

# City of Lawrence

## Aviation Advisory Board Meeting

### April 12, 2017 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Becker, Dan Born, Richard Haig, Gary Knudsen,  
Jeff Long, Cheri Thompson, and Stan Sneegas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Soules

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sign in sheet attached

#### I. Call to Order:

Richard Haig called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM. The Chair asked all to identify themselves. Beside the board and staff noted above, the guests were Dennis O'Connor with KDOT Aviation, John Comeau (retired air traffic controller), Rick Bryant with ADG, David Ternes (ret F-15 pilot now flying for Delta), Shaun Smith (skydiver), William McCauley (skydiver), Ron Renz (pilot and hangar owner) and Lloyd Hetrick.

#### II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

After review and correction, Jonathan Becker moved and Cheri Thompson seconded approval of the corrected minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. Drone Activity:

Dennis O'Connor made a presentation on drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems). See Handout. Part 107. There were considerable questions regarding the licensing of operators, the requirement to contact someone at the airport and Kansas City Center, which will refer you back to the Lawrence Airport, the 5 NM radius around the airport that is Class E Controlled airspace. Lloyd Hetrick was looking to the Aviation Board for guidance on what he could or should say as the airport operator. Dennis O'Connor cautioned that neither the City nor Lloyd should be approving or denying inquiries. Jeff Long reported that KU drone operations were dropping in frequency due to the operating restriction. Dennis O'Connor spoke about the difference between FAA Certificates of Authority for some drone operators and FAA exemptions and notification of airport operators. Dennis O'Connor highlighted the Clinton Lake Model Club has guidelines for flying model airplanes and is a resource for us to borrow guidelines. Dennis O'Connor shared the web Sites of Johnson County and Columbia Regional so that we would not have to reinvent the wheel. The primary discussion then focused on developing a response for airport staff, the future need to develop guidelines and then approach schools for education classes. It was also pointed out that the FAA will be publishing April 27, 2017 GIS maps with locations of airport facilities and military facilities with prohibitions. It was also discussed the need to have every pilot of an unmanned aircraft system that decides to fly within the 5 NM zone to contact Lifestar at 785-862-5433.

The Board then discussed the need of a subcommittee to address the issue of drones or whether this was something for the full board to do.

After discussion and recognizing the need for the airport manager to have something to say in response to telephone inquiries regarding drones, the Board agreed to the following

statement.

"The area around the airport is controlled airspace so we don't recommend drone operations within 5 NM of the airport. Please familiarize yourself with the rules that currently govern UAS operations. If you decide to operate a UAS, please let us know when and where." <sup>1i</sup>

IV. Wildlife Fence Update:

Rick Bryant reported the project is moving forward. The Survey was completed despite the rain last week. The design of the wildlife fence is going to FAA tomorrow. The pressing issue is to get the site plan done by April 20, 2017 so that the city/county planning staff could review for the Planning Commission to review at its May meeting. Rick Bryant reported every real property owner within 1,000' of the airport needed to receive certified mail notice of the fence within 20 days. Chuck Soules said the City staff would take on the responsibility of getting that mailing out once ADG wrote the letter. ADG reported the project is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year.

V. Youth Camp:

Richard Haig reported that the camp would be May 20<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of the need to coordinate with Parks and Recreation and deal with the anticipation of higher participation because the camps modules meet the requirements for the Aviation merit badge of the Boy Scouts. There was also discussion of the need to get the waiver for the flights. Cheri Thompson and Richard Haig reported that some parents brought kids to the airport and drove away before the waiver could be signed. There was a short discussion about the need to have the waiver. Richard Haig said without the waiver, a participant could not fly.

Richard Haig also reported that April 27<sup>th</sup> is last meeting of Leadership Lawrence and it is the tradition to have the meeting at the airport and provide flights around Lawrence. Ron Renz and Lloyd Hetrick agreed to pilot the flights, along with Richard Haig.

VI. KAIP – Grant:

Chuck Soules reported that the City had received notification of a KAIP grant of \$133,560.00 for the taxiway and apron for the western hangars. There was a discussion of when the project could start and which hangars the repairs would affect.

VII. Board Vacancies:

It was reported that Stan Sneegas has submitted his resignation and this might be his last meeting. Dan Born and Richard Haig's terms end at the end of May. Dan wants another term and is going to write the Mayor. Richard has been reappointed. It was reported Bill Ackerly was appointed last night at the Commission to replace Stan Sneegas.

VIII. Other Business:

Richard Haig reported the tabletop exercise two years ago had given rise to the next step being a request by Douglas County Emergency Management for grant to do a simulated real-life emergency exercise at the airport. Dennis O'Connor suggested a Family Resource Center be added to the Emergency Response.

There was a discussion of a Future Fly-In in the fall, 2017 or spring, 2018. It was also pointed out that 2019 would be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the airport.

Gary Knudsen reported the skydiving subcommittee development of a plan is in progress. Each time they meet they find another layer that needs to be explored and resolved. The subcommittee had added a new member, Randy Ottinger to assist in the development of a plan. There was discussion of the need for KC ATC contact with Standard Terminal Arrival Route known as JHAWK6 and its closeness to the airport, the need for adequate separation via ATC control at KC Center. Lifestar concerns need to be directed to Lifestar.

Gary Knudsen reported the skydiving subcommittee is awaiting more information from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that have their own timeline. Staff has addressed the 90-day deadline from the City Commission. There was a general acknowledgement that there would need to be a board meeting before the next scheduled meeting, once the subcommittee was done with its work and had a plan for Board review and referral to the City Commission.

Three members of the public were in attendance to discuss skydiving operations: David Ternes, Shaun Smith, and William McCauley. It was explained that the Board had not received the Draft Guidelines and this topic would be presented and discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Ternes discussed his experience and offered his assistance as the policies were developed. Mr. Smith also supported the development of a parachute landing area. The Board thanked the public for attendance and their comments.

- IX. Future Meetings:
  - July 12, 2017
  - October 4, 2017
- X. Next Meeting Date and Time:  
July 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. – Richardson Lounge
- XI. Adjournment:  
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

*Next Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, in the Richardson Memorial Pilots' Lounge at the Lawrence Municipal Airport Terminal Building.*

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<sup>1</sup> This statement was further edited to include the telephone numbers for Kansas City Center and Lifestar and the need to contact those organizations.