

Present were Chairman Patrick Collins, Committee Members Luke Swanson, Jennifer Roberts, Drex Bailey, Steve Wallace and David Bothum. EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, EOTEC Operations Manager Brian Rust, and City Staff Holly Lambert were also in attendance.

Member Excused: Weston Putnam

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

## **July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Minutes**

Jennifer moved and Steve seconded to approve the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, EOTEC Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **2024 Farm City Pro Rodeo Report**

David stated local support for the Rodeo is outstanding. Attendance increased by 5%, the number of cowboys competing increased and the facility and grounds filled up with people. In the month the Rodeo group rented the space, the group installed new electronic HD reader boards, repainted the arena and chute gates and improved the grounds, including the dirt. David noted that good dirt is important in the equine world.

## **2024 Umatilla County Fair Report**

Steve shared attendance increased by 9% in the fairgrounds, more cars were parked, more sales overall for the vendors and 1.504 million raised in the 4-H and FFA livestock auction, an 11% increase over last year. He also noted the campers and camping situation continues to improve.

## **Barns Expansion**

The barns were completed just before the fair began. The fur and feather or small animal barn now has recently finished concrete. The process of expanding the barns worked well. There is still a struggle with the commons area grounds and the new trees planted on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The limited times necessary to water the grounds were hampered by windstorms.

## **Field Expansion- HEROS**

Luke shared the HEROS fields were fully lighted during the fair and held up well through the week's parking use. Customers treated the fields well and appreciated the improvements.

The HEROS committee has expanded and has focused their efforts on the final fundraising push needed to complete the lights and add luxury portable restrooms. The fundraising efforts also include plans on how to hire a sports coordinator to set up and take down tournaments and more.

Other updates included soccer goals and carts purchased, a recap of last season that kicked off with two tournaments, several matches and two soccer games.

Al suggested the need for a Sports Commission in Hermiston.

## **Operations Update**

Brian presented the operations report listing events and activities hosted at EOTEC (see attached).

AI shared the former Festival of Lights is newly rebranded to “Land of Lights”, with Amazon Web Services as the title sponsor.

## **Other**

A question was raised regarding future additional bathroom facilities @ EOTEC.

**Next Meeting- February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:30PM**

Chairman Collins adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm.

DRAFT