

Equity Commonwealth
Form 10-Q
May 08, 2018
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number 1-9317

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Maryland

04-6558834

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

Two North Riverside Plaza, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(312) 646-2800

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

Number of registrant's common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, outstanding as of May 3, 2018: 124,457,073.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

FORM 10-Q

March 31, 2018

INDEX

| | Page |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <u>PART I Financial Information</u> | |
| <u>Item 1. Financial Statements (unaudited)</u> | |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets</u> | 1 |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations</u> | 2 |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u> | 3 |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Equity</u> | 4 |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u> | 5 |
| <u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 7 |
| <u>Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 20 |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 32 |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u> | 32 |
| <u>PART II Other Information</u> | |
| <u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u> | 33 |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u> | 33 |
| <u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 33 |
| <u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> | 34 |
| <u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | 34 |
| <u>Item 5. Other Information</u> | 34 |
| <u>Item 6. Exhibits</u> | 35 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 36 |

Table of Contents

EXPLANATORY NOTE

References in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q to the Company, EQC, we, us or our, refer to Equity Commonwealth and its consolidated subsidiaries as of March 31, 2018, unless the context indicates otherwise.

i

Table of Contents

PART I. Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements.

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(amounts in thousands, except share data)

(unaudited)

| | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 (audited) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Real estate properties: | | |
| Land | \$ 146,700 | \$ 191,775 |
| Buildings and improvements | 1,100,524 | 1,555,836 |
| | 1,247,224 | 1,747,611 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (379,862) | (450,718) |
| | 867,362 | 1,296,893 |
| Assets held for sale | 38,882 | 97,688 |
| Acquired real estate leases, net | 3,621 | 23,847 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2,837,671 | 2,351,693 |
| Marketable securities | 247,879 | 276,928 |
| Restricted cash | 6,995 | 8,897 |
| Rents receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$5,137 and \$4,771, respectively | 55,910 | 93,436 |
| Other assets, net | 78,986 | 87,563 |
| Total assets | \$4,137,306 | \$4,236,945 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Senior unsecured debt, net | \$646,246 | \$ 815,984 |
| Mortgage notes payable, net | 32,281 | 32,594 |
| Liabilities related to properties held for sale | 1,153 | 1,840 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 42,007 | 69,220 |
| Assumed real estate lease obligations, net | 503 | 1,001 |
| Rent collected in advance | 9,225 | 11,076 |
| Security deposits | 4,412 | 4,735 |
| Total liabilities | 735,827 | 936,450 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value: 50,000,000 shares authorized; Series D preferred shares; 6 1/2% cumulative convertible; 4,915,196 shares issued and outstanding, aggregate liquidation preference of \$122,880 | 119,263 | 119,263 |
| Common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value: 350,000,000 shares authorized; 121,457,073 and 124,217,616 shares issued and outstanding, respectively | 1,214 | 1,242 |
| Additional paid in capital | 4,295,772 | 4,380,313 |
| Cumulative net income | 2,785,760 | 2,596,259 |
| Cumulative other comprehensive loss | (2,106) | (95) |
| Cumulative common distributions | (3,111,868) | (3,111,868) |

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cumulative preferred distributions | (687,745) | (685,748) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 3,400,290 | 3,299,366 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,189 | 1,129 |
| Total equity | 3,401,479 | 3,300,495 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$4,137,306 | \$4,236,945 |
| See accompanying notes. | | |

1

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
 (amounts in thousands, except per share data)
 (unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Rental income | \$43,549 | \$80,205 |
| Tenant reimbursements and other income | 15,039 | 19,346 |
| Total revenues | 58,588 | 99,551 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Operating expenses | 24,599 | 41,087 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 13,903 | 26,915 |
| General and administrative | 13,339 | 12,078 |
| Loss on asset impairment | 12,087 | 1,286 |
| Total expenses | 63,928 | 81,366 |
| Operating (loss) income | (5,340) | 18,185 |
| Interest and other income, net | 5,780 | 4,372 |
| Interest expense (including net amortization of debt discounts, premiums and deferred financing fees of \$801 and \$713, respectively) | (10,115) | (15,014) |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | (4,867) | — |
| Gain on sale of properties, net | 205,211 | 16,454 |
| Income before income taxes | 190,669 | 23,997 |
| Income tax expense | (3,007) | (175) |
| Net income | 187,662 | 23,822 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | (63) | (8) |
| Net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth | \$187,599 | \$23,814 |
| Preferred distributions | (1,997) | (1,997) |
| Net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders | \$185,602 | \$21,817 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding — basic | 123,867 | 124,047 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding — diluted | 127,097 | 125,150 |
| Earnings per common share attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders: | | |
| Basic | \$1.50 | \$0.18 |
| Diluted | \$1.48 | \$0.17 |

