

Present were committee members Jennifer Roberts, Luke Swanson, Doug Bennett, Weston Putnam, and Mike Kay (arrived 5:36pm). Also present were Mayor Drotzmann, City Councilman Roy Barron, City Manager Byron Smith, EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, EOTEC Operations Manager Brian Rust, and City staff Heather La Beau. Guest present: Steve Wallace.

Committee members Jessica Narain and Kim Puzey and Youth Advisor Member Cesar Morfin Morales were excused.

Doug opened the meeting at 5:30pm. Attendees briefly introduced themselves.

## **April 14th 2022 Minutes**

Jennifer moved and Luke seconded to approve the April 14, 2022 EOTEC Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

## **Projects Update**

Byron stated the City has been in contact with the Hermiston Irrigation District to begin the process of the exchange with the Stanfield Irrigation District to secure permanent water rights. The process is anticipated to take 18-24 months. The amount of water rights and acreage amount is still being determined. Currently water rights from Stanfield Irrigation District for 29 acres are leased from the Hutterites. It is preferable to have rights for 40-60 acres.

The feasibility of developing the overflow parking lot to an athletic field with the currently available water was discussed. The committee discussed costs associated with bringing water to the overflow parking lot and a timeframe for development. The area is currently being watered during the fair to control dust. The project will need to pursue additional funding. Community organizations may be willing to provide financial resources for the project. Byron will work with the engineers to breakdown the estimate into phases.

A grant application for a minimum of \$277,000 has been applied for from the state for barn expansion. The money must be used for a capital project on the fairgrounds. An additional \$1,000,000 grant will be applied for later in the year when available.

The need for bathroom signage was discussed. Several ideas had been proposed that were not pursued. Temporary signage and a kiosk are options, as different events have different needs.

The committee considers the RV Park Project as third for priority. It is the most expensive of the projects and will take extra time to pursue funding.

## **Contract Update**

Byron stated a notice has been provided to Venue Works that the City will not be renewing the contract. The existing contract will end on December 31, 2022. The City will retain the existing staff and collaborate with the Parks Department and other City departments for maintenance assistance.

## **Operations Update**

There was a concern mentioned regarding stock trailers parking in the common areas. Damage is being done to the common areas. Some changes have been made and after three events this year, there has not been any damage. Repair expenses are borne by the one doing the damage.

Al updated the committee on the current happenings at EOTEC. A state grant was applied for, the amount was not significant as the facility remained operational during the pandemic.

Recent events at the facility include:

- 12 days of barrel racing
- Hat Rock Hounds Gem show
- League of Cities Conference
- I Love My City
- Cinco de Mayo

Additional barrel races are scheduled and another barrel racing organization is moving their final event to EOTEC in the fall.

Association of Counties will be holding a training event in June and a Fall Festival event is being discussed for October. The Champions program will operate for the first two weeks of the new school year.

Reservations have been steady, weekends are full through the fair and it is anticipated will fill up for the rest of the year. Public events at EOTEC are posted on the Hermiston Live Calendar. This has increased attendance. The calendar can be accessed at: <https://www.hermiston.or.us/hermiston-live>

Bleachers are rented to various events offsite for the price of \$5.50/seat plus shipping and hauling. It is approximately \$20,000 each event.

It was suggested that the facility consider working with the Yakima promoter scheduling concerts for the Walla Walla fair. Concerts are another option for the venue. Mike will pass the promoter's information to Al.

**Next Meeting- July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM**

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.