

Present were Chairman Patrick Collins, Committee Members Weston Putman, Doug Bennett, and Drex Bailey, and Jennifer Roberts. Councilors Barron and Primmer, EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, City Manager Byron Smith, and Planning Assistant Heather La Beau were also in attendance.

Committee member Luke Swanson was excused, and member Mike Kay absent.

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

November 2nd, 2023, Minutes

Weston moved and Doug seconded to approve the November 2nd, 2023, EOTEC Advisory Committee regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

No meeting was scheduled for December 2023. The meeting scheduled for January 2024 was cancelled.

Barns Expansion

John Eckhardt of Knerr Construction presented a Construction Schedule (attached) for the barn expansion. The project is progressing on schedule. The beef and swine buildings have been ordered with delivery expected in 30-40 days. The beef building is to be erected and have electrical installed. The swine building erection and water to the beef building are under consideration. If the budget does not allow the swine building to be erected, it will need to be stored. Additional design work is needed for the new livestock scales as it is a different footprint from the existing scales.

Field Expansion- HEROS

Weston reported the schedule for the light pole installation. Six poles are scheduled to be delivered and material set on Monday, Feb 12. Umatilla Electric Cooperative and Ross-Brandt Electric will be getting the poles ready on Tuesday and Wednesday. NW Crane will be placing the poles on Thursday, Feb 15, with completion expected by later that afternoon.

Several grant applications have been submitted for netting between the la crosse fields to help with pedestrian safety.

Hermiston Youth La Crosse has scheduled the first tournament, "Icebreaker", for March 30.

Operations Update

Al provided a sheet (attached) of events and maintenance items. Recent events included Christmas Express, toy drive, pickleball, indoor soccer, Hermiston Ed Foundation, Stanfield Boosters, and Festival of Lights. They've been busy taking down the Christmas lights and preparing for spring.

During the pandemic, plumbing hardware was replaced throughout the facility to be handsfree. Some of the valves recently failed. The failed valves have been replaced.

EOTEC is transitioning to the new branding and logo. The website has been updated and signs are being made. New signage will be installed on the building and at the main entrance.

Pickleball Presentation

Emmett Walker and Phil Hamm with the Hermiston Pickleball Group spoke with the aid of presentation handouts (attached) regarding a proposal for nine pickleball courts at EOTEC. Each of the previously considered locations had pros and cons that the EOTEC location may help address. Specifically, the location of existing bathrooms and level ground. The group has received numerous letters of support and are currently fundraising for the money to build courts.

While expressing a desire to assist with moving the project forward as the group seeks a location, committee members expressed concerns regarding:

- Parking- loss of existing and need for additional with expanded use
- Retain multi-use facility
- Inability to park on the courts
- Proposed courts are located in the medivac area for helicopter emergencies
- Schedule coordination for multiple concurrent events

Members suggested several other locations including the Simon property adjacent to HEROS, school district property, and hospital property as alternatives.

After some discussion, members decided to meet next month to review the EOTEC master plan as part of the continued discussion of the pickleball proposal.

Next Meeting- March 21st, 2024, at 5:30PM

Weston moved and Doug seconded to schedule the next meeting for March 21, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Collins adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.