

Minutes  
March 26, 2014  
City of Lawrence, Kansas  
Aviation Advisory Board Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Planning Meeting Room, City Hall

**Present:** Members: Dan Born, Jonathan Becker, Richard Haig, Gary Knudsen, and Jeff Long and Cherry Thompson  
Staff: Chuck Soules  
Public: Lloys Hetrick (Hetrick Aviation), Rick Bryant (ADG), Sandy Day (City/County Planning Commission), Dean Kettle (KU), Adrian Home (KU), Glenna Stewart (NEON), Diana Scott (NEON), Monte Soukup (KU Endowment), Scott Campbell (KU), Gary Lawson (KU), Ed Martinko (KU) Kirsten Bosnak (KU)  
**Absent:** Members: Bruce Boyer

**I Call to order:**

Richard Haig called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**II Dispense with the approve of the previous Meeting Minutes:**

Jonathan Becker moved and Jeff Long second a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the prior meeting. The motion passed unanimously

**III. Discussion of NEON Tower**

Richard Haig provided a basic introduction on the history of the NEON application. Lifestar spoke about the concern of emergency call departures to the Northeast from the airport for Basehor or Tonganoxie and recommended it be moved, lowered or at least lighted.

Jeff Long asked if the existing tower was outside the departure corridor and could the proposed tower be moved to the east. Diana Scott with NEON said they had already invested considerable expense and resources in this site selection and any modification would require new expenses and resources for a different site.

Rick Bryant proposed that ADG work with both groups to see if a proposal could be worked out for all interest parties.

Diana Scott gave some background on the applicant NEON. The project is sponsored by

National Science Foundation. It is a national project aimed at standardizing data collection. The Tower will have multiple data measurements (450 data collection inputs). The information from the project will allow people to make decisions about the environmental changes. There will be 60 towers across the country for standardized data collection. She reiterated that NEON was unwilling to modify given the amount of time and expense in choosing this site.

Rick Bryant outlined the different authorities of control including the FAA, the Lawrence Douglas County Planning Commission and the Aviation Advisory Board. He ask if there was a Plan B for NEON

Sandy Day (City Planning) outlined the process of the application as it stood now. The Planning Commission would have the application on its agenda at either its April 21<sup>st</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Then the proposal would go to the Douglas County Commission. She outlined the process of the recent dredging project. In order for the Planning Commissioners to have time to consider the proposal the staff report has to be published on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Dean Kettel spoke of the history of the KU Research Station in the area for 1947. He spoke how the NEON project fits in with KU's long term research projects and the reforestation of the site and the changing wind patterns in the action.

Rick Bryant discussed the Master Plan and how the Master Plan calls for a future extension of 01/19 to the north by 500'. He also pointed out the Master Plan has plans to remove/lower specific trees in the future, and those specific trees may affect the study area for NEON.

Jeff Long asked how long the proposed tower was going to be there. Twelve years is the maximum time for NEON. Depending on contract terms, KU could buy the tower and continue to use the tower for its continuing research. The useful life of the tower was estimated to be 30 years in collection mode. KU would be interested in maintaining the site beyond that site's useful life for NEON because of its connection with national data gathering. KU erected the existing tower 25 years ago, but does not have electrical power and access.

The proposed Tower will be 8' by 8'. There were some questions about decommissioning the current KU Tower.

Richard Haig asked if the Airport Advisory Board could talk to the NEON scientists to better understand the site selection process and what kind of data would be gathered. NEON representatives said they have made their scientists available in the past and did not see that request as unusual.

Jonathan Becker asked if this proposal were to be approved what differences pilots would see in airport minimums. Richard Haig provided the FAA memo (See attached) that would increase approaches by 100' and the takeoff minimums will increase from 400-

1 1/2 to 400-2.

There was a general inquiry about the time frame for NEON. NEON planned to begin construction this summer with 3 months of construction. The plan was for the tower to be fully operational by 2017.

There was a discussion of delaying the planning review process from the current proposal going to the Planning Commission in April, to delaying it until the May Commission meeting.

Jeff Long emphasized the need for NEOS to work with us. An all-or-nothing position was not going to work with us. We are looking for a win-win solution.

The Board discussed the next scheduled Airport Advisory Board meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> and the need to discuss the impact of the proposed 126' tower on the jet community, scientists. With the Planning Staff's deadline of April 11<sup>th</sup>, it was recommended that the next Airport Advisory Board meeting be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Gary Knudsen recommended that NEON needed to look at FAR Part 77.25 and its definition of the approach zone as well as the Master Plan of the Airport which is available on the City's web site under Public Works.

Richard Haig invited the NEON staff to attend the next meeting, or at least make its science expert(s) to be available, at least by telephone

#### **IX. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

*Next Meeting time is 6:30PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 in the Richardson Memorial Pilots' Lounge at the Lawrence Municipal Airport Terminal Building.*