



Town of Erie Airport and Economic Development Advisory Board Application

All advisory board and commission members will be expected to support the priorities and work plan set forth by the Town Council.

This board meets the **third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM**. You are required to notify your chair if you are going to be absent from a meeting. Failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without a leave of absence approved by majority of the Airport and Economic Development Advisory Board could be grounds for dismissal.

Full Name	James Turpin
Are you an Erie resident?	Yes
Are you under the age of eighteen (18)?	No
Home Address	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Primary Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Employer	Arcadia Power
Job Title/Occupation	VP, Engineering
Have you ever been employed by the Town of Erie?	No
Do you work for or own a company that does business with the Town of Erie?	No
What is your highest level of education completed?	Bachelors Degree
Are you currently serving on a board?	No

Are you applying for more than one board? No

This board meets the third **Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM**. You are required to notify your chair if you are going to be absent from a meeting. Only three excused absences are allowed per year.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission and what specific talents or expertise do you bring if appointed?

I'm interested in serving on the Erie Airport Economic Advisory because I see the airport as one of the most important economic assets in our community, and I want to help it thrive. As a pilot since 2018, I understand airport operations from the user's perspective — what works, what doesn't, and what draws aviation activity to a region.

Professionally, I bring deep expertise in both business strategy and technology. I can contribute insight on economic development opportunities, modernization initiatives, and leveraging technology to improve operations and attract investment. I believe the combination of hands-on aviation experience and a strong business and tech background makes me well-suited to help guide the airport's future growth.

Have you served on another board/commission in an advisory capacity? If so, please describe the board and what made serving in that capacity a good experience? What were the major concerns or issues?

While I have not served as a formal member of a board or commission, I have spent much of my career advising boards and executive leadership teams in my roles as both a CTO and Vice President. In these capacities, I've regularly presented strategic recommendations, technology roadmaps, and business cases to board-level audiences, and I've helped guide decision-making on complex issues ranging from technology investments to operational transformation.

What made those experiences valuable was the collaborative nature of the work — bringing together diverse perspectives to solve problems that no single discipline could address alone. I found that my ability to translate technical concepts into clear business terms helped boards make more confident, informed decisions. The major concerns and issues I've helped boards navigate have included managing the pace of technological change, balancing innovation with fiscal responsibility, cybersecurity risk, and aligning technology strategy with long-term organizational goals.

These experiences have given me a strong understanding of how advisory bodies function, the importance of preparation and clear communication, and the responsibility that comes with helping shape strategic direction. I'm eager to bring that same level of engagement and rigor to the Erie Airport Economic Advisory.

Please describe a situation where you were working with a small group and disagreed with the direction of the project, what did you do? What was the result?

In a previous role, I was part of a small team planning a major technology initiative. The group was converging on an aggressive, all-at-once approach that I felt introduced unnecessary risk. Rather than simply objecting, I prepared a clear comparison of the proposed strategy against a phased alternative, highlighting the differences in cost, timeline, and risk.

I presented my case respectfully, acknowledged the strengths of the original plan, and focused the discussion on what would best serve the organization. The group ultimately adopted the phased approach, and the first phase delivered ahead of schedule — building momentum and confidence for the rest of the project.

The experience reinforced my belief that constructive disagreement, grounded in data and delivered with respect, leads to better outcomes. I bring that same approach to every team I'm part of.

If you were appointed, what goals would you like to see

If appointed, I would focus on three key areas:

First, I believe the board should proactively address the growing tension between

accomplished on this board or commission?

new residential development and long-established airport operations. As new communities continue to develop near well-established flight paths, we're seeing increasing pressure to restrict or even shut down airport activity. This is a pattern playing out at airports across the country, and Erie needs a strategy to get ahead of it — through land use advocacy, public education, and strong partnerships with local planning bodies. The airport was here first, and it's critical that we protect its ability to operate and grow.

Second, I'd like to see the advisory board champion the airport's economic story. Many residents may not fully understand the economic impact the airport has on the community — the jobs it supports, the businesses it attracts, and the tax revenue it generates. By clearly quantifying and communicating that value, we can shift public perception and build broader community support. When people understand what the airport contributes in real dollars, it changes the conversation from "that's a noisy neighbor" to "that's an engine for our local economy."

Third, I want to build on the momentum of community engagement successes like the Air Fair, which has been a resounding success in connecting residents with the airport in a positive way. More events and initiatives like this — opportunities for the community to experience the airport firsthand — will strengthen public goodwill and create advocates who see the airport as an asset rather than a nuisance. Expanding these efforts should be a priority for the board.

Are you aware of the time commitment, and do you have the personal time to devote to this board or commission?

Yes, I understand the time commitment and I have the availability to fully participate. Serving on this board is a priority for me, and I'm prepared to dedicate the time needed not only for meetings but for the preparation and follow-through that effective advisory work requires.

Please Read and Agree with the Following Statement:

I certify that the facts and statements contained in this Board and Commission Application is true and correct. I further understand that false statements shall be sufficient cause for rejection of this application. I further certify that I have not been convicted of a felony under the laws of the State of Colorado or in another jurisdiction. I understand that falsification, omission or misrepresentation will result in a rejection of this application. Any falsification, omission or representation is evidence of perjury in the second degree. If I become a board or commission member with the Town, this form is valid for the period of my term with the Town and the crime records may be updated periodically at the discretion of the Town. I understand that this application is considered a public record and subject to the Colorado Open Records Act.

I agree

Yes

All board and commission members must follow the rules and regulations in the Erie Municipal Code as well as the Town's policies related to harassment, anti-violence, and technology use.

Yes

Acknowledgement Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.