

**Boca Raton Airport Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2025  
Boca Raton Airport Authority Administration Building**

Mr. Nobles called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Randy Nobles	Chair
Cheryl Budd	Vice-Chair
James Nau	Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Tucker	Board Member
Gene Folden	Board Member
Mitchell Fogel	Board Member
Melvin Pollack	Board Member

**COUNSEL**

Janice Rustin, Esquire – Lewis Longman Walker

**STAFF**

Clara Bennett, Executive Director  
Scott Kohut, Deputy Director  
Travis Bryan, Operations Director  
Robert Abbott, Finance and Administration Director  
Florence Straugh, Business Manager  
Richard Gurzo, Accounting Manager  
Robert Pratt, Operations and Program Manager  
Hannah Naveda, Operations and Program Manager  
Leonel Romero, Operations Coordinator

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A MOTION to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting was made by Mr. Pollack and seconded by Mr. Tucker. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**AGENDA CHANGES**

There were no agenda changes.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS**

There were no public requests.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

## **FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL INPUT**

There was no federal, state or municipal input.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Nau introduced the Financial Report for November 2025.

Mr. Abbott presented the Financial Report for November 2025.

**A MOTION to approve the Financial Report for November 2025 was made by Mr. Folden seconded by Mr. Pollack. The Motion carried unanimously.**

## **TENANT REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

There were no tenant reports or requests.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Romero presented the Operations and Noise Abatement Report for November 2025.

Ms. Bennett introduced the Vertiports Feasibility Study Update.

Zach Shuman, National Practice Leader, and Jennifer Kim, Senior Planner with Woolpert presented the Vertiports Feasibility Study Update.

Mr. Nobles asked who were identified as stakeholders in this project. Ms. Kim stated that the FAA, FDOT, utility providers, City of Boca, City of Boca Fire Services, and the relevant aircraft manufacturers are among the list of stakeholders identified, though a complete list has not yet been finalized. Mr. Shuman added that while there has been lot of positive feedback, there was also some hesitation and emphasized the importance of a broad stakeholder pool.

Mr. Nobles clarified that it would be beneficial to add other airports who are exploring AAM as stakeholders. Mr. Shuman commented that multiple airports in Southeast Florida were contacted, and they are currently exploring participating in the Statewide advisory committee.

Ms. Budd asked if state and local governments are currently involved in the planning and visionary process. Ms. Bennett stated that while they are not at this time, they will be included in the next phase. She added that we have only reached out to internal stakeholders at this time.

Ms. Budd requested that we ensure the City of Boca Raton is well informed of this

process. Ms. Bennett responded that they had been informed. Mr. Kohut added that the City has already addressed vertiports in the land use code.

Mr. Tucker stated that this initiative aligns with the City's emphasis on innovation.

Mr. Tucker inquired about pricing projections. Ms. Kim responded that estimates from the manufacturers find that once the industry is more established, prices would be comparable to an Uber Black ride. Mr. Shuman added that the operator, Blade, has been selling tickets from Manhattan to JFK Airport for approximately \$200 per seat.

Mr. Fogel asked how much land would be required for a vertiport operation. Mr. Shuman stated that 3 to 4 acres on average would be required for a standard operation.

Mr. Fogel asked how long it would take for an aircraft to reach a charge of 60 percent. Mr. Shuman answered that time would be dependent on the battery cooling capabilities at each facility. He further added that AAM aircraft are required to maintain a 15 to 30 percent battery reserve and that charging would take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Mr. Nobles requested clarification on the economic impacts of this technology. Mr. Shuman stated that this technology is expected to become broadly accessible and provide the general public with a means of transportation comparable to what is provided by private jets.

Ms. Budd inquired about the long-term economic benefits of bringing this technology to the Airport. Ms. Bennett stated that the end result of this project will provide an economic analysis.

Mr. Nobles asked what the aircraft in question are called. Mr. Shuman stated that they are commonly referred to as eVTOL.

Mr. Tucker asked if there will ever be long haul, or overwater flights. Mr. Kohut stated that this will likely be reserved for cargo. Mr. Shuman expanded that there is interest in flights to the Florida Keys.

Mr. Bryan presented the Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. contract extension.

Ms. Bennett clarified that there is a 3% increase associated with the option.

Mr. Tucker was not present for the motion.

**A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 12-35-25 of the Boca Raton Airport Authority approving a one-year extension of the Architectural and Engineering Consulting Services to Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. was made by Mr. Pollack and seconded by Ms. Budd. The Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bryan presented the Garver, LLC. contract extension.

**A MOTION to approve Resolution No. 12-36-25 of the Boca Raton Airport Authority approving a one-year extension of the Architectural and Engineering Consulting Services to Garver, LLC. was made by Mr. Nau and seconded by Ms. Budd. The Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bryan presented the EMAS Project Update.

Ms. Budd asked what the weight of each block was. Mr. Bryan responded that depending on the thickness, each block weighs approximately 100 pounds.

Mr. Tucker commented that the material looks like foam. Mr. Bryan responded that there is a membrane on the outside. The internal material is cementitious, which is designed to collapse under load.

Ms. Budd asked if there was any welding involved in the repairs. Mr. Bryan responded that there is no welding but heating the old adhesive for removal is required.

Mr. Tucker asked if a specialized crew was flown in to do the work. Mr. Bryan responded that they are as the work requires specialized training and the contractor is based out of upstate New York.

Mr. Nobles commented about the quick turnaround for repairs. Ms. Bennett responded that the manufacturer increased their operation to accommodate the Airport's repairs alongside the multiple other airports that had incidents in the same period.

Mr. Nobles inquired about the status of the insurance claim. Ms. Bennett responded that the project was completed last week. All invoices from the manufacturer and installer have been received. Staff time and equipment rentals were also summarized and submitted.

Ms. Budd inquired about total cost. Ms. Bennett stated that the claim is approximately ^\$650,000 and is being filed through the operator's insurance policy, and responsibility has been accepted. The insurance company conducted a site visit two days after the incident and another inspection after repairs were completed. She stated that the goal is for the insurance company to pay the vendors directly, making the project cost-neutral to the Airport Authority, including staff time and equipment rentals.

Mr. Fogel asked what the bottom line is to the Airport Authority. Ms. Bennett responded that approximately zero-dollar net cost to the Airport Authority after insurance reimbursement.

## **AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS**

Mr. Folden inquired about the avigation easement for the University Village project. Mr. Kohut stated the easement is in place, and he has been continually submitting comments regarding the project.

Mr. Tucker thanked John Gerety and the Atlantic Aviation team for hosting the Board members for a tour of their new facilities and requested additional facility tours. Mr. Tucker also thanked Airport Management for the holiday gifts.

Ms. Bennett presented holiday gifts as a token of appreciation for the Board's volunteer service, guidance, and engagement throughout the year.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public requests.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:29PM.

 01/23/2025  
Chair Date