



## AIRPORT COMMISSION

### Minutes

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

#### Lindbergh Conference Room

Members Present: Mr. Bales, Comptroller Baringer, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Cantwell, Judge Clarke (Ret.), Alderman Cohn, Ms. Fowler, Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge, Mr. Kling, Mr. Lents, Dr. Moore, Ms. Orwick, Ms. Ratcliffe, and Mr. Schartner

Via Teleconference: Mr. Ryan.

Airport Staff: Mr. Beckmann, Ms. Jones, Mr. Kulinsky, Mr. Lotz, Mr. Richenberger, Ms. Ruth, Mr. Salarano, Ms. Spencer, Mr. Strong, Mr. Flake, Mr. Larsen, and Mr. Neidel

Legal Department: Mr. Chavarria, Mr. Henderson, Ms. Yoffie, and Ms. McKenna

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm.

#### 1. MINUTES

Approval was requested for the Minutes of the March 4, 2026 Regular Airport Commission Meeting.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Lents and seconded by Commissioner Ratcliffe. Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge noted that Commissioner Moore was present at the March Commission meeting and that the March Minutes would be corrected to reflect her in-person attendance. There being no further discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

#### 2. FINANCE

A. Approval was requested for the FY 2027 Budget, pursuant to Section 18.12.060 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Bales and seconded by Commissioner Kling. Mr. Strong presented the budget.

Comptroller Baringer asked which employees are eligible for the car allowance, and how it works. Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge answered that any employee who lives in the City of St. Louis and works at the airport is eligible for the allowance, with the exception of those who have a “take-home” vehicle, which are marked vehicles owned by the Airport. The allowance is \$180 per pay period. Comptroller Baringer then asked if the “take-home” vehicles are insured, and Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge affirmed that all of the “take-home” vehicles are insured.

Commissioner Ratcliffe noted that the budget as presented may have benefitted with the addition of a column with the actual Revenue and actual Expenses from FY 2026 measured against. Mr. Strong noted that the Revenue and Expenses are on the Monthly Financial Dashboard Report, but that the Airport can look at adding the requested comparative column to future budget requests and can look at putting together that column for the current budget to be distributed at a later date.

Commissioner Ratcliffe then asked whether the per-performance seasonal employee contracts contemplated in this budget were more cost effective than hiring full time labor. Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge answered that the Airport has never tried this type of program before, historically relying on overtime to meet surge demand. The Airport is trying to hire seasonal employees to meet increased service demand this year, from November 2026 through March 2027, with Training in October 2026, of seasonal hires to work during the peak hours and during inclement weather to test whether it saves money and reduces employee turnover due to forced overtimes.

Commissioner Ratcliffe then asked what accounted for the 31% increase in the gross receipts tax. Mr. Strong noted that the 31% increase in Taxes/Licenses was due to a number of factors. First, there was an error in the Formula for FY 2026 of the projected taxes and licenses that has been corrected. The projections for FY 2026 were way too low. The gross receipts tax payment was also offset by COVID money, which is no longer available.

Commissioner Lents asked how the Airport justifies the anticipated dramatic increase in parking revenue and concessions, . Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge explained that a new close in lot, lot F, will be opening soon, and that LAZ has a number of new revenue producing initiatives in the works.

Commissioner Cantwell then asked why the Airport was anticipating a decrease in Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs.) Mr. Strong and Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge

explained that this reflects an accounting decrease only. PFCs are charges paid per ticket originating in St. Louis, which may only be spent by the Airport on capital projects as approved by the FAA. Those uses which are already approved are called “pledged” PFCs and those pledged PFCs are reflected in the budget. The Airport is likely to spend more PFCs this year than what is reflected in the budget, but those uses have not yet been approved by the FAA.

### **3. PLANNING**

- A. Approval was requested of an Agreement of GPM, Inc. to provide ground maintenance, tree removal, and area clean up services for the Airport. The Agreement will begin on June 1, 2026 and will end May 31, 2029. The Contract Not-To-Exceed Amount will be \$780,000.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Cohn and seconded by Commissioner Ratcliffe. Mr. Beckman presented the item. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

### **4. PROPERTIES**

- A. Approval was requested for a Space Permit with AGI Ground, Inc. (AL-464). The term of this Space Permit is three (3) years. The term will begin on May 1, 2026 and end on April 30, 2029.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Bales and seconded by Commissioner Kling. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

- B. Approval was requested for a Space Permit with Huntleigh USA, Inc. (AL-463). The term of this Space Permit is three (3) years. The term will begin on May 1, 2026 and end on April 30, 2029.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Kling and seconded by Commissioner Bales. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

- C. Approval was requested for a Space Permit with Unifi, LLC (AL-477). The term of this Space Permit is three (3) years. The term will begin on May 1, 2026 and end on April 30, 2029.

