



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
corpuschristitx.gov

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Airport Board

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

3:30 PM

Airport Board Room
1000 International Blvd. C.C., TX. 78406

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A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hicks at 3:33 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: 9 - Vice Chair John LaRue, Kristen Martinez, Travis Patterson, Sara Azali, Jesse Noyola, Brook Kaufman, Christine Belin, Ricardo Talavera, and Mark Almaguer

Absent: 2 - Jeremy Taylor, and Aaron Bowman

C. Public Comment

James Campbell, the Corpus Christi Station Manager for Southwest Airlines, informed the Airport Board that the Corpus Christi International Airport's Southwest station has been awarded the 2025 Station of the Year Award. He noted that there were 59 stations competing for this honor. Campbell expressed his gratitude to the Airport Board and Airport Leadership for their partnership with Southwest Airlines, emphasizing that this achievement is only possible when the airport operates smoothly.

He also mentioned that March 1, 2027, will mark the 50th anniversary of the Corpus Christi Southwest Airlines station, which is the second station established outside of the original Southwest triangle that includes San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas. Campbell stated that he is currently collaborating with the Airport Staff to plan a celebration for this milestone.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [26-0589](#) Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2026 Regular Airport Board Meeting

Attachments: [03252026 - March Regular Airport Board Meeting Minutes - Unpublished](#)

Board Member Patterson moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2026 Airport Board meeting as written, seconded by Board Member Talavera. The motion carried.

2. [26-0590](#) Approval of the Absences of the March 25, 2026 Regular Airport Board Meeting

Attachments: [2026 BOARD ATTENDANCE RECORD](#)

First Vice-Chairman LaRue moved to excuse the absence of Christine Belin at the March 25, 2026 Airport Board meeting, seconded by Board Member Patterson. The motion carried.

E. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

3. [26-0591](#) Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action to recommend City Council approve a five-year farm lease with Matt Danysh Farms, Inc.

Attachments: [04292026 - Matt Danysh Farms Lease](#)

Teresa Martinez, the Airport Property Manager, informed the Airport Board that airport staff is seeking approval to enter into a lease agreement with Matt Danysh Farms, Inc., the current operator. The lease pertains to 692.35 acres of aeronautical land. Martinez noted that the lease includes a fixed annual escalation of one percent, resulting in an initial annual revenue of \$89,213, with increases scheduled for years two through five. She indicated that this item will be presented to the City Council for approval. Board Member Belin moved to recommend that City Council approve the lease with Matt Danysh Farms, Inc., seconded by Board Member Noyola. The motion carried.

4. [26-0592](#) Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action to recommend City Council approve a five-year farm lease agreement with Ordner Farms and 4S Farms Partnership.

Attachments: [04292026 - Ordner Farms Lease](#)

Teresa Martinez, the Airport Property Manager, informed the Airport Board that airport staff is seeking approval to enter into a lease agreement with 4S Farms Partnership and Ordner Farms, the current operator. The lease pertains to 640.48 acres of aeronautical land. Martinez noted that the lease includes a fixed annual escalation of one percent, resulting in an initial annual revenue of \$76,979.29, with increases scheduled for years two through five. She indicated that this item will be presented to the City Council for approval. Board Member Noyola moved to recommend that City Council approve the lease with 4S Farms Partnership and Ordner Farms, seconded by Board Member Patterson. The motion carried.

5. [26-0593](#) Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action to recommend City Council approve a five-year grazing lease agreement with Ordner Farms and 4S Farms Partnership.

Attachments: [04292026 - Ordner Farms Grazing Lease](#)

Teresa Martinez, the Airport Property Manager, informed the Airport Board that airport

staff is seeking approval to enter into a grazing lease agreement with 4S Farms Partnership and Ordner Farms, the current operator. The lease pertains to 28.73 acres tract of land. Martinez noted that the lease includes a fixed annual escalation of one percent, resulting in an initial annual revenue of \$1,102.66 with increases scheduled for years two through five. She indicated that this item will be presented to the City Council for approval. Board Member Noyola moved to recommend that City Council approve the grazing lease with 4S Farms Partnership and Ordner Farms, seconded by Board Member Talavera. The motion carried.

6. [26-0594](#) Discussion on the Election of Airport Board Officers at the May Meeting.

Attachments: [04292026 - Board Elections](#)

First Vice-Chairman LaRue reviewed the officer election process with the Board Members. He explained that all positions need to be filled, including Chairman, First Vice-Chairman, and Second Vice-Chairman. All nominations should come from the Board Members and be sent to Irene Segovia. Mr. LaRue stated that the deadline for nominations is May 22, 2026. It was noted that if multiple individuals are nominated for any position, ballots will be used for voting. Mr. LaRue confirmed that the elections will take place during the May Airport Board meeting. Board Member Martinez expressed interest in serving as Chairman, while Board Members Belin and Talavera expressed interest in serving as either First or Second Vice-Chairman. Discussion was heard on this item.

