

Lunken Airport Oversight Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2026

Present: Anne Sesler, Neil Tilow, James Murray, Elissa Pogue, Jane Sites

Also: Bob Vickrey, Seth Timmerman, Mike Brenner, Danny Jones, Howard, Elaine Luchi

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes

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

III. Hotel Development Update

Danny Jones from the Office of Strategic Growth updated the Board on the Hotel Development Project. The Developers were given a brief extension for the construction commencement deadline to allow them to obtain building permits and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approval of the design. The extension includes stipulations that certain milestones be completed by specific dates. An application to create "Subdivision" status for the project will go before the City Planning Commission. Installation of a temporary fence and demolition will begin in September. Seth told the Board that the historical artifacts in the Terminal will be recorded and removed with the intent of reincorporation throughout the building. The completion deadline was adjusted to June 30, 2028.

IV. Operations Report

June and July were record months for operations keeping Lunken on pace for 120,000 or more for 2026. These numbers are more impressive considering that the excessive heat caused buckling of areas of pavement and the temporary closure of one of the two runways. Seth explained that while the sustained high temperatures aren't good for any pavement, the older and deteriorating conditions at Lunken are more susceptible to heat damage.

V. Financial Report

The Financial Report at this meeting was the summary for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 2025 through June 2026). Although expenses increased, revenues also went up resulting in a net income of \$1.1 million. Those funds will be used toward local matches to grants. Neil believes a monthly report identifying trends would be helpful.

VI. Customs Facility Update

Sixty percent of the design plan is expected by the end of August. The Consultant is working with the Department of Buildings and Inspections (B&I) on Building Code compliance issues. Technically, the space Customs would occupy in the hangar is in a flood plain. If B&I rejects the plans, the decision has a good chance of being reversed on appeal since the hangar will only have intermittent use.

VII. Strategic Business Plan

The City has received eight draft chapters of the Strategic Business Plan (SBP) thus far. In conjunction with the SBP, the City is seeking an outside appraisal group to assess the value of any lease areas whose rental agreements are ending in the next two-three years, along with

another developable parcel that became available when the former Runway 3L/21R was decommissioned.

VIII. Land Development

Kroger was provided with a Draft Lease for Lease Area 58 (6-acre parcel south of former Runway 3L/21R) for their review. Their existing hangar will be repurposed.

IX. Communications

The Hotel Development Group plans to launch a Facebook page for the project once construction begins. There is a City of Cincinnati Government Facebook page that has Lunken news at times, but if Lunken were to start one of its own it would be time-consuming and all content would need approval from the City Manager's Communications office.

X. New Business

Seth will send the LAOAB Rules and Regulations to all members for their review before the next meeting's discussion about possible updates.

Jeff McLean's retirement from P&G has left a vacancy on the Board. The Mayor's office is aware of two individuals (one from Kroger and one from P&G) that are interested in filling the opening.

Jane received several screen shots from the Flightradar 24 app from residents of Highland Heights showing aircraft directly over their home. She asked if planes can be directed over other areas to reduce the number of flights over the same neighborhood. James explained that aircraft must be in line with runways on arrival and departure. Highland Heights is located under the final approach for landing on Runway 3, particularly when using the Instrument Landing System (ILS). When departing on Runway 21 in that direction, the standard clearance from the Tower is to remain in line with the runway until reaching 2,500 feet in altitude. Pilots are then instructed to make their turn, sometimes before reaching Highland Heights and sometimes later. Seth emphasized that the Air Traffic Controllers are adhering to FAA procedures and safety standards. He said that the Airport does record and respond to every noise complaint it receives. The preferred method of reporting is through Cincy311. Also, safety concerns should be directed to the FAA's local Flight Standard District Office (FSDO).

The October 12 meeting will be held at the Lone Mountain Flight School with an option to participate remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Submitted by Elaine Luchi
Lunken Airport Administration

Next meeting: Monday, October 12, 2026 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Lone Mountain Flight School, 4700 Airport Road or Microsoft Teams