

Committee Members Present: Luke Swanson, Jennifer Roberts, David Bothum, Kyndra Stone and Drex Bailey. Hermiston High School Youth Advisory committee members Teodoro Delgado, Gloria Serrano and Jaideny Orozco Avila. EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, City Manager Byron Smith, City Councilor Roy Barron, and City Staff Holly Lambert were also in attendance.

Member Absent: Steve Wallace

City Manager Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and led the meeting by committee agreement.

Introductions were made and the HHS youth advisor members were welcomed.

June 12th, 2025, Minutes

Jennifer moved and Luke seconded to approve June 12th, 2025; EOTEC Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

HEROS Update

Luke reported that the HEROS committee recently traveled to Salem to present the grant application for funding to complete the field expansion project. Despite the effort and energy put into the grant application and presentation, they were not awarded funding. The committee will regroup and continue to seek donations. Approximately \$400,000 has been donated in in-kind labor.

Luke shared additional updates: final permits were issued and received for the building and electrical installation, the committee will be moving forward on the donor wall, reaching out to a soccer contact to have both Lacrosse and soccer using the fields, and looking at ways to bring more events to the fields.

Roy asked about the grant process and presentation, and offered, along with Al, to help in any way with future applications, writing letters of support, etc.

Luke stated there were thirty plus applicants for the funding dollars available.

Roy thanked the HEROS committee.

Operations Update

Al presented the past and upcoming events report (see attached) and shared EOTEC will be hosting a Lacrosse tournament in October. Over thirty tournament invites have been sent to club teams. Al stated the challenge will be getting players here to see and use the fields to appreciate local fields available and potentially lowering their travel costs.

Al shared the facility is starting to get more attention for use of EOTEC to hold events. He also stated the fields have rebounded well from parking use during the Fair.

Luke stated everything went smoothly during the Fair, even camping at the Fair went well this year.

Al noted all things ran smoothly, no hiccups this year. More people visited the Fair and stayed longer during the day with the cooler weather that week.

David & Al both noted overall more people are camping on the grounds and paying stall fees because they like the facility.

David shared rodeo numbers may have been down a little on Wednesday, but numbers were up on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Many participants commented on how good the riding ground/soil is in the rodeo arena. David shared the work put into and process to have high quality ground/soil.

Byron shared the city will have a meeting with both the UCF & Rodeo boards to discuss hiring a “Placer AI” company to analyze data and trends.

Financial Update

Byron reviewed page 9 (EOTEC Fund) of the City’s July 2025 Financial Report. Byron noted that while the fund is projected on a straight-line 1/12th revenue or expense per month, it may not be the best way to look at EOTEC’s budget. The difficulty in planning month-to-month comes in the many variables of events and expenses. Current revenues are \$121,220 and current expenses are \$128,887.

Byron also noted the EOTEC budget is large this year due to the RV Park(s) project, reimbursable by Amazon up to eight million dollars.

Water Rights & RV Park Updates

Byron shared that the Farm City Pro Rodeo, with the City, purchased an additional 20 acres with water rights from the Stanfield Irrigation District to build one RV Park. This RV Park will take up approximately 8 acres, leaving acreage for programming EOTEC activities and possibly sports fields.

The city will build a second RV Park specifically for event camping, with a tentative completion date prior to the 2026 Umatilla County Fair.

Discussion followed on whether the RV Parks will be manned by personnel or automated. Byron stated the city is researching best possible options and is also looking into Umatilla County funds available for operating RV parks.

Kyndra asked about RV Park licensing requirements.

Byron replied that all licensing requirements will be researched and followed.

Other

Al shared EOTEC submitted a TRT grant request after meeting with the Hermiston Athletic Commission. EOTEC was awarded a \$10,000 TRT (transient room tax) grant to research bringing more sporting events to Hermiston.

Next Meeting- November 6th, 2025, at 5:30PM

City Manager Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.