F. Staff Reports

7. [26-0595](#) Monthly Air Service Report

Attachments: [04292026 - Monthly Air Service Report](#)

Director McCurley reported on the air service activity for March 2026. A discussion was held regarding this item. Board Member Talavera requested that the load factors for Frontier Airlines, starting from when they began service at the airport, be included in next month's air service report.

8. [26-0596](#) Financial Report

Attachments: [04292026 - Financial Report](#)

Assistant Director Miller reviewed the Financial Report for March 2026. Board Member Noyola requested information regarding the financial impact of the three hours of free parking offered at the airport. Board Member Martinez suggested that Airport Staff meet with the food concessionaire, Tailwind, to discuss the possibility of providing vouchers to both the FBOs and the Coast Guard, as well as outside terminal tenants, to promote the pre-security restaurant. Assistant Director Miller noted that Airport Leadership had met with Tailwind the previous week to discuss their performance in various areas and to share ideas for improving their performance. Discussion was heard on this item.

9. [26-0597](#) Capital Improvement Report

Attachments: [04292026 - Capital Improvement Report](#)

Assistant Director Valgardson provided an update on the ongoing projects at the airport. The projects include an airport-wide LED Lighting Project, which has a total cost of \$305,970 and will be fully funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Other projects mentioned are the Baggage Handling System Improvement Project, the Taxiway Echo Rehabilitation Project, the International Drive Reconstruction Project, the Long-Term Parking Lot Improvement Project, and the Texan Gas Station Project. A discussion regarding these items followed.

10. [26-0598](#) Operations Department Report

Attachments: [04292026 - Operations Department Report](#)

Assistant Director Valgardson reviewed the Operations Department Report. He noted that the Operations Department is responsible for several key tasks, including:

- Quarterly fueling inspections and
- Maintenance of certifications and training
- Monthly site inspections of stormwater drains
- Yearly hazardous material inspections

Additionally, the Operations Department maintains the airport's Wildlife Hazard Management Plan. They conduct a monthly NOTAM audit and provide training for employees who are authorized to drive in movement areas. The department also holds monthly meetings to raise awareness about foreign object debris (FOD) and manages the Irregular Operations Plan (IROPS).

Discussion was heard on this item.

11. [26-0599](#) Marketing Report

Attachments: [04292026 - Marketing Report](#)

Director McCurley reported that Airport Leadership recently met with American Airlines to discuss the establishment of a non-stop flight route to Phoenix. He indicated that American Airlines is interested in developing a business model for this route, with the possibility of launching it in mid-2027.

Additionally, Director McCurley mentioned that Airport Leadership also met with the Southwest Airlines team to explore non-stop flights to Las Vegas or Orlando. They are focusing on route consolidation and plan to have further discussions in the latter part of 2026.

Furthermore, Director McCurley shared that CCIA hosted a field trip for Community Options, Inc. on March 30, 2026.

12. [26-0600](#) Director's Report

Assistant Director Valgardson provided an update on the crash incident that occurred on April 13, 2026, along Highway 44, just off airport property. He explained that when the FAA control tower reported the crash, they did not specify the exact location. As a result, one Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) vehicle responded initially before it was clarified that the incident was off airport property. Typically, because the crash happened outside the airport perimeter, the City Police and Fire Departments would be responsible for the response. However, since the airport had the capability to assist, they did so.

Valgardson noted that the incident revealed some deficiencies, prompting the airport to consider implementing backup power systems in case of power failures. He stated that the ARFF vehicle was the first to arrive on the scene to provide assistance. The incident caused the airport to shut down for an hour and a half due to smoke affecting the runway. This closure resulted in delays for three departing flights and three arriving flights. He emphasized the significant mutual aid support received during the incident.

Ex-Officio Kaufman inquired whether the airport could share its plans regarding the water shortage issue. Director McCurley responded that the airport is currently assessing the situation and will hold its first kickoff meeting on Thursday to begin planning and ensure alignment with the City's goals. He assured that an update on the airport's plans will be provided in the coming months.

G. Future Agenda Items

First Vice-Chairman LaRue suggested that CCIA consider implementing a visitor pass program similar to the one at the Seattle airport. He explained that this program allows family or friends to apply for a pass that enables them to go through the TSA checkpoint without needing a flight ticket. He believes this would serve as an incentive and provide additional benefits for customers. Director McCurley noted that this idea is on the action item list for the new Marketing & Air Service Development Manager once that position is filled.

Board Member Talavera mentioned that he spoke with someone from a non-profit organization focused on Alzheimer's. He inquired whether the airport could display information about the organization. Director McCurley requested the organization's contact details so that airport staff could reach out to discuss the possibility of setting up the display.

H. Adjournment

As there was no further business to discuss, First Vice-Chairman LaRue adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.