

## AIRPORT COMMISSION

### MINUTES

**Wednesday October 1, 2025  
In Person and Via Teleconference**

**In Person:** Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge, Mr. Bales, Mr. Cantwell, Judge Clarke (Ret), Alderman Cohn, Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. Fowler, Comptroller Baringer, Mr. King, Mr. Kling, Mr. Lents, Dr. Moore, Ms. Osborn and Ms. Ratcliffe

**Via Conference:** Mr. Bowman, Mr. Jacobs and President Green

**Airport Staff:** Mr. Beckmann, Mr. Becker, Ms. Bolden, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Jones, Mr. Jungk, Mr. Kulinsky, Ms. Lyles-Wiggins, Mr. Olson, Chief Richenberger, Ms. Ruth, Mr. Salarano, and Mr. Strong

**Legal Staff:** Mr. Chavarria, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Yoffie

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm

#### **1. MINUTES**

A. Approval was requested for the minutes of the September 3, 2025 Regular Airport Commission Meeting.

A motion for approval was made by Mr. Cantwell and seconded by Dr. Moore. There being no questions or requested revisions, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **2. PROPERTIES**

A. Approval was requested for a Space Permit with AGI Ground, Inc (AL-447). The term of this Space Permit is for three (3) years. The term will begin on November 1, 2025 and will end on October 31, 2028.

A motion for approval was made by Mr. King and seconded by Ms. Ratcliffe. Mr. Salarano presented the item. There being no questions or discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval was requested for a Space Permit with ARINC, Inc. (AL-456). The term of this

Space Permit is for three (3) years. The term will begin on December 1, 2025 and will end on November 30, 2028.

A motion for approval was made by Mr. Kling and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Salarano presented the item. There being no questions or discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- C. Approval was requested for a Space Permit with Foxtrot Aviation Services, LLC (AL-441). The term of this Space Permit is for three (3) years. The term will begin on November 1, 2025 and will end on October 31, 2028.

A motion for approval was made by Ms. Ratcliffe and seconded by Mr. Kling. The item was presented by Mr. Salarano. Ms Ratcliffe asked if Foxtrot was only providing services for American Airlines. Mr. Salarano answered that at this point Foxtrot is only providing services for American, but they have the opportunity to serve other clients at the Airport. Ms. Ratcliffe followed up by asking if there was any conflict between cleaning service providers for the Airlines and the Airport's own contractor. Director Hamm-Niebruegge answered that there was not, they are completely separate contracts and the Airline contractors are limited to only cleaning Airline spaces. Finally, Ms. Ratcliffe asked if this change of contractor reflects a nationwide policy change or a local one. Director Hamm-Niebruegge responded that in her experience in the Airline industry, these contracts are typically local or regional, with a contractor handling all services for an airline within their region. There being no further questions or discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **3. ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Approval is requested of the proposed rules for the governance of the commission required pursuant to Ordinance 71994. The proposed rules would govern how commission business is conducted, the conduct of commissioners on the commission, and the time and place of commission meetings.

A motion for approval was made by Ms. Ratcliffe and seconded by Ms. Fowler. Ms. Ratcliffe asked why the phrase "...without good reason..." was added to Rule 4b, the rule on removal for excessive absences. Ms. Yoffie answered that it was added to give additional flexibility in the interpretation of an absence, noting that Title 18 only provided for a Commissioner to be removed by the Mayor after three absences, regardless of the reason. Ms. Yoffie also commented that the Commission may add detail and clarity to the rule using the amendment process or the three year review process. Alderman Cohn noted that he appreciates the work that Airport staff did on these rules. There being no further questions or discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

British Airways announced a direct flight between St. Louis and London Heathrow today at a very successful press conference. Ambassador O'Malley, head of the St. Louis County Port Authority, helped the Airport compile the incentive package needed to attract British Airways to this route. British Airways reported a tremendous amount of local interest in this flight, with strong early booking. Next summer, the Airport will have nine weekly

flights to Europe, four to London and five to Frankfurt. Mr. Lents asked which terminal the flight will operate out of. The Director responded by saying that issue hasn't been decided yet, British Airways are still considering a number of different plans. Mr. Lents also asked whether some of the British Airways flight days will overlap with Lufthansa's flight days. Director Hamm-Niebruegge answered that they would, but that the flight time is late enough that Lufthansa and British Airways would not overlap. Mr. Kling then asked if this was a full time flight or seasonal. The Director answered that it was currently seasonal, because Heathrow is a slot controlled Airport and the only available slot was a seasonal one. St. Louis is hoping for a year round slot when one opens up.