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Lents and seconded by Commissioner Cantwell. There being no discussion, a voice vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Mr. Salarano and representatives of LAZ Parking presented an update of recent and upcoming improvements to the Super Park offering. The team from Super Park/Laz to gave a presentation about the new Shuttle Tracking Program App and the Premium Reservation Program for Lot E by Terminal 2. The Shuttle Tracking Program, Passio Go!, will allow passengers to track the airport shuttles between terminals on a map, giving estimated time of arrival directly on the phone of the passenger when they install the app. Super Park/Laz has received a lot of positive feedback about the operation of the shuttles since this program has launched. Passengers seem to be happy and the number of complaints directly to the Airport has decreased.

The Premium Reservation Program for Lot E will launch on 6/1/26. This program will allow passengers to reserve a parking space ahead of time for a fee plus the per hour rate. Lot E is by Terminal 2 between the Cell Lot and Terminal 2. The Lot will be reservation only, with approximately 10 spots reserved for Southwest Airlines management team.

Commissioner Kling asked for clarification about the hourly rate, and whether or not the reservation will automatically cancel if the passenger's plans change. The Super Park/Laz team assured the Commission that there is a two-hour grace period in the event of a cancellation or change. Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge also explained that there will be an aggressive ad campaign at the airport, through social media and that current Super Park clients will receive a mail out, as well.

Commissioner Shartner asked if a customer overstay will impact the availability of another customer's reservation. LAZ explained that there is a buffer of spots built in to prevent that. The buffer will shrink as they understand more about customer behavior in the market.

Commissioner Cohn asked for clarification about the Shuttle Program and whether it includes Terminal to Terminal transportation. The Super Park/Laz team confirmed that it does.

Commissioner Cantwell noted that despite past LAZ commitments, there are still long wait times for shuttles, particularly at night. He noted that if this program actually delivers, he will be the first to sing its praises but past performance has been

disappointing. The team from Super Park/LAZ acknowledged that they had some difficulty in the past due to not having enough drivers. They noted that they were able to hire 35 new drivers, and that complaints are decreasing. Comptroller Baringer asked what types of licences the drivers require. LAZ responded that an Illinois chauffer's licence or a standard Missouri driver's license are sufficient to drive the smaller shuttles. The larger, employee shuttles require a CDL.

Mr. Salarano also told the Commission that a request will be put before the commission soon to increase the parking rates for FY 2027 to accommodate increases in labor, fuel, and new vehicles.

## B. Director's Update

Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge noted that the Airport saw a great first quarter, with a 2.4% increase over traffic, and March checkpoint numbers reflecting a 3% increase over March of last year.

Chairperson Hamm-Niebruegge reported that the TSA is now being paid through an executive order. The government shutdown was not as impactful to St. Louis due to the generosity of local businesses such as Operation Food Search and the Urban League, who gave our St. Louis TSA employees a lot of support. The support of Congressman Wesley Bell was also notable. Most of our TSA workers showed up to work every day.

There are two events coming up later this month with regard to the direct St. Louis to London Heathrow (STL to LHR) flights with British Airways. On April 18, in conjunction with the History Museum, there will be a reception of approximately 150 people honoring British Airways. On April 19, there will be a press conference in the International Lobby of Terminal 2 in conjunction with "O London" Restaurant offering light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

Commissioner Ratcliffe inquired with Lufthansa's expanded flight schedule would begin, Chairperson Hamm-Neibruegge explained that Lufthansa's Frankfurt route is moving up to five flights per week beginning on June 1, with the expanded schedule going through the end of October.

## 6. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion for adjournment was made by Commissioner Clarke and seconded by Commissioner Bales. There being no discussion a voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**The foregoing was approved by the Airport Commission at its May 6, 2026 Meeting.**

*Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge*  
Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge (May 8, 2026 10:08:57 CDT)

May 8, 2026

Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge

Date

Chairperson

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# Minutes April 8 2026 Commission Final-SD Reviewed


Final Audit Report


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