

# **GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG AIRPORT COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**March 10, 2025**

The Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission met on March 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Greenville-Spartanburg District Office Board Room located at 500 Aviation Parkway Greer, South Carolina 29651. The public and media were given proper notice of this meeting, under applicable law. This was a regular, non-emergency meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Minor Shaw, Leland Burch, Valerie Miller (via teleconference), Jay Beeson, Doug Smith, Hunter Cuthbertson

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** None

**STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:** David Edwards, President/CEO; Betty O. Temple, WBD; Kevin Howell, Executive Vice President/COO; Thomas Brooks, Vice President/CFO; Kelly Dawsey, Vice President/CHRO; Deven Judd, Vice President/CCO; Zach Salvato, Vice President/CIO; Tom Tyra, Vice President/CMCO; Ryan Clark, Real Estate & Leasing Manager; Tiffany Cherry, Communications Manager; Tim Juul, Concessions Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:** John McAlmont, Parrish + Partners; Steve Van Beek, Steer Group; Amanda Sheridan, McFarland Johnson;

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Minor Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** A motion was made, seconded, and a unanimous vote was received to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A.** Approval of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport March 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B.** Approval of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport April 21, 2025 Audit Committee Meeting Minutes

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. Introduction of Proposed 5-Year Strategic Business Plan**

Kevin Howell, Executive Vice President/COO, introduced the Strategic Business Plan (SBP) presentation and welcomed Steve Van Beek of Steer Group, who is assisting with the Plan's development.

Dr. Van Beek provided an overview of the objectives of the SBP and context on GSP's strategic planning history from 2014 through 2025. He then shared a high-level review of

industry trends, including recent shifts in policymaking, economic factors affecting aviation demand, and projections for the airport industry over the coming years.

The presentation outlined the proposed goals for the GSP Strategic Business Plan 2026-2030, including:

- Building on GSP's strong financial performance with greater internal visibility of financials
- Strengthening safety and security with an enhanced focus on cybersecurity threats and risk management
- Delivering superior customer service experiences by expanding GSP's reputation for excellence and focusing on resiliency
- Attracting, developing, and retaining top talent to differentiate GSP in the Upstate's competitive labor market
- Increasing GSP's leadership presence and influence throughout the Upstate region

Dr. Van Beek discussed upcoming next steps, including continued work on detailed actions and performance measures, publication of the SBP's top-line elements, and a future update to the Commission scheduled for July 2025.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

**PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT:**

**A. Aviation Industry Update**

David Edwards, President/CEO, provided an update on the aviation industry. He reported that airlines' quarterly earnings show they are performing very well financially. Although there is currently a slight slowdown in ticket bookings heading into the summer, overall airline revenues remain strong.

GSP reached its goal of 1.5 million enplanements by the end of the calendar year, up from 1.45 million the previous year. Growth is expected to continue, supported by the addition of new routes, additional flights, and the upgauging of aircraft scheduled for the summer travel season.

**B. Federal and State Legislative Update**

David Edwards, President/CEO, reported that the federal continuing resolution includes \$4 billion for the Airport Improvement Program but no earmarks, which may delay GSP's

\$23 million runway rehabilitation funding to FY26. The team will engage with legislators during the Washington Legislative Conference.

At the state level, the House has proposed \$80 million for commercial airports and \$5.3 million in recurring funds, now pending Senate review. Additional legislation could support GSP's microgrid project and adjust employer contributions under the PEBA retirement system.

### **C. Financial Update**

Thomas Brooks, Vice President/CFO, provided a brief District financial report to the Commission, including FYTD Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, Gross Margin, Cost Per Enplanement, Airline Revenues, Investment Balance, Fund Balance, and Debt Balance. He also provided a brief update on the capital improvement programs.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Commission Chair requested that the Commission go into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving the advice of legal counsel, discussing contracts, certain confidential economic development projects, and a personnel matter. The motion was made by Commissioner Burch, seconded by Commissioner Beeson, and approved to go into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

At approximately 11:14 a.m. public session resumed with no action being taken in Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Beeson, seconded by Commissioner Burch and unanimous vote received to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m. The next regular, non-emergency Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2025.

### **SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:**

  
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Casey Cooperman