City of Arts & Innovation

AIRPORT COMMISSION
MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026, 3 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Gibbs, Gamblin, Delpino, Lofthouse and Trigueros.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Dean and Daniel Prather.

The Airport Commission convened the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING
EXCUSED ABSENCE OF COMMISSIONER GAMBLIN

A motion was made by Commissioner Gamblin and a second by Commissioner Trigueros to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioners approved items number two and three unanimously.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commission Steven Delpino wanted clarification of the duties of the Airport Commission Chair and Co-Chair positions. Commission Cynthia Gibbs explained that the Chair conducts and is in control of the Airport Commission Meeting and the Co-Chair fills in for the Chair when the Chair is absent. After recommendations, Commissioner Delpino accepted the Airport Commissioner Chair position and Commissioner Carlos Trigueros accepted the Co-Chair position. Commissioners approved item number four unanimously congratulating Commissioner Delpino and Commissioner Trigueros on their new positions.

MARCH 2026 AIRPORT MANAGERS' REPORT

Airport Manager Daniel Prather began his report by informing the Commission on his recent attendance at the Vertical Aviation Internation Convention in Atlanta (VERTICON). Prather discussed airport operations were up in the month of January of 2026 compared to the same month in 2025. Prather also discussed financial numbers current as of January 2026.

Prather informed the Commission of the results of the 2026 Airport Tenant Survey. Prather alluded to three main themes from the results of the survey which included the implementation of the red line on the airport ramp, the loss of automatic payments for airport billing and foreign object debris (FOD), gravel, weeds and rock around the airport. Results we based on questions asked, including prices at the airport compared to other airports, and the level of satisfaction with airport services, facilities and airport staff. Based on a scale of 1-5 the airport ranked 4.32 in 2026 compared to 4.02 in 2025.

Prather updated the commission of the upcoming council items which included the application for a seven and a half million dollar grant for improvements to the terminal parking lot, Flight Road, Gemende Drive, and various traffic operations surrounding the airport.

Prather spoke about other upcoming council items such as a supplemental agreement with Mead & Hunt, a five-year lease extension with CAVU Maintenance, a five-year lease extension agreement with Commemorative Air Force and a ten-year lease extension agreement with Waypoint Aviation.

Commissioner David Lofthouse started the discussion asking to clarify the airport's fuel flowage fees which was a question on the tenant survey. Prather explained that the airport charges a fee of ten cents per gallon purchased to the owners of each fuel station at the airport. Prather added that most general aviation airports do not charge a landing fee and instead charge fuel flowage fees to help offset costs. Lofthouse added that he attended the tenant appreciation meeting on February 19th and was asked by a tenant about the possibility of expanding the airport's transient parking spaces. Prather eluded that space at the airport is at a premium and current ramp space is maxed out. Prather said the future of the westside expansion project could open more transient parking spots.

Commissioner Trigueros asked about the possibility of more office staff in reference to the results from the tenant survey. Prather agreed that more office staff are needed and that will be addressed in the fall.

Commissioner Briggs Gamblin asked how much of the westside project would be dedicated to transient parking. Prather stated that the westside would be one hundred percent aeronautical with a mixture of tiedowns, hangars and a possible fuel facility.

Commissioner Delpino asked if the airport was looking into additional revenue streams. Prather informed the commission that the economic development plan and the economic impact study that is currently in the works will evaluate uses of airport land and future business partnerships. Pather also stated that the former ten thousand square foot Flight Service Station is in possible renovation stages which could bring the airport between ten to twelve thousand dollars in revenue monthly.

Commissioner Delpino asked to clarify about the loss of the automatic payment system opportunity from the tenant survey results. Prather stated that this was an internal decision made by the city and that the goal is to implement a tenant portal where tenants can view billing and make maintenance requests.

Delpino then asked for more information on the long-term lease agreements with CAVU, Commemorative Air Force and Waypoint Aviation. Prather made the point that these extensions were in their respective lease agreements and each tenant was exercising their option to renew. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lofthouse and a second by Commissioner Gamblin to approve the March Airport Managers Report as presented. Commissioners approved items number five unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

UPDATES OF CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND REGIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner Trigueros spoke about representing the airport at the Mobility and Infrastructure Committee Meeting earlier in the day. Trigueros stated that I comment was made about the future of upgrading our Air Traffic Control Tower.
Commissioner Gibbs spoke about attending an airport noise conference and how many communities are not airport friendly when it comes to aircraft noise issues. Gibbs thanked the airport for bringing the community to events that the airport hosts.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION
Airport Operations Analyst Michael Dean reminded the Commission of the upcoming Aerospace Expo on April 11th as well as the Earth Day Celebration at the airport on April 22nd.

The Airport Commission adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dean

MICHAEL DEAN
Airport Operations Analyst