

The City of Lee's Summit
Action Letter
Board of Aeronautic Commissioners

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

7:00 PM

Howard A Conference Room

City Hall

220 SE Green Street

Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Aeronautic Commissioners for the City of Lee's Summit will meet in person and via video conference on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. as provided by Section 2-50 of the City of Lee's Summit Code of Ordinances, adopted by the City Council on June 15, 2021, Ordinance No. 9172. Persons wishing to attend the meeting via video conference or to comment on any item of business on the agenda may do so by sending a request prior to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, to the City Clerk at clerk@cityofls.net. The City Clerk will provide instructions regarding how to attend by this method.

1. Call to Order

Chair Townsend called the Nov. 6, 2024, Board of Aeronautic Commissioners meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Guests in attendance were Councilmembers Cynda Rader and Fred DeMoro, and a student, Ali Tariq. Staff present were Mike Anderson, Deputy Director of Public Works; Joel Arrington, Airport Manager; Thad Dearman, Assistant Airport Manager; and Cynthia DeShazo, Administrative Assistant.

Present: 7 - Chairperson Tom Townsend
Vice Chair James Brady
City Council Liaison Mia Prier
Commissioner Phil Mall
Commissioner Darryl Nelson
Commissioner Steve Rich
Commissioner Joseph Towns

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Bill Haley
Commissioner John T. Hightower Jr.
Commissioner Adam Shimmens

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Brady, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, that the agenda for Nov. 6, 2024, be approved. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 (Commissioners Haley, Hightower, Jr. and Shimmens absent).

4. Public Comments

Councilmember Rader noted she was attending because of the proposed name change of the Airport, and that she prefers Lee's Summit be kept in the name. She prefers Lee's Summit Regional Airport as it represents the City. She noted staff has done a wonderful job with the Airport. Councilmember DeMoro stated he is attending to listen and gain knowledge, as next a presentation will go to the City Council, and he appreciates the Commissioners.

5. Business

- A. [2024-6607](#) Approval of the October 2, 2024 BOAC Action Letter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Towns, seconded by Commissioner Mall, that the Oct. 2, 2024, Action Letter be approved. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 (Commissioners Haley, Hightower, Jr. and Shimmens absent).

- B. [2024-6593](#) Continued discussion regarding a new name for the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport.

Mr. Joel Arrington, Airport Manager, presented a timeline of events since the Commissioners last met. The City of Kansas City has objected to the suggested name change of the Airport. Tonight's goal is to talk about the naming of the Airport and get a consensus, then present to City Council next week. After staff met with the Kansas City Aviation Department, Mayor Lucas and Mayor Baird, there was a concern with using "greater Kansas City" in the new Airport name.

Mr. Arrington presented that the City would greatly benefit geographically to be identifiable in keeping "Kansas City" in the name, and explained that pilots use several technology applications such as ForeFlight, Garmin Pilot, AirNav Pilot and Google searches, in order to find an airport. For example, staff uses new technology to track pilot range and where they are flying to, in order to target pilots to inform them they can utilize the City's Airport, which is in close proximity to Kansas City. The vast majority of traffic at the Airport are transient, flying in from all over the country. The KC Aviation Department suggested using a qualifier such as North, South, East or West in the naming process. Mr. Arrington stated that leaving Lee's Summit in the name is not recognizable for pilots during these searches.

Councilmember Prier went through several scenarios of Google searches, noting that there is a lot of traction to using Lee's Summit Regional versus using Kansas City in the name. Councilmember Prier went on to state that it would be wise to have a Google listing paid for on their search engine in order for the Airport to come up in the top positions. Councilmember Prier has had many constituents reach out to her in opposition to using Kansas City in the name for the Airport, and asked what is the benefit of using Kansas City over Lee's Summit. Mr. Arrington brought up on a digital screen the ForeFlight website for everyone to see. The name change, according to Mr. Arrington, is a precipice to a tower, reaching larger corporate business, and is an anchor for the City since Lee's Summit is a suburb of Kansas City.

Commissioner Nelson made note that corporate flight departments are one of the transient groups utilizing the City Airport, and that as a Commission, this group of Commissioners is tasked to drive economic growth from the City. In order to be viable economically, the long term business model for the Airport is to attract business to the City. The City has grown and the group understands the goal for a name change. Discussion went around the room on whether to spell out Kansas City or leave as KC. Mr. Arrington asked the Commissioners to think on taking the emotion out of the consideration and to look at this task from a business perspective, the business of the Airport being an economic engine for the City. The impact would be phenomenal for the economy, and the vitality it would bring to the community.

Chair Townsend thought all the comments were good, and that the Airport will be a household name for folks coming to the City in the future. He feels the word "regional" in the name is important. He also noted that the identifier of LXT will remain the same. The consensus was the following three names agreed upon, to be presented to City Council next week. Those are:

1. Kansas City - Lee's Summit Regional
2. Southeast Kansas City Regional
3. KC - Lee's Summit Regional

Commissioner Mall had to leave the meeting afterward at 8:37 p.m.

6. Roundtable

Councilmember Prier thanked staff for all that they do. Mr. Arrington will be meeting in the next few weeks with Lakewood HOA and Councilmembers to share Airport noise abatement policy and other topics related to the Airport. Mr. Anderson gave an update on the Eastside infrastructure. The contractor is waiting to pour a slab. The City did receive a grant for the terminal building. This will only fund the common space but it was a \$4.77 million dollar grant.

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) had their last pancake breakfast of the year. A total of 414 introductory flights were flown this year by this group.

7. Adjournment

Chair Townsend adjourned the Nov. 6, 2024, meeting of the Board of Aeronautic Commissioners at 8:54 p.m.

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