

Present were committee members Luke Swanson, Doug Bennett, Weston Putnam, Mike Kay, Jennifer Roberts and Patrick Collins (via phone). Also present were City Manager Byron Smith, Mayor David Drotzmann, EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, City Councilman Roy Barron & City staff Holly Lambert.

Committee member Jessica Narain was absent.

Doug opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023-2024

Doug opened the floor for nominations.

Weston moved and Mike seconded to elect Patrick Collins as Chair for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Luke moved and Jennifer seconded to elect Weston Putnam as Vice-Chair for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

October 13th, 2022, Minutes

Doug moved and Mike seconded to approve the October 13th, 2022, EOTEC Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Barns Expansion Report

The city hired the Wenaha Group for the barn's expansion project and other City projects. The barns expansion is a top priority. The Wenaha Group cautioned a metal barn may take six months or longer depending on the availability of materials and may not be completed in time for the 2023 County Fair.

Report on Field Expansion Project - HEROS

Luke reported Swaggart Brothers will be unable to provide the field excavation as an in-kind donation. The HEROS committee is working to find other options for leveling ground in field areas. The committee is working to coordinate fitting in the round-about design from the EOTEC Master Plan without losing any areas for field development. There will be initial field work happening next week and the committee is expecting lighting bids to come in soon. Cash and in-kind donations are up and 3–5-year pledges over one million so far. Luke mentioned the Rodeo is also looking at updating lighting and the two may coordinate.

EOTEC Operations Update

Al shared all Festival of Lights/Christmas decorations are stored away until next season. This year's event was successful but did not see as much traffic as years past. Al stated this year's holiday events were enjoyable to host, including the Hermiston High School Band and Choir concert, the Toy Drive (a huge success this year) and the Christmas Express events.

In January EOTEC will host many events and starting in February things are booked twelve weeks out. The coordination with the City's Parks and Recreation department to host pickle-ball and Rec-It Arena events has proved successful. Overall, the pace of bookings is picking up since the pandemic. In February, EOTEC will host a combined Farm & City Ag & Home EXPO in conjunction with OSU. This is a new event for EOTEC and most booth space has already sold out.

Mike requested a quarterly summary of number of events, private versus public bookings, income and expenses similar to the report this committee received prior to VenuWorks management.

Mike asked how preventative maintenance occurs at EOTEC.

Byron stated we will begin managing and create a Preventive Maintenance schedule in the future.

Branding Research Report

Byron reported the branding research results to be strongly in favor of coordinating the City's "Where Life is Sweet" logo to update the EOTEC logo. The results revealed no strong feelings either way as far as renaming the facility.

The Advisory Committee's agrees with rebranding but not renaming the facility.

Other Business

A question was asked on the status of using the airport triangles for parking. Byron responded the city is working on an agreement to be able to use the space for parking while keeping to FAA assurances the airport will only be used to benefit the airport.

Next Meeting- March 2nd, 2023, at 5:30PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.