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(amounts in thousands)

(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Net income | \$187,662 | \$23,822 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments | 117 | (153) |
| Unrealized loss on marketable securities | (226) | (641) |
| Total comprehensive income | 187,553 | 23,028 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to the noncontrolling interest | (63) | (8) |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to Equity Commonwealth | \$187,490 | \$23,020 |

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EQUITY

(amounts in thousands, except share data)

(unaudited)

| | Equity Commonwealth Shareholders | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Preferred Shares Series D | | | Common Shares | | | | | | |
| | Number of Shares | Preferred Shares | Cumulative Preferred Distributions | Number of Shares | Common Shares | Cumulative Common Distributions | Additional Paid in Capital | Cumulative Net Income | Cumulative Other Comprehensive Loss | Net Income |
| Balance at December 31, 2017 | 4,915,196 | \$119,263 | \$(685,748) | 124,217,616 | \$1,242 | \$(3,111,868) | \$4,380,313 | \$2,596,259 | \$(95) | \$1,242 |
| Reclassification pursuant to change in accounting principle | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,902 | (1,902) | — |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 187,599 | — | 63 |
| Unrealized gain on derivative instruments | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 117 | — |
| Unrealized loss on marketable securities | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | (226) | — |
| Repurchase of shares | — | — | — | (3,027,557) | (30) | — | (89,880) | — | — | — |
| Share-based compensation | — | — | — | 267,014 | 2 | — | 5,010 | — | — | 32 |
| Contributions | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Distributions | — | — | (1,997) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Adjustment for noncontrolling interest | — | — | — | — | — | — | 329 | — | — | (3) |
| Balance at March 31, 2018 | 4,915,196 | \$119,263 | \$(687,745) | 121,457,073 | \$1,214 | \$(3,111,868) | \$4,295,772 | \$2,785,760 | \$(2,106) | \$1,214 |

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
 (amounts in thousands)
 (unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Net income | \$ 187,662 | \$ 23,822 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash used in operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 11,279 | 21,893 |
| Net amortization of debt discounts, premiums and deferred financing fees | 801 | 713 |
| Straight line rental income | (1,528 |) (4,387 |
| Amortization of acquired real estate leases | 997 | 2,540 |
| Other amortization | 1,628 | 3,055 |
| Share-based compensation | 5,338 | 5,226 |
| Loss on asset impairment | 12,087 | 1,286 |
| Loss on marketable securities | 4,987 | — |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | 4,867 | — |
| Net gain on sale of properties | (205,211 |) (16,454 |
| Change in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Rents receivable and other assets | (11,410 |) (18,239 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | (10,139 |) (24,053 |
| Rent collected in advance | (1,786 |) 416 |
| Security deposits | 57 | 181 |
| Cash used in operating activities | (371 |) (4,001 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Real estate improvements | (12,761 |) (19,889 |
| Insurance proceeds received | 1,443 | 2,000 |
| Proceeds from sale of properties, net | 744,324 | 94,138 |
| Purchase of marketable securities | — | (276,238 |
| Proceeds from sale of marketable securities | 18,613 | — |
| Cash provided by (used in) investing activities | 751,619 | (199,989 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Repurchase and retirement of common shares | (89,910 |) (209 |
| Payments on borrowings | (175,265 |) (348 |
| Contributions from holders of noncontrolling interest | — | 30 |
| Distributions to preferred shareholders | (1,997 |) (1,997 |
| Cash used in financing activities | (267,172 |) (2,524 |
| Increase (decrease) in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash | 484,076 | (206,514 |
| Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period | 2,360,590 | 2,101,206 |
| Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period | \$ 2,844,666 | \$ 1,894,692 |
| See accompanying notes. | | |

