

To: Mayor Dave Drotzmann,  
City Manager Byron Smith,  
Members of the Hermiston City Council

From: Steve Williams

Subject: Eastern Oregon Trade And Event Center Advisory Committee

From the time the City of Hermiston and Umatilla County have worked together to create the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, I have followed the developments closely and was excited to have been selected to be on the EOTEC Advisory Committee in July 2018 when the City of Hermiston assumed sole control of EOTEC. For the past two years, the EOTEC Advisory Committee has worked to establish itself as an effective committee, looking at ways the EOTEC could make improvements to help it develop a financially stable, successful event center and facility. The committee has faced many challenges along the way, but I am confident that we have built an atmosphere of cooperation and pursuit of the common goal during the past two years.

When I entered in to the commitment of serving on the EOTEC Advisory Committee, I had no idea of what my role would be but since September, 2018, I have been selected by the committee to serve as Chair. I agreed to be the chair confident that I could work with all of the committee members and the groups that were represented to develop a common goal for EOTEC. As we enter the start of the 2020-21 fiscal year, I think we are getting closer to developing a successful plan for EOTEC.

In October, 2019, I was selected by the members of Rotary International, District 5100, to serve as the District Governor during the year 2022-23. Rotary is near and dear to my heart and to be selected to serve in this position will require the commitment of my time and energy over the next three years to effectively prepare for serve in that role. I realize I cannot continue to keep up with the increasing demands at work, effectively serve on the EOTEC Advisory Committee and prepare for the future role as District Governor at the same time, so I am submitting this memo to you to let you know that I will not be submitting an application to be reappointed to the EOTEC Advisory Council when my term expires on June 30, 2020.

As the Council is well aware, there are some important parts of the strategic plan to be developed to best prepare us for the future. I encourage the Council to pursue four of them: 1) Procurement of water rights to adequately irrigate and develop the property; 2) Continue to pursue the development of an Indoor arena should grant money become available for that type of a project; 3) Expand the event center to provide for more breakout meeting rooms; and 4) work with FAA on an agreement to use two portions of the airport property for low-level development options in conjunction with the EOTEC. I list those four items, not necessarily in order of priority, as each of them has its own valuable impact on the future of the EOTEC property.

I am excited about the future of the EOTEC and will continue to support the City's efforts to make it a successful venue, but I cannot continue to serve on the Advisory Committee at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved with the EOTEC Advisory Committee for the past two years.

Respectfully,

Steve Williams