport financials and said they continue to be in good shape.
  - b) Capital Improvement Project Updates: Mr. Mathews reported that Taxiway Alpha is in operation but there are a few punch list items to complete before the project is closed. Taxiway Bravo has been designed and Mr. Mathews got word from GDOT that the funding was available to start the project. This is a 75% state and 25% local SPLOST funded project. The new Control Tower project may be delayed but is scheduled to be completed by 2027. The parking lot project is designed and ready when funding is available. The fencing project continues with funding that was left over from the secondary runway refurbishment project. There are still some areas that are needed to completely fence the entire airfield.
  - c) Marketing & Outreach: Mr. Mathews is giving a tour to the ACC Innovation Ambassadors and also to a supervisory training group with ACC. Mr. Welter reported that one of our part-time line personnel will be participating in the Oglethorpe Elementary Career Day. Mr. Mathews, Mr. Parton, and Mr. Welter will be attending a Southeast FAA conference in Atlanta next week.
- 4) Old Business**
  - a) Lexington Corridor Update: Dr. Napier said that there is nothing to report at this time.
- 5) New Business**

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – Dr. Napier moved and Mr. Alexander seconded to nominate Mr. Benjamin as Chair of the Authority. The motion passed unanimously. Because Mr. Westwood will be leaving the Authority, the decision was made to hold off on electing a Vice-Chair. Note: the vote was to confirm Mr. Benjamin as Chair, updating his election as Interim Chair in June 2024.
- 6) Standing Committees: Issues & Updates**
  - a) Business/Finance: Mr. Welter presented a draft of the AHN Fact Sheet. Several changes were discussed and they will be given to the designer to update with a new draft of the Fact Sheet.

- b) Operating: Mr. Asman said the committee did not have a report.
- c) Air Service Development/Marketing: Mr. Mathews said there was nothing to report.

**7) Other Business:**

- a) Zoning request for 1280 Oconee St/300 Ann St
- b) Zoning request for 450-460 Gaines School Rd. A recommendation will be needed from the Authority for this project. A motion to approve the project as presented was made by Mr. Asman and Dr. Napier seconded. Mr. Watson representing CCCA, voiced objections to the project citing concerns over increased traffic onto Gaines School Road directly at Cedar Creek entrance.
- c) The **next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 3-5 p.m.**, in the conference room in the Flight Center Building.

**8) Adjourn:** 4:27 PM **Mr. Asman** motioned and Mr. Alexander seconded and motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Approved, DATE:**

**Jeff Benjamin, Authority Chair**

**Davin Welter** \_\_\_\_\_