

**Lunken Airport Oversight Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025**

Present: Anne Sesler, Susan Brownknight, Neil Tilow, Jeff McClean, James Murray, Elissa Pogue, Pete Riddle, Robert Roark, Jane Sites

Also: Bob Vickrey, Mike Brenner, Nathan B., Chris McIntyre, Rick Miller, Paula Murphy, Anthony Vogel, Jon Wittoesch, Tim Zeis, Elaine Luchi

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the August 11 meeting were approved as written. Minutes are available at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote/lunken-airport/lunken-airport-boards/>

III. Hotel Development Update

Anthony was unable to attend the meeting but relayed to Bob that he is still working with the Law Department to finalize the agreement and ancillary legal documents. The project is anticipated to commence in January 2026 and be completed at the end of 2027.

IV. Operations Report

When compared to 2024, Operations decreased slightly in August and increased in September. The total numbers for 2025 are on track to be comparable to 2024.

As discussed in prior meetings, Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) are issued when the Vice-President is in town. This impacts the flight schools more than other types of operations at Lunken. Rick Miller, Chief Flight Instructor of Lunken Flight Training Center, explained that students may still fly with an instructor when a TFR is in effect, but no touch-and-go landings can be performed.

V. Financial Report

Revenues show an increase of \$227,000 for Fiscal Year 2026 (beginning July 1) over the same period in FY 2025. The largest increases are Landing Fees and 1% of Gross Revenue that is paid by the business operators on Lunken. Expenses were up only slightly.

VI. Customs Facility Update

A Feasibility Study of Lease Area 32 is in process, and it is due from the consultant in mid-October. The existing hangar will be retrofitted to accommodate Customs and Border Protection (CBP) offices, storage of the Airport's snow removal vehicles, and possibly the Airport Administration offices. The facility will be staffed by CBP personnel from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. The deadline for completion is May 2027 as set by CBP.

Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) will request that a portion of the funding be allotted in the City's FY 2027 capital budget process. Anne suggested the City pursue grant money from the State of Ohio.

VII. Land Development

The Responses to the Request for Proposals for development of the 6-acre parcel south of former Runway 3L/21R (Lease Area 58) are due in November. Once received, they will be reviewed by a selection committee.

VIII. New Business

Community Representatives on the Board reported hearing rumors that the City is going to close the Airport Playfield recreation area. While it is true that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is conducting a land-use audit, the Airport benefits from in-kind services (maintenance, grass cutting, etc.) provided by Recreation. No property currently controlled by Recreation is being considered for use by Lunken Airport.

The Airport has been receiving noise complaints relative to the touch-and-go landings activity over communities to the east of Lunken. Residents have asked that more training flights are routed to the west of the Airport as well as limiting the number of aircraft simultaneously participating in training. Bob will continue to meet with the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) and the flight schools to discuss practical ways to help reduce the impact of training-related noise. Additionally, Lunken plans to collect real-time noise monitoring data in the community. The City does not have the authority to direct or change aircraft flight paths. Once an aircraft is airborne it is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the FAA and ATCT. Since Lunken is a federally obligated public-use Airport, it is not permitted to restrict or prohibit flight training activities, and it cannot restrict the number of flight schools. Doing so would violate federal law and Lunken's federal grant assurances. The Airport will support any voluntary noise abatement procedures that can be developed in coordination with local flight schools, ATCT, and the FAA. Noise complaints should be emailed to **lunken.airport@cincinnati-oh.gov**.

The City received 44 applications for the Airport Manager position. Eight candidates were initially interviewed, and 3 will be offered a second interview with the Director of DOTE.

Submitted by Elaine Luchi
Lunken Airport Administration

Next meeting: Monday, December 8, 2025 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.