

**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**  
**Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

A quorum being present, and in accordance with notice being duly given, Chair Koorndyk called the meeting of the Authority Board to order on June 25, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

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

Board Present: Mike Verhulst, Birgit Klohs, Dan Burrill, Jennifer Merchant, Doug Small, Pete Beukema, Dan Koorndyk – 7

Staff Present: Tory Richardson – President and CEO  
Alex Peric – Vice President and COO  
Haley Meyer – Executive Assistant  
Maria Kim – Chief Financial Officer  
Ashley Thorsen - Director of Operations  
Michelle Baker – Environmental Manager  
Chris King-Dye – Maintenance and Asset Management Director  
Tom Cizauskas – Business Administration Manager  
Haley Abbas – Marketing Manager  
Heidi Groenboom– Communications and Evens Associate  
Brian Hilbrands – Planning Manager  
Shelby Snyder – Operations Dispatch Supervisor  
Danielle Evans – Operations Dispatcher  
Ben Jachim – Airfield Maintenance Supervisor  
Jacob Heyboer – Equipment Operator II  
Dan Villalobos – Terminal Operations Supervisor  
Jon Couchenour – IT Support Analyst  
Tim Van Houten – Police Sergeant

Others Present: Mary Kay Shaver (Varnum), Alexandra Sax (Varnum), Ali Hijazi (Plante Moran) Sidney Baxter (Paws), Ashley Diersch (Paws), Michele Suchovsky (Paws), Peg Becker (GTT), Mary Alliston (GTT), Kaitlyn Stigers (Bouma), Austin Bender (Bouma), Kevin Morrison (Bouma), Mary Ann Sabo (Sabo PR), Brian Greenleaf (Sabo PR), Diego (Wood TV), WZZM Media Representative, Shawn Hardy (TPG), Josh Karp (CS Erickson), John Oliver, Carol Bronson, Joan Long, Kathy Ruiter, Sharon Brey, Charles Sneneraer, Laurie Brooks, Karen Krestukase

Chair Koorndyk acknowledged that many board members had received emails regarding Avelo Airlines and their business relationship with the airport and the federal government. He also addressed confusion surrounding the relationship between the airport and Kent county, clarifying that the airport is governed by an independent airport authority, not a department of Kent county, and does not receive funding from the Kent County.

Chair Koorndyk welcomed audience members in attendance and noted that some may be present to provide public comment. He outlined the process, stating that each speaker would be given up to five minutes, and encouraged organizations to designate a single spokesperson when possible. He added that public comment would be limited to one opportunity per person, with a total of 30 minutes allotted for all comments.

**6-1 Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Koorndyk requested to reorder agenda items 6-2 and 6-3 so that we can conduct the special presentations first. Chair Koorndyk asked to have a motion to approve the revised agenda swapping items 6-2 and 6-3.

Motion by Vice Chair Small, supported by Mrs. Klohs the approval of the revised agenda swapping items 6-2 and 6-3.

Motion Carried.

6-2 Special Presentation

Chair Koorndyk invited Casey Ries, Chief Asset and Development Officer, to the podium. Mr. Ries shared that on May 14<sup>th</sup>, the airport received a trophy which partner The Bouma Corporation earned as national winners of the prestigious Excellence in Construction award. Mr. Ries introduced Kevin Morrison, Kaitlyn Stigers, and Austin Bender from The Bouma Corporation, who shared a few words.

Mr. Richardson called on Ashley Thorsen, Director of Operations, who shared that the GRR Runway 5K on June 7<sup>th</sup> raised \$15,800 for our local charity partner, Paws With a Cause. Chair Koorndyk, Tory Richardson and Ashley Thorsen presented Michele Suchovsky, Ashley Diersch, and Sidney Baxter from Paws With a Cause with the check.

6-3 Public Comment

From 8:42 AM until 9:04AM, seven citizens addressed the board to share their concerns regarding ICE and Avelo Airlines.

6-4 Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Authority Board Minutes – May 28, 2025

OPERATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

- b) Resolution 25-7: Taxiway D Lighting
- c) Reports
- Project/Construction Report
  - Public Safety and Operations Report
  - Maintenance and Asset Management Report
  - Media Report

Motion by Mr. Small supported by Mr. Burrill, the approval of Consent Agenda items a – c representing approximately \$1.6M of investments in our facilities.

Motion carried.

6-5 Resolution 25-9: Acceptance of 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Chair Koorndyk said our external auditors, Plante & Moran PLLC, are present and just met with our Finance and Legislative Committee. Chair Koorndyk called for a motion for Resolution 25-9 before turning it over to Mrs. Kim and our auditors for further explanation.

Motion by Mrs. Klohs, supported by Mr. Beukema, the approval of the Acceptance of 2024 Audited Financial Statements and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Chair Koorndyk opened the discussion on the motion and turned to Audit Chair, Klohs for comments. Audit Chair, Klohs explained the audit process, finding, and timeline and thanked the Plante Moran team. There were no further questions or comments. Chair Koorndyk asked for votes by roll call.

Yeas: Dan Koorndyk, Doug Small, Birgit Klohs, Pete Beukema, Mike Verhulst, Jennifer Merchant, Dan Burrill – 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

6-6 Sustainability Management Plan

Mr. Richardson introduced Environmental Manager Michelle Baker to the podium. Ms. Baker provided an overview of the Sustainability Management Plan and shared the progress the team and

consultants have made over the past year.

6-7 President and CEO Report

Mr. Richardson reviewed the CEO report.

6-8 Other Business

Chair Koorndyk reminded everyone that the July meetings have been cancelled. He also noted the food trucks at the viewing park today from 10AM – 4PM.

6-9 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

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

HM

Proposed