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)
 (amounts in thousands)
 (unaudited)

Three Months
 Ended March 31,
 2018 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Interest paid | \$14,631 | \$22,285 |
| Taxes (refunded) paid, net | (2) | 335 |

NON-CASH INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| (Decrease) increase in capital expenditures recorded as liabilities | \$(103) | \$4,266 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash reported within the condensed consolidated balance sheets that sum to the total of the same such amounts shown in the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows (in thousands):

| | March 31, | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$2,837,671 | \$1,888,537 |
| Restricted cash | 6,995 | 6,155 |
| Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash shown in the statements of cash flows | \$2,844,666 | \$1,894,692 |

See accompanying notes.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1. Business

Equity Commonwealth (the Company) is a real estate investment trust, or REIT, formed in 1986 under the laws of the State of Maryland. Our business is the ownership and operation of real estate, primarily office buildings, throughout the United States.

On November 10, 2016, the Company converted to what is commonly referred to as an umbrella partnership real estate investment trust, or UPREIT, structure. In connection with this conversion, the Company contributed substantially all of its assets to EQC Operating Trust, a Maryland real estate investment trust (the Operating Trust), and the Operating Trust assumed substantially all of the Company's liabilities pursuant to a contribution and assignment agreement between the Company and the Operating Trust.

The Company now conducts and intends to continue to conduct substantially all of its activities through the Operating Trust. The Company beneficially owned 99.97% of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest, designated as units, in the Operating Trust (OP Units) as of March 31, 2018, and the Company is the sole trustee of the Operating Trust. As the sole trustee, the Company generally has the exclusive power under the declaration of trust of the Operating Trust to manage and conduct the business of the Operating Trust, subject to certain limited approval and voting rights of other holders of OP Units.

At March 31, 2018, our portfolio, excluding properties held for sale, consisted of 13 properties (22 buildings), with a combined 6.3 million square feet. As of March 31, 2018, we had \$3.1 billion of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements of EQC have been prepared without audit. Certain information and footnote disclosures required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, for complete financial statements have been condensed or omitted. We believe the disclosures made are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. However, the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K (Annual Report) for the year ended December 31, 2017. Capitalized terms used, but not defined in this Quarterly Report, have the same meanings as in our Annual Report.

In the opinion of our management, all adjustments, which include only normal recurring adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation, have been included. All intercompany transactions and balances with or among our subsidiaries have been eliminated. Operating results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year. Reclassifications have been made to the prior years' financial statements to conform to the current year's presentation.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant estimates in the condensed consolidated financial statements include the allowance for doubtful accounts, purchase price allocations, useful lives

of fixed assets and impairment of real estate and intangible assets.

Share amounts are presented in whole numbers, except where noted.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In August 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2017-12, Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities, to enable entities to better portray the economics of their risk management activities in the financial statements and enhance the transparency and understandability of hedge results. The amendments also simplify the application of hedge accounting in certain situations.

7

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. We are evaluating the impact ASU 2017-12 will have on our financial position and results of operations.

In May 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-09 Compensation-Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Scope of Modification Accounting. ASU 2017-09 is designed to provide clarity and reduce both (1) diversity in practice and (2) cost and complexity when applying the guidance in Topic 718, to a change to the terms or conditions of a share-based payment award. ASU 2017-09 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. We adopted this ASU on January 1, 2018, and the adoption did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-01, Clarifying the Definition of a Business, that changes the definition of a business to assist entities with evaluating when a set of transferred assets and activities is a business. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. We early adopted this ASU effective January 1, 2017, and the adoption of this ASU did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-05 Clarifying the Scope of Asset Derecognition Guidance and Accounting for Partial Sales of Nonfinancial Assets. ASU 2017-05 is designed to provide guidance on how to recognize gain and losses on sales, including partial sales, of nonfinancial assets to noncustomers. We adopted this ASU on January 1, 2018 and the adoption did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-18, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash, which amends FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 230, Statements of Cash Flows, to add or clarify guidance on the classification and presentation of restricted cash in the statement of cash flows. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and for interim periods within those fiscal years.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-15, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments, which addresses eight specific cash flow issues with the objective of reducing the existing diversity in practice. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and for interim periods within those fiscal years.

