



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
corpuschristitx.gov

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Airport Board

Thursday, May 28, 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 First Vice-Chairman LaRue at 3:33 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Vice Chair John LaRue, Kristen Martinez, Jesse Noyola, Christine Belin, Michael Sanders, Ricardo Talavera, and Mark Almaguer

Absent: 5 - Travis Patterson, Sara Azali, Brook Kaufman, Jeremy Taylor, and Aaron Bowman

C. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Michael Sanders introduced himself as the new Airport Board Member. He mentioned that he is the Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the Autonomy Research Institute at Texas A&M University. Mr. Sanders briefly shared some background information about himself and the projects that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) is currently working on.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [26-0805](#) Approval of the Minutes of the April 29, 2026 Regular Airport Board Meeting

Attachments: [04292026 - April Regular Airport Board Meeting Minutes - Unpublished](#)

Board Member Belin moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026 Airport Board meeting as written, seconded by Board Member Talavera. The motion carried.

2. [26-0806](#) Approval of the Absences of the April 29, 2026 Regular Airport Board Meeting

Attachments: [2026 BOARD ATTENDANCE RECORD](#)

Board Member Noyola moved to excuse the absence of Jeremy Taylor at the April 29, 2026 Airport Board meeting, seconded by Board Member Martinez. The motion carried.

E. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

3. [26-0807](#) Nominations and Possible Action to Elect Airport Board Officers for 2026-2027

First Vice-Chairman LaRue announced the nominations received from Airport Staff for the positions of Airport Board Officers. The nominees were Kristen Martinez for Chairman, and Christine Belin along with Ricardo Talavera for the positions of First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman. After some discussion, Board Member Talavera stated that he and Board Member Belin had agreed that he would pursue the First Vice-Chairman position, while Board Member Belin would aim for the Second Vice-Chairman position. Since there were no additional nominations, the Airport Board unanimously approved the election of Kristen Martinez as Chairman, Ricardo Talavera as First Vice-Chairman, and Christine Belin as Second Vice-Chairman.

4. [26-0808](#) Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action to recommend City Council approve a 12-month lease with Alvest Equipment Services (USA), LLC

Attachments: [05272026 - Alvest Equipment Services Lease Agreement](#)

Teresa Martinez, the Airport Property Manager, informed the board that the Airport Staff was seeking approval to recommend a 12-month lease agreement with Alvest Equipment Services (AES) for an annual rent of \$9,048.96. She explained that AES needed storage space for their ground support equipment repair tools and high-value assets. AES specializes in ground power units and currently subcontracts with United Airlines for their services.

During the discussion, the Airport Staff and the Airport Board expressed their interest in securing additional space for AES and their equipment in the future. This could include the possibility of a facility with bays, which will be considered in the master plan.

Board Member LaRue moved to approve the recommendation for a lease agreement with Alvest Equipment Services, and Board Member Noyola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

F. Staff Reports

5. [26-0809](#) Monthly Air Service Report

Attachments: [05272026 - Monthly Air Service Report](#)

Assistant Director Valgardson reported on the air service activity for April 2026. He also provided an update on Frontier Airlines' performance for the first and second quarters, reminding the Airport Board that Frontier's contract is in effect until August

2026. Assistant Director Valgardson advised that the Airport should expect to hear from Frontier in the coming months regarding whether they will continue the route to Colorado through CCIA. A discussion on this topic followed.

6. [26-0810](#) Financial Report

Attachments: [05272026 - Financial Report](#)

Yvette Cavazos, Senior Management Assistant in Finance, reviewed the Finance Report for April 2026. She also provided information regarding the 3-hour free parking, which was brought up during a question at the last Airport Board meeting. Discussion was heard on this item.

7. [26-0811](#) Marketing Report

Attachments: [05272026 - Marketing Report](#)

Assistant Director Valgardson informed the Airport Board that the airport had conducted its final field trip of the school year. He reported that approximately 100 students from W.C. Andrews Elementary School in Portland, TX, visited the airport on May 13, 2026. The students were divided into two groups, and airport staff provided information about the various departments at the airport and their respective responsibilities.

Chairman Martinez asked if the Marketing Manager position had been posted, and Assistant Director Valgardson advised that it was still pending review by the City's Human Resources Department.

8. [26-0812](#) Director's Report

Assistant Director Valgardson reported that the recent storms caused several power outages at the airport. Through the Terminal Rehabilitation Project, the airport obtained a new generator. However, when power was lost, the generator activated but did not transfer power, leaving the airport without electricity for about 30 minutes. Assistant Director Valgardson stated that this was a warranty issue, which has since been resolved. One generator has been fixed, while the other requires manual activation, resulting in downtime that depends on how long it takes for someone to reach the generator to turn it on. The airport is in the process of hiring a company to examine the generator and provide recommendations for fixing the issue.

Additionally, Assistant Director Valgardson reported that on Wednesday, the airport experienced four lightning strikes, one of which caused damage to a section of the safety area near Runway 18/36, creating a crater approximately four feet wide and eight inches deep in the pavement. As a result, Runway 18/36 was closed for about five hours; however, Runway 13/31 remained operational. The airport's airfield team has since patched the damaged area with cold patch material.

Assistant Director Valgardson also introduced Leah Steadman as the new Finance Accountant III Supervisor, who will work under Assistant Director Miller. The Airport

Board welcomed Ms. Steadman to the team.

Board Member Noyola reported receiving a complaint about the condition of the airport floors. Assistant Director Valgardson replied that the floors are currently being stripped and waxed in sections. The terminal floor on the second level has been completed, and the Maintenance Technician is currently working on the floors in the secured area.

Board Member Talavera also mentioned a complaint regarding the parking lot kiosk not functioning properly. Assistant Director Valgardson explained that the parking lot now has a new system in place, and there have been no issues reported. Therefore, the complaint may have originated when the old system was still operational. Board Member Talavera further stated that he had been approached by Marissa Ford from the Alzheimer's Association about a display inside the airport terminal. Teresa Martinez, the Airport Property Manager, responded that she had already contacted Ms. Ford and was awaiting information regarding the size of the display.

Board Member Talavera also requested an update on the "Big Toot" and "Little Toot" planes that were to be donated to the airport. Assistant Director Valgardson informed him that the airport would no longer be receiving the planes, as the family requested a substantial amount of funding from the airport for the donation, contrary to the initial proposal to donate and cover the transportation costs. As a result, the City Council decided to pursue a different direction.

Lastly, Board Member Belin inquired about an update from last month's discussion regarding direct flights to Florida or Phoenix. Assistant Director Valgardson stated that he did not have an update; however, Director McCurley has air service meetings scheduled for next month and should be able to provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.

G. Future Agenda Items

No items were presented for the future agenda.

H. Adjournment

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Martinez adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.