Airport Advisory Commission

MINUTES

September 17, 2026 3:00 p.m.
International Stearman Community Center, Stearman Building, Second Floor

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1. **Call to Order**

   The meeting was called to order by Aaron Repp at 3:04 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**:

   Present
   Aaron Repp (Chairperson)
   Ken Springer (KCAP Rep)
   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)
   David Carlton

   Public Members in Attendance
   Toby Myers

3. **Approval of Minutes:** August 20, 2026 Meeting
   Ken Springer made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as presented and seconded by David Christensen. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Updates and Reports:**

   a. FBO Update (Phillip Wolford)

   Phillip Wolford provided the FBO update stating that 93 Stearman participated in the Fly-in, the 2nd highest in the last 5 years. There were a few issues with Stearman planes while traveling to the event but no injuries. A windsock did get damaged during the Fly-in. It was old and its main use is only during the event, so may replace with a portable one that would only be put out when needed. The community days were well attended, and the radio station was in attendance. Will likely hold two community day events on Monday and Saturday going forward. The EAA did an amazing job of having activities for the kids. There were over 600 people at the pancake breakfast. The weather was good overall and the City did a phenomenal job of keeping up with things.

   Don Miles asked if the new parking lot was well-received. Phillip stated that it was, and he received many compliments and in general people loved it. The only critique was the lack of lighting which is planned to be addressed in the future. Don asked if lights were going to be put on the building that would shine out onto the lot. Aaron Gavin stated that that was the plan along with two lights on the west side of the new lot. Toby Myers stated that he talked to Justin McNaught and it is planned to wait and see what it looks like after

the two lights are installed. Phillip Wolford stated that we may want to look into a second entrance to the lot in the future as it did get a little congested at the one entrance.

b. Airport Manager Update (Aaron Gavin)

Aaron Gavin provided the Airport Manager update stating that the City is still waiting on a final response from the FAA on the revised fuel farm location. The ALP redline was approved by IDOT. It will likely come down to whether the same line of business at the FAA approves of the shift to the west or not. Emails are being sent weekly to check on the status since an expedited review was promised.

Aaron provided an update on the solar project, stating that they are still waiting on the last remaining approval from the FAA. Some of the language in the land use change needs to be revised.

Aaron also spoke on the parking lot, stating that the City's Traffic Division plans to complete a few projects yet this fall now that the new lot is complete. These include the installation of the lighting that was mentioned before, the electrical work to bury the line leading to the building, and striping the parking lot space on the south end that was requested at the last meeting.

Aaron Gavin stated that it is planned to seal coat the roads around the airport next year. The funds have been added to the 2027 budget for approval. Phillip asked about sealing the cracks in Runway 3-21. Don Miles stated that he would check the budget to see if there are funds for this work.

Aaron Repp asked about the results of the IDOT inspection last month. Aaron Gavin stated that he had not gotten the official inspection report but believed that there were trees that needed to be trimmed back. Some trees were removed after the last inspection, but it was noted during the inspection that more work needed to be done. Aaron Repp asked if there was a navigation easement executed on the parcel that Cactus Country sits on so that those trees could be trimmed. Aaron Gavin stated that he wasn't aware of one but would look into it.

Phillip Wolford asked if a special event form needed to be submitted to the FAA for next year's Stearman Fly-in. Aaron Gavin stated that these have been submitted before, but it has taken a year or more to get a response, and it typically comes in after the event has happened.

Aaron provided the latest operations counts to the group for review.

c. Airport Maintenance Update (Don Miles)

Don Miles provided the maintenance update stating that he appreciated the comments on the mowing and maintenance. The drainage and downspout work in front of the Jet Air hangar is ongoing but will hopefully be completed by the next meeting. They are

waiting on Roto Rooter to come finish the sanitary repair in front of the hangar. Toby Myers stated that the gutter work that was done worked well.

5. Old/Tabled Business:

a. Proposed Hangar Land Lease discussion – Midwest Custom Ag

Aaron Gavin began the discussion pointing out the comments that Midwest Custom Ag provided on the lease. Toby Myers stated that he still had concerns about the fuel and feels they should have to follow the same regulations that they have to follow with the City's tanks. He referenced the AOPA self-service and self-fueling guidelines and stated that they contradict that we are required to allow them to have their own fuel.

Phillip Wolford stated that if they want to have their own fuel, he thinks that there should be a separate agreement from the land lease agreement that is specifically for the fuel. Aaron Gavin stated that the land lease agreement could be for a period of 60 years if it is extended, which is a long time. He agreed a separate fuel agreement may be necessary.

Aaron Gavin also stated that he has concerns with where they will be able to put a tank due to the regulations. The size of the land lease will likely be restricted to the building footprint, but the fuel may need to be put in another location. Aaron Repp stated that if there was not a location to put the fuel, they have the option of bringing in a fuel truck. Aaron Repp also stated that we could regulate the fuel but cannot be unfair.

Aaron Repp provided information from the ACRP on the right to self-service and stated that is a great resource to ensure we follow the proper guidelines on issues such as this. He asked if there was any information in the City's ordinances regarding fuel. Aaron Gavin stated that he would check.

Ken Springer stated that he didn't agree with the language change that they made on the time to complete construction. Saying that they will "endeavor" to complete it in 24 months may not be enforceable. He also was not sure why they would not want to record the lease. He was in agreement with having a separate fuel agreement.

David Christensen asked if the price of the lease increased over time. Aaron Gavin stated that it increases each year by the CPI index.

Aaron Gavin stated that he would do some research on the fuel and discuss with the City's airport consultant to see what they have seen for fuel requirements at other airports.

6. New Business:

None

7. General Discussion of other Airport Related Topics

Aaron Repp stated that the MALSR was fixed. Phillip Wolford stated that Kewanee Airport has a non-approved AWOS that broadcasts.

8. **Citizen Comments**

None

9. **Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

10. **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Phillip Wolford seconded by Ken Springer, to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 p.m.