We early adopted both ASU 2016-18 and ASU 2016-15 for the period ended December 31, 2017 and made the following reclassifications to the prior year's condensed consolidated statement of cash flows to conform to the current year's presentation (in thousands):

| Statement of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | Originally Reported | Effect of Change | As Adjusted |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Cash used in operating activities | \$ (2,690) | \$ (1,311) | \$ (4,001) |
| Cash used in investing activities | (200,923) | 934 | (199,989) |

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments, which requires more timely recognition of credit losses associated with financial assets. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2018. We are currently in the process of evaluating the impact, if any, the adoption of this ASU will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases, which sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases for both parties to a contract (i.e., lessees and lessors). ASU 2016-02 requires lessees to apply a dual approach, classifying leases as either finance or operating leases based on the principle of whether or not the lease is effectively a financed purchase of the leased asset by the lessee. This classification will determine whether the lease expense is recognized based on an effective interest method or on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. A lessee is also required to record a right-of-use asset and a lease liability for all leases with a term of greater than 12 months regardless of their classification. Leases with a term of 12 months or less will be accounted for similar to existing guidance for operating leases today. ASU 2016-02 supersedes previous leasing standards. ASU 2016-02 is effective for us for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. We are still assessing the impact of adopting ASU 2016-02. For leases

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

where we are the lessor, we expect to account for these leases using an approach that is substantially equivalent to current guidance. Additionally, under ASU 2016-02 lessors may only capitalize incremental direct leasing costs. For leases in which we are the lessee, we expect to recognize a right-of-use asset and a lease liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments with rent expense being recognized on a straight-line basis and the right of use asset being reduced when lease payments are made.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments-Overall: Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities, related to certain aspects of recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of financial instruments. ASU 2016-01 will require entities to measure their equity investments at fair value and recognize any changes in fair value in net income, with certain exceptions, rather than other comprehensive income. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. We adopted this ASU on January 1, 2018 and reclassified a \$1.9 million unrealized gain from cumulative other comprehensive loss to cumulative net income on our condensed consolidated balance sheet (see Note 8).

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. The objective of ASU 2014-09, as amended, is to establish a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers and will supersede most of the existing revenue recognition guidance, including industry-specific guidance. The core principle is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. In applying ASU 2014-09, companies will perform a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. ASU 2014-09 applies to all contracts with customers except those that are within the scope of other topics in the FASB's ASC, and more particularly lease contracts with customers, which are a scope exception. ASU 2014-09 is effective for the first interim period within annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. We adopted this ASU on January 1, 2018 and the adoption did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Note 3. Real Estate Properties

During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, we made improvements, excluding tenant-funded improvements, to our properties totaling \$12.9 million and \$14.2 million, respectively.

Properties Held For Sale:

We classify all properties that meet the criteria outlined in the Property, Plant and Equipment Topic of the FASB ASC as held for sale on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. As of December 31, 2017, we classified 1600 Market Street as held for sale. This property was sold in February 2018. As of March 31, 2018, we classified the following property as held for sale:

| Asset | Number of Properties | Number of Buildings | Square Footage |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1601 Dry Creek Drive | 1 | 1 | 552,865 |

Summarized balance sheet information for the properties classified as held for sale is as follows (in thousands):

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

| | March 31, December | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 31, 2017 |
| Real estate properties | \$ 24,786 | \$ 76,066 |
| Rents receivable | 7,245 | 13,270 |
| Other assets, net | 6,851 | 8,352 |
| Assets held for sale | \$ 38,882 | \$ 97,688 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 1,099 | \$ 1,021 |
| Rent collected in advance | 1 | 408 |
| Security deposits | 53 | 411 |
| Liabilities related to properties held for sale | \$ 1,153 | \$ 1,840 |

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Property Dispositions:

