

Present were committee members Luke Swanson, Doug Bennett, Weston Putnam, Jennifer Roberts, and Patrick Collins. Also present were City Manager Byron Smith, EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, EOTEC Operations Manager Brian Rust & City staff Holly Lambert. Guest present John Eckhardt of Knerr Construction.

Committee members Mike Kay and Youth Advisor Hailey Gardner excused. Committee member Jessica Narain was absent.

Patrick opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

January 5th, 2023, Minutes

Doug moved and Weston seconded to approve the January 5th, 2023, EOTEC Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Barns Expansion Report

Byron reported the city, along with Knerr Construction and EOTEC had a great meeting and pricing discussion with the Wenaha Group.

John reported the barn discussion is moving forward. The barns expansion team will meet next week with the City Building inspector Chuck Woolsey on what is acceptable and metal barn specifications. The Building Inspector will all review drawings. The project will begin at the conclusion of the 2023 County Fair & Rodeo.

Patrick requested a tour of the barns to view where the expansion is to take place.

Report on Field Expansion Project - HEROS

Luke reported progress on this fields over the last two months. Silver Creek leveled the ground and light poles installed by Magnum Power. The HEROS committed have elected to go with Musco for the concrete bases. The plan is to finish leveling and deeding the fields in the next couple of months.

Luke also shared the committee has an incredibly positive working relationship with the bank and total donations are at \$827,000 so far, in addition to in-kind donations. He stated the community has been great and HEROS are already getting calls to book Lacrosse tournaments.

EOTEC Operations Update

Al shared the preventative maintenance schedule for EOTEC (see attached) and will have a draft quarterly profit and event summary at the close of the first quarter. For the rest of 2022 and 2023, Al reported weekends fill up fast and weekdays are slower typically booking only 2-3 weeks in advance.

The Advisory Committee requested Al and/or Brian check the EOTEC calendar link to Hermiston Live for posting events.

Branding Research Update

Byron reported the city will be re-branding, but not renaming EOTEC.

Other Business

John Eckhardt updated the committee on the RV Fair area stating the City of Hermiston helped to get power to the area as power issues have been a real struggle the past two years. The question has been asked on how to bring permanent power to the RV area, to no longer need generators. He is currently working with others on a design concept and a cost determination. John feels a permanent power source will help in the long term. For example, having power for a carnival relocation with an event center expansion or provide the ability to hold an outdoor concert without needing to bring in generators.

The committee requested a review the Strategic Plan at our next meeting.

Next Meeting- May 4th, 2023, at 5:30PM

The committee to meet in May, June and July, no meeting in August.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

EOTEC Grounds Maintenance Schedule

Since I have started, I have been in communication with multiple agronomists on the best practices for EOTEC. We have bought fertilizer and chemical from Western Ag Improvement and Simplot. Steve Wallace has taken soil samples of the commons area (and we will take samples of the fields in the future) to see what the soil is lacking to be able to apply the correct nutrients to the ground. In 2022 we applied fertilizer in February and June. We currently have fertilizer on hand to apply before we start the sprinklers this spring.

As far as applying herbicides to the ground to kill weeds, we have usually waited until the puncturevine starts emerging and then spray with 2,4-D and banvel in order to get the weeds that are up and have some soil residual to kill future weeds for a few weeks. We have used DW Ag Services to spray when we want to spray the entire facility. Late in 2022, we acquired a Polaris Ranger with a sprayer for it. So, that will be used to do as much spraying as possible when needed. Specific timing will depend on weather and plant growth, not a calendar. This past year, we sprayed for puncturevine in early June and then sprayed some again in late July. We have discussed ground sterilant but as sandy as this ground is, I'm not sure it will last as long as we would hope and so I think it could be wasting money. But I want to try some early this spring to see if it is feasible.

I service the gators, lawn mowers, tractors and arena drags every winter/early spring and have been maintaining them myself as much as possible.

We maintain and replace sprinklers as needed.

Twice a year, Apollo Heating and Air services the HVAC system and changes filters.

We have our dishwasher in the kitchen serviced monthly by Home Depot Pro

December/January- Hood Suppression System inspected in kitchen.

Late fall/early spring- Aerate grass.

Early spring- McLaughlin Landscaping turns sprinklers on and checks the patterns.

Early spring- ground sterilant on gravel and around barns.

Early spring- fertilize

Mid/late spring- start spraying for puncturevine

Early summer- another round of fertilizer

June- Security and Fire Alarm tests

June/July- Hood Suppression System inspected in kitchen.

Up to fair keep puncturevine that is coming through sprayed.

After fair spot spray puncturevine

Mid/Late October- Water off, sprinklers blown out, barns drained and blown out.