



*Where Life is Sweet*

# CITY OF HERMISTON EASTERN OREGON TRADE AND EVENT CENTER

1705 E AIRPORT ROAD

Regular Meeting

January 20, 2022 5:30 PM

## A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Action Items
  - A. Review and Approve Minutes of the October 7th regular EOTEC Advisory Committee Meeting
3. Reports
  - A. Review and possible approval of RV Event Parking Concept
4. Public Comment
5. Next Meeting - March 3rd, 2022 5:30pm
6. Adjournment

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# EOTEC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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October 7, 2021

Present were committee members Jennifer Roberts, Luke Swanson, Weston Putnam, Doug Bennett (arrived at 5:42pm) & Mike Kay. Also present were City Manager Byron Smith, Mayor Dave Drotzmann, EOTEC General Manager Al Davis, John Eckhardt of Knerr Construction and City staff Holly Lambert.

Committee members Kim Puzey and Jessica Narain were excused.

Committee agreed to City Manager Bryon Smith chairing the meeting in the absence of Chair and Vice-Chair. Byron welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 5:35pm. All members introduced themselves.

## **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 & June 3rd, 2021 Minutes**

Mike moved and Jennifer seconded to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 & June 3rd, 2021 EOTEC Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Reports**

### Farm City Pro-Rodeo Recap

Mike shared the rodeo went very well, numbers were consistent with expectations and revenue was up a bit from previous years.

### Umatilla County Fair Recap

John, as a member of the Fair Board, stated both numbers and revenue were up from 2019. Friday and Saturday saw record numbers with some contributing factors of the reduction of the Fair from 5 days to 4 days and a new carnival. The animal barns are getting full and running out of room- that's good news! The Fair hosted a successful dinner for youth and parents on Tuesday evening of Fair week. 500 were in attendance and it is an event they plan to continue.

### Review of EOTEC Strategic Plan/Project Priorities and the 20 Year Master Plan

Byron shared the history of the strategic plan, created with lots of community input, and the final Master Plan Concept #5 arrived at after many revisions and a significant number of considerations, especially parking needed for large events.

Byron updated the committee on the status of several project priorities being pursued.

- The City is working with a firm to explore options to secure water rights for the EOTEC site. For now, EOTEC leases water rights from year to year. As far as adding turf, there is not much water available when taking into account current use by the region's agricultural community.
- Landscaping and overall beautification of the site is being done a little bit each year.
- Improvements to the PA System and security cameras are mostly complete. The system was tested prior to the Fair and used each day during the Fair.
- Continued conversations on a year-round RV Park have reached the conclusion that it may not be feasible as campers would need to vacate during any large events held at EOTEC. New ideas and options are being investigated.

John added there is piping available to be trenched into the ground for future irrigation.

# EOTEC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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October 7, 2021

Luke was asked to set up a meeting with the Lacrosse group and the City to continue discussions on creating Lacrosse fields on the EOTEC site.

## EOTEC Updates

Al shared bookings are picking back up from previous Covid shut-downs, but as Fall arrives things are slowing down and a couple of major events were cancelled due to Covid. Barrel racing and roping events continue to be very successful; Walk-tober (an October event) is very popular; EOTEC is hosting the Homecoming Dance @ Chute 8 for Hermiston High School this weekend; preparations are being made for the Festival of Lights, and EOTEC is working with the Parks & Recreation department to bring new events to the site, including pickleball and AAU events.

Al stated EOTEC has hired a new operations manager, a local person, with the goal of shifting operational duties from Al to the new manager, allowing Al to refocus on bookings and marketing the site.

(Luke exited at 6:27pm)

Mike read a couple of letters from people who have had events at EOTEC with suggestions on things that could be improved for groups to have a better experience at EOTEC. A brief discussion followed on expectations when groups rent the facilities and what type of contracts/language is used.

Holly to request written contracts with pricing included for outdoor events to share with the committee to help understand the process.

## **Next Meeting- November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM**

Committee would like to discuss the RV Strategic Plan priority at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.