

**MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING
December 7, 2006 - 3:30 p.m., 503 Hale Library**

Present: Behnke, Bloodgood, Bontrager for Shubert, Gormely, Herald, Kearns, McKinney

Absent: Collins, Condia, Maddy, Oberst, Rowlett, Shubert, Stokes, Wang, Yahnke

Visitor: County Commissioner Michael Kearns

1. Tom Herald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
2. The November 16, 2006 minutes stood approved as submitted.
3. Guest: County Commissioner Michael Kearns
Herald introduced Commissioner Kearns and thanked him for attending the FSCOUP meeting. He briefly explained the purpose of the committee to the Commissioner. Herald mentioned that over this semester we've had visitors from the University as well as the Mayor of Manhattan. This has been done in order to have an idea of what is going on within the University as well as the city and county regarding development. He welcomed any information that the Commissioner has on county plans that may affect Manhattan.

Commissioner Kearns thanked the committee for having him. First of all, he informed the committee that there is a monthly intergovernmental meeting that is held to share information and he feels this has been a very good avenue for sharing information within the region and touches on how all parties are impacted. Commissioner Kearns has a background in law, and joined the ROTC during the Vietnam War. He then became part of the JAG core in order to use his law degree. He served several years in that capacity. He then gave a brief history on how he became a County Commissioner.

He discussed the great amount of construction taking place and briefly talked about the 20-acre rule. The 2025 committee was established about four months ago to review what to do with land in Riley County. The group is very diverse so that all viewpoints are able to be seen. Their purpose is primarily to find a way to maintain farmland in Riley County. However, land owners want to do as they wish with their land, even if that means selling it to a developer. The recommendation from that group will go to the commission hopefully by fall of next year. This will result in public meetings, which can become very dynamic. The 2025 committee will continue to meet monthly until they have addressed this issue and given their recommendations to the county.

Commissioner Kearns mentioned they are in the process of trying to mend the Marlatt Ave/Tuttle Creek Blvd area because so much traffic will be, and already is, moving through that area. However, they will be approximately \$500,000 short so they are looking to find a way to resolve that issue. Part of the help they get is with the 1/2 cent sales tax. This is wrapped up with the city though and ends in 2010. They are trying to get legislation this year to get their own road and bridge money.

The county shop site is now being constructed near Marlatt and Tuttle Creek Blvd. They want to have their current shop site sold by February and of course possession of the property would come later, when they move to their new site. He also discussed the Fairmont area, which is across the viaduct to the east of Manhattan. The Fairmont Park is in the County's purview and they've just signed a lease for this area to be a youth sports area. This will be good Manhattan commerce. He also gave other details about the remodel of this area including renovation of sewer lines.

Wind energy: The British Pasture out by the Konza prairie was looked at for a wind farm a couple of years ago. It was proposed that the Konza Prairie would be on the right, and on the left about 2 miles in, there would be a wind energy field, or a wind farm. These wind towers would be very large structures.

No agreement could be met and the structures were not built. However, this may be looked at again in about six months here in Riley County.

Space needs for the county are also being addressed. When we have the build up in growth that we've had here, that impacts county government. The upkeep of the jail and other items are the county's responsibility. The jail is at a point now where it needs to be expanded. Plans are being drawn up now to add more beds. They are going to add space and also reconfigure the arrangement of the beds to use the space better. Kansas prison guidelines were briefly touched on. That is just one aspect of space needs. The courthouse is also being looked at as far as workspace. They have a large workload and they need more personnel, but there is no where to house them.

Rocky Ford: Quick claim deeds were made to give land back to the county, but it wasn't *all* the land. The case is going through the court system right now. Behnke commended the way County Commissioner Kearns has handled the situation.

A study is being funded by the Office of Economic Adjustment to find out the impact of growth at Ft. Riley to our region. The study is to be completed by the spring of this year and a final document will be available probably in May. He feels it will provide support that we are being impacted dramatically in several areas. Once this is made clear, they will then seek for governmental aid to help.

Also, An Equine Center is being proposed in the area which will be privately run.

Commissioner Kearns opened the floor for questions. Behnke asked about the boat ramp out in out by Hwy 177. Commissioner Kearns commented that the ramp was funded by the county and it is being heavily used. Gormely asked about structures that are developed and built on hills where all others have to view the structure and it may be very unsightly. Is it possible to control this? Kearns responded that this is very hard to control.

4. Announcements
 Contact CCOP and EXCOP chairs to participate in February meeting
5. Agenda items for future meetings
 Herald touched on items to be discussed at our next three meetings and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.
6. For the good of the university
7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meetings:

January 25, 2007, Bruce Shubert, Financial Exigency, Union 205

February 15, 2007, CCOP and EXCOP reports, Union 205

March 8, 2007, retired Colonel Art DeGroat, Director of Military Affairs, Ft Riley – K-State, 2116 Fiedler Hall