

City of Lawrence

Aviation Advisory Board Meeting

April 23, 2014 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Born, Bruce Boyer, Jonathan Becker, Richard Haig, and Jeff Long, Ron Renz and Cheri Thompson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Knudsen
STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Soules
PUBLIC PRESENT: Lloyd Hetrick (Hetrick Air Services), Bradley Weisenberger (PEC), Larry Kellogg, Karen Kellogg

- I. Call to Order:
Richard Haig called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.
- II. The Previous Meeting Minutes:
Bruce Boyer moved and Jeff Long seconded a motion approving the prior two meetings of February 26 and March 26, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Airport Manager's Report:
Chuck Soules reported the Environmental Assessment proposals had been received and the recommendation to contract with ADG for the Environmental Assessment was scheduled to go to City Commission for approval on May 6, 2014. Total Cost is \$71,000.
- IV. FBO Report:
Lloyd Hetrick reported that there had been an increase in the number of flat tires. These were not because of any sharp objects on the runway and were unrelated to the new top. One of the incidents was with a training flight out of Olathe that had a bald tire. There was a discussion that the new seal and cover on the runway is coarser. Lloyd noted that he was receiving an increase in requests for after-hours fuel service and questions as to why there is no self-service at the Airport for after-hours fueling.
- V. Discussion of NEON Tower:
Richard Haig provided the KU map and reviewed the location of the old KU tower that is not being used for any data collection and the proposed new NEON tower. Richard Haig, Jeff Long and Chuck Soules reported on very positive discussions with KU about alternatives. The outcome of Richard Haig's discussion with the FAA after the March 26th meeting of the board had revealed the old KU tower was not on the chart. Ron Renz noted there was also a 1250' tower northeast of the airport that is marked on the charts, that is no longer there. FAA says the old tower would require the new increased minimums, because the old tower is not on the chart. KU is looking at a number of options about the old tower. Those options include taking down the old tower.

The Board discussed what input should be given to the Planning Commission and the City Commission regarding the proposed NEON tower. Some members were uncomfortable with two items: (1) conflicting data about the proposed tower's impact on safety and (2) the Aviation Advisory Board's advisory role. The FAA position was that the circle-to-land minimums would be at 1400' MSL, and would probably remain the same after registering the old tower. The FAA was going to require for safety the departure minimums be increased from an Runway Visual Range (RVR) of ½ mile to 1 mile and the climb gradient change to 376' per nautical mile for the proposed NEON Tower.

The Board then considered types of planes and helicopters that could meet that climb gradient. For helicopters the necessary lighting and painting that NEON proposed would allay some helicopter operational concerns, but Life Flight was still not happy that another tower was proposed for construction close to the airport. The board concluded jets would not use Runway 01 for an instrument departure, mainly because of its length. Twin engine reciprocating and turbine planes would not be able to meet the 376' per nautical mile climb gradient requirement because of the requirement of an instrument departure being calculated on an engine out calculation. Small single engine reciprocating planes would also not have that capability to meet the climb gradient requirement. After extensive discussion, the Board was able to identify only 3-4 single engine turbine planes (Piper Malibu, Meridian, TBM and Pilatus 7) capable of meeting the climb gradient requirement. The Board concluded that the proposed NEON tower would, for practical purposes, prohibit instrument departures off Runway 01.

The Board then discussed the impact of the proposed tower on stakeholders at the airport and visitors, as well as the board's advisory role. There was some frustration about the expectation the Advisory Board was being asked to expand its role beyond its advisory role.

The Board then proposed the following resolution regarding the NEON network proposal for Planning Commission and City Commission consideration:

"The NEON Network proposal has an impact; it has a negative impact because it raises minimums for takeoff in order to maintain safety. We are concerned about that impact. We have met with the applicant; have tried to work a compromise with the applicant and have found the applicant unresponsive to date. On the other hand, we have found our local stakeholders engaged and willing to find a compromise. We look forward to working with NEON to find a successful solution without a negative impact on our airport."

Jeff Long moved and Bruce Boyer seconded that the Advisory Board adopt the above resolution as the statement of Airport Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Open House:

It was proposed that we contact as many interested activities for a fall date, including a Commemorative Air Force fly-in to highlight the 85 anniversary of the airport. The interested parties will report back at the next Board Meeting.

- VII. Leadership Lawrence:
The annual Leadership Lawrence flights are scheduled for tomorrow. A review of the forecast weather (2500 OVC, R,S, W 32/15G40) for tomorrow recommended that Richard Haig get in touch with the Leadership Lawrence and scrub the flights.
- VIII. Youth Camp:
Richard Haig announced that the Youth Camp Planning meeting would occur outside of regular meetings of the Airport Advisory Board to deal with modules and subject matter.
- IX. Miscellaneous:
It was reported that County Road, which accesses the west side hangars is really beat up.
- It was also reported that the ramp to Steve Craig's hangar has failed. It was also reported water is pooling in front of KU hangar, creating ice in cold weather. The cost estimates for these fixes are nowhere in the budget.
- X. Adjournment:
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Next Meeting time is 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, in the Richardson Memorial Pilots' Lounge at the Lawrence Municipal Airport Terminal Building.