Ms. Fowler asked if the Airport could send a recording of the press conference to the commissioners so that they can share it. The Director answered that she would be happy to send that recording. Ms. Fowler then asked if when the World Cup is in Kansas City, will St. Louis be the closest Airport with a direct flight to Europe. The Director answered that it would be, and that the Airport is already in conversations with our airline partners to increase service to Kansas City during the World Cup to take advantage of that status. The Airport also hopes to take advantage of a huge push for the Route 66 100 year anniversary. Route 66 is very popular in Europe, and given St. Louis's role as a premier stop on the Route should see good flight bookings out of the anniversary. Finally, St. Louis landed a big international robotics competition next year, so the Airport should see good business out of that.

The Commission then viewed a virtual walkthrough and presentation of the new emergency operations and regular airport operations centers. The emergency operations center will be activated when there is an event at the Airport requiring constant communication and the cooperation of Airport staff, contractors, outside agencies, airlines, and other parties such as a large snow event. Ms. Fowler asked if there was access to the emergency operations center from outside. Mr. Kulinsky answered that you must be physically present. Mr. Bales asked if there was a pass through between the regular ops center and the emergency ops center. Mr. Kulinsky answered no, while they are in close physical proximity, they are two separate rooms with no pass through. Mr. Bales then asked if there was sufficient ramp side parking for staff working in the emergency ops center. Mr. Kulinsky answered that there was. Mr. Cantwell asked if this center will be able to serve the new terminal as well. Mr. Kulinsky answered that the ops center was designed so that it could serve the new terminal.

The Airport is finalizing the date for the Airfield Maintenance building ground breaking. When a date is selected the commission will be notified so that they can attend if they so choose. Final checkpoint numbers for September are in, and we beat 2019 by 32,000 enplaned passengers and beat last year's total by a little less than 16,000 passengers. The Airport isn't sure what caused that spike, but even with it the Airport is still likely to finish behind last year's passenger numbers. Ms. Osborn asked why we will finish with fewer passengers. The Director answered that the whole system was down on the year, particularly in leisure travel, possibly due to economic uncertainty. For St. Louis specifically, the region had fewer conventions this year as well.

The Art of Travel is taking place on October 16<sup>th</sup> on the B Concourse. Southwest Airlines had a corporate event at ball park village last month, 7,000 Southwest employees attended, and City leadership had a meeting with Southwest regarding the ongoing partnership at the Airpor. Comptroller Baringer asked Southwest executives about the markets St. Louis recently lost. Southwest told her that the problem with those routes was a

lack of local passengers. Comptroller Baringer then reported that when she asked about what concerns Southwest had, Southwest answered that while they believe St. Louis needs a new terminal, St. Louis shouldn't overdesign and overspend. Comptroller Baringer then thanked Director Hamm-Niebruegge for getting city leaders a meeting with Southwest executives so quickly. Director Hamm-Niebruegge echoed Comptroller Baringer's point regarding keeping costs down on the new terminal, the Airport is doing its best to build the terminal it needs on a budget it can afford.

Mr. Bales congratulated the airport badging office on its improved efficiency. He noted that this time when he renewed his badge the process was much more efficient, and did not leave people waiting in line for hours.

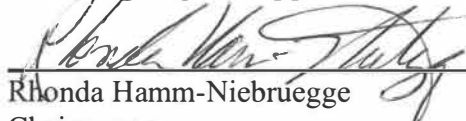
**5. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday November 5, 2025

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion for approval was made by Alderman Cohn and seconded by Ms. Ratcliffe. A voice vote was conducted, and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

**The foregoing was approved by the Airport Commission at its November 5, 2025 meeting.**

  
Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge      Date 11/10/25  
Chairperson