

Airport Advisory Commission



MINUTES

August 20, 2026 3:00 p.m.

International Stearman Community Center, Stearman Building, Second Floor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Aaron Repp at 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present

Aaron Repp (Chairperson)
Ken Springer (KCAP Rep)
David Carlton
David Christensen
Phillip Wolford (FBO Rep)

Ex-Officio

Aaron Gavin (Director of Public Works)
Don Miles (Director of Parks & Recreation)

Absent

Greg Saul (Council Liaison)

Public Members in Attendance

Stuart Olmstead
Scott Delawder
Toby Myers

3. Approval of Minutes: July 16, 2026 Meeting

Aaron Repp made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as presented and seconded by David Carlton. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Updates and Reports:

a. FBO Update (Phillip Wolford)

Phillip Wolford provided the FBO update stating that he wanted the city to look at the sidewalk that leads to the Jet Air office from the apron and try and address the issue with it holding water during a rain. Toby Myers stated that he would like the city to pour concrete around the manholes near the Stearman building. The surrounding rock is washing into them. Phillip stated that there are currently 49 airplanes registered for the Stearman Fly-in and they are expecting a good turnout based on current sign-up numbers. Community days will be held on Monday (Labor Day) and on Saturday. Aaron Repp asked about mowing before the Stearman. Phillip Wolford requested that the grass runway be mowed as low as possible prior to the event. Phillip also mentioned that he saw that the weeds on the apron were being sprayed and mentioned that it needs crack filled in the future. Phillip stated that the parking lot looks really good.

b. Airport Manager Update (Aaron Gavin)

Aaron Gavin provided the Airport Manager update stating that he spoke with IDOT Aeronautics about the issue with the AWOS. IDOT provided an update on the Statewide grant program being developed that will provide funding for all general aviation airports. It is likely still a couple of years away but will fully fund the necessary replacements. Aaron Gavin stated that he also spoke with Greenville Airport as they replaced their AWOS using their BIL funds and said the cost was over \$400,000. Aaron recommended that the airport wait until the grant program funds become available.

An update on the fuel farm project was provided. A revised location was submitted to IDOT Aeronautics and the FAA for the 100LL self service. The revised location is similar to the original location, just shifted to the west onto the apron and just out of the primary surface boundary line that was flagged in the FAA review. The new location has to be reviewed by the FAA lines of business that reviewed originally. A rush was put on the review, but no exact timeline is available.

Aaron stated that the parking lot project was suspended until September 14th after the Stearman Fly-in. Final seeding and another round of pavement striping will be completed after that date.

The solar project is still awaiting final FAA approval. City Council recently approved the utility and access easement to allow the contractor access to the site and to bore electric to the installation. It is still anticipated that the project will start this year.

IDOT Aeronautics plans to inspect the airport tomorrow, Friday August 20th. This inspection is done once every 3 years. Aaron Repp asked about the tree removal that was identified in the last inspection. Don Miles stated that some of it had been taken care of. Aaron Repp asked about the trees identified as obstructions on Cactus Country property. Don Miles said that he recalls the city looking into this but were told that they couldn't cut them down and that a previous city attorney was involved. Aaron Repp advised that it should be looked into again and the city should try and address the obstruction.

Phillip Wolford asked about blocking off a parking spot using striping at the south end of the new parking lot. Jet Air takes deliveries through their entrance there and do not want vehicles occupying the space. Aaron Gavin stated that he would look at it after the meeting.

David Carlton asked if the original conduit was still under the apron and could be utilized for the new location for the fuel farm. Aaron stated that it likely could not be utilized and was investigated at the previous location.

David Christensen asked if there were any updates on the operations counts. Aaron Gavin stated that an update was handed out at last month's meeting but he did not pull figures for this month. Aaron Repp shared a copy of last month's handout.

c. Airport Maintenance Update (Don Miles)

Don Miles provided the maintenance update stating that crews were working to keep up with the mowing. He stated that dirt has been piled up for use in low areas and they

have been spraying weeds on the apron. Aaron Repp said that the striping by the car gate looked great. Don said that they would roll the runway before the Fly-in and that the beacon was working. Phillip asked if it was still the plan to bury the electric at the entrance to the parking lot and Aaron Gavin stated that was still the plan.

5. Old/Tabled Business:

a. Proposed Hangar Land Lease discussion – Midwest Custom Ag

Aaron Gavin stated that he was still waiting on feedback from Midwest Custom Ag on the site layout and draft lease. He did hear from Cody at Midwest Custom Ag and their attorneys are currently reviewing it. Aaron Repp asked if he could get a copy of what was sent by the city for review.

6. New Business:

None

7. General Discussion of other Airport Related Topics

Ken Springer asked how things were looking for the Stearman Fly-in. Phillip Wolford responded that attendance is looking good and 49 aircraft had signed up so far. Some pilots don't sign up but show up so they are expecting a good turnout. Phillip also said that for the 25th anniversary of 9/11, Heather Penney will be at the event to give a speech on Labor Day. Heather Penney was a fighter pilot who was in the air on 9/11 and one of the pilots instructed to take down the last plane if necessary. She also owns and flies a Stearman. Ken Springer asked if the local media was aware of this. Phillip stated that he hadn't talked to the media yet but planned to. Dave Christensen asked what time the speech is. Aaron Repp stated the dinner was at 6:00 p.m with the speech to follow at 7:00. Phillip Wolford also stated that Dream Flights is coming in with 8 total signed up and Seminary Village is sponsoring. Dream Flights provide flights to military veterans in a Stearman plane. Scott Delawder recommended

8. Citizen Comments

Scott Delawder asked about the food night events that are held in downtown Galesburg and whether the airport could host one of them instead of it being held in the downtown. Aaron Gavin stated that the city doesn't put these events on, they are privately organized, so we would not have control over moving one of the events to the airport.

9. Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment: A motion was made by David Christensen seconded by Ken Springer, to adjourn the meeting at 3:43 p.m.