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we sold the following properties (dollars in thousands):

| Asset | Date Sold | Number of Properties | Number of Buildings | Square Footage | Gross Sales Price | Gain on Sale |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Properties | | | | | | |
| 1600 Market Street | February 2018 | 1 | 1 | 825,968 | \$160,000 | \$54,599 |
| 600 West Chicago Avenue(1) | February 2018 | 1 | 2 | 1,561,477 | 510,000 | 107,830 |
| 5073, 5075, & 5085 S. Syracuse Street | March 2018 | 1 | 1 | 248,493 | 115,186 | 42,762 |
| | | 3 | 4 | 2,635,938 | \$785,186 | \$205,191 |

(1) The sale of this property did not represent a strategic shift under ASC Topic 205. However, the sale does represent an individually significant disposition. The operating results of this property are included in continued operations for all periods presented through the date of sale. Net income for this property for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$110.0 million and \$2.7 million, respectively.

Note 4. Marketable Securities

During the quarter ended March 31, 2018, our marketable securities consisted of United States Treasury notes and common stock. The United States Treasury notes are classified as available-for-sale and mature in 2019. Available-for-sale securities are presented on our condensed consolidated balance sheets at fair value. Changes in values of the United States Treasury notes are recognized in accumulated other comprehensive loss.

On January 1, 2018 we adopted ASU 2016-01 (see Note 2) and reclassified a \$1.9 million unrealized gain from cumulative other comprehensive loss to cumulative net income on our condensed consolidated balance sheet. Changes in values of common stock are recognized in interest and other income, net on the condensed consolidated statements of operations. In March 2018, we sold all common stock we held and recognized a loss of \$5.0 million in interest and other income, net during the three months ended March 31, 2018.

Below is a summary of our marketable securities as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

| | March 31, 2018 | | December 31, 2017 | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Unrealized Loss | Estimated Fair Value | Cost or Amortized Cost | Unrealized Gain, Net | Estimated Fair Value |
| Marketable securities | \$249,646 | \$(1,767) | \$247,879 | \$276,567 | \$361 | \$276,928 |

The unrealized losses on our United States Treasury notes were caused by interest rate increases. The contractual terms of those investments do not permit the issuer to settle the securities at a price less than the amortized cost bases of the investments. Because we do not intend to sell the investments and it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the investments before recovery of their amortized cost bases, which may be maturity, we do not consider those investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired at March 31, 2018.

Note 5. Indebtedness

Unsecured Revolving Credit Facility and Term Loan:

We are party to a credit agreement pursuant to which the lenders agreed to provide a \$750.0 million unsecured revolving credit facility, a \$200.0 million 5-year term loan facility, and a \$200.0 million 7-year term loan facility. The revolving credit facility has a scheduled maturity date of January 28, 2019, which maturity date may be extended for up to two additional periods of six months at our option subject to satisfaction of certain conditions and the payment of an extension fee of 7.5 basis points of the aggregate amount available under the revolving credit facility. The 5-year term loan and the 7-year term loan have scheduled maturity dates of January 28, 2020 and January 28, 2022, respectively.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The credit agreement permits us to utilize up to \$100.0 million of the revolving credit facility for the issuance of letters of credit. Amounts outstanding under the credit agreement generally may be prepaid at any time without premium or penalty, subject to certain exceptions. We have the right to request increases in the aggregate maximum amount of borrowings available under the revolving credit facility and term loans up to an additional \$1.15 billion, subject to certain conditions.

Borrowings under the 5-year term loan and 7-year term loan will, subject to certain exceptions, bear interest at a LIBOR rate plus a margin of 90 to 180 basis points for the 5-year term loan and 140 to 235 basis points for the 7-year term loan, in each case depending on our credit rating. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility will, subject to certain exceptions, bear interest at a rate equal to, at our option, either a LIBOR rate or a base rate plus a margin of 87.5 to 155 basis points for LIBOR rate advances and 0 to 55 basis points for base rate advances, in each case depending on our credit rating. In addition, we are required to pay a facility fee of 12.5 to 30 basis points, depending on our credit rating, on the borrowings available under the revolving credit facility, whether or not utilized.

Borrowings under our revolving credit facility currently bear interest at LIBOR plus a spread, which was 105 basis points as of March 31, 2018. As of March 31, 2018, the interest rate payable on borrowings under our revolving credit facility was 2.93%. As of March 31, 2018, we had no balance outstanding and \$750.0 million available under our revolving credit facility and the facility fee as of March 31, 2018 was 20 basis points. Our term loans currently bear interest at a rate of LIBOR plus a spread, which was 115 and 155 basis points for the 5-year and 7-year term loan, respectively, as of March 31, 2018. As of March 31, 2018, the interest rates for the amounts outstanding under our 5-year term loan and 7-year term loan were 3.03% and 3.43%, respectively. As of March 31, 2018, we had \$200.0 million outstanding under each of our 5-year and 7-year term loans.

Debt Covenants:

Our public debt indenture and related supplements and our credit agreement contain a number of financial and other covenants, including covenants that restrict our ability to incur indebtedness or to make distributions under certain circumstances and require us to maintain financial ratios and a minimum net worth. At March 31, 2018, we believe we were in compliance with all of our respective covenants under our public debt indenture and related supplements and our credit agreement.

Senior Unsecured Notes:

At March 31, 2018, we had senior unsecured notes of \$250.0 million (excluding net discounts and unamortized deferred financing fees) maturing in 2020.

On March 7, 2018, we redeemed at par all \$175.0 million of our 5.75% senior unsecured notes due 2042 and recognized a loss on early extinguishment of debt of \$4.9 million from the write off of unamortized deferred financing fees.

Mortgage Notes Payable:

At March 31, 2018, two of our properties with an aggregate net book value of \$51.9 million had secured mortgage notes totaling \$32.3 million (including net premiums and unamortized deferred financing fees) maturing from 2021

through 2026.

Note 6. Shareholders' Equity

Common Share Issuances:

See Note 11 for information regarding equity issuances related to share-based compensation.

Common Share Repurchases:

On March 15, 2017, our Board of Trustees authorized the repurchase of up to \$150.0 million of our outstanding common shares over the twelve month period following the date of authorization. In March 2018, this share repurchase authorization, of which \$81.0 million was not utilized, expired. On March 14, 2018, our Board of Trustees authorized the repurchase of up to an additional \$150.0 million of our outstanding common shares over the twelve month period following the date of authorization. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we repurchased and retired 2,970,209 of our common shares, at a weighted

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

average price of \$29.67 per share, for a total investment of \$88.1 million, of which \$69.0 million was under the March 2017 authorization and \$19.1 million was under the March 2018 authorization. The \$130.9 million of remaining authorization available under our share repurchase program as of March 31, 2018 is scheduled to expire on March 14, 2019.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, certain of our employees surrendered 57,348 and 6,694 common shares owned by them, respectively, to satisfy their statutory tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of such common shares.

Preferred Share Distributions:

In 2018, our Board of Trustees declared distributions on our series D preferred shares to date as follows:

| Declaration Date | Record Date | Payment Date | Series D |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Dividend Per Share |
| January 12, 2018 | January 30, 2018 | February 15, 2018 | \$0.40625 |
| April 11, 2018 | April 27, 2018 | May 15, 2018 | \$0.40625 |

Note 7. Noncontrolling Interest

Noncontrolling interest represents the portion of the units in the Operating Trust not beneficially owned by the Company. An operating partnership unit (OP Unit) and a share of our common stock have essentially the same economic characteristics. Distributions with respect to OP Units will generally mirror distributions with respect to the Company's common shares. Unitholders (other than the Company) generally have the right, commencing six months from the date of issuance of such OP Units, to cause the Operating Trust to redeem their OP Units in exchange for cash or, at the option of the Company, common shares of the Company on a one-for-one basis. As sole trustee, the Company will have the sole discretion to elect whether the redemption right will be satisfied by the Company in cash or the Company's common shares. As a result, the Noncontrolling interest is classified as permanent equity. As of March 31, 2018, the portion of the Operating Trust not beneficially owned by the Company is in the form of OP Units and LTIP Units (see Note 11 for a description of LTIP Units). LTIP Units may be subject to additional vesting requirements.

The following table presents the changes in Equity Commonwealth's issued and outstanding common shares and units for the three months ended March 31, 2018:

| | Common Shares | OP Units and LTIP Units | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2018 | 124,217,616 | 42,520 | 124,260,136 |
| Repurchase of shares | (2,970,209) | — | (2,970,209) |
| Restricted share, time-based LTIP