

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD**  
**Gerald R. Ford International Airport, International Room**  
**5500 44<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49512**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

A quorum being present, and in accordance with notice being duly given, Chair Koorndyk called the meeting of the Authority Board to order on February 24, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Chair Koorndyk welcomed everyone and asked for Board Member attendance by roll call:

Board Present: Mike Verhulst, Pete Beukema, Dan Burrill, Jennifer Merchant, Dan Koorndyk – 5

Board Absent: Doug Small, Birgit Klohs – 2

Staff Present: Tory Richardson – President and CEO  
Alex Peric – Vice President and COO  
Carlos Ruiz – Chief Commercial Officer  
Haley Meyer – Executive Assistant  
Clint Nemeth – Engineering and Sustainability Director  
Ashley Thorsen – Operations Director  
Matt Zeilstra – Controller  
Chris King-Dye – Maintenance and Asset Management Director  
Tom Cizauskas – Business Administration Manager  
Jon Couchenour – IT Support Analyst  
Ghassan Abukar – Director Information Technology & Telecommunications  
Jeff Berghage – Facilities Design and Construction Project Manager  
Brian Hilbrands – Planning Manager  
Derrick Grinnell – Chief Firefighter  
Heidi Groenboom – Communication and Events Supervisor  
Matt Johnson – Facilities Maintenance Manager  
Nicholas Wiebenga – Maintenance Systems and Project Manager

Others Present: Shawn Hardy (TPG), Josh Karp (CS Erickson), Gary Bell (SP Plus), Larry Booker (SP Plus), Corey Drews (TPG), Brian Greenleaf (Sabo PR), Scott Atchison

2-1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Mr. Burrill supported by Mr. Beukema the approval of the agenda.

2-2 Public Comment

Scott Atchison addressed the Board regarding the potential development of an information center in downtown Grand Rapids. He shared his thoughts and information about the proposed concept.

2-3 Special Presentation

Chair Koorndyk invited Ashley Thorsen, Director of Operations, to present the annual Guest Champion recognition award. Mrs. Thorsen introduced Gary Bell of SP Plus, as the recipient, acknowledging his outstanding work, dedication, and commitment to serving the airport and its guests.

2-4 Consent Agenda

a) Approval of Authority Board Minutes – January 28, 2026

**OPERATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE**

b) Resolution 26-2: Concourse B – Passenger Boarding Bridge Improvements

c) Resolution 26-3: Ground Support Equipment (GSE) Fuel Farm Expansion

d) Reports

- Project/Construction Report
- Public Safety and Operations Report
- Maintenance and Asset Management Report
- Media Report

Motion by Mr. Burrill supported by Mr. Beukema, the approval of consent agenda items a – d representing another \$7.7 million invested in our facilities.

Motion carried.

2-5 President and CEO Report

Mr. Richardson reviewed the CEO report.

2-6 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

2-7 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birgit Klohs, Secretary to the Board

HM

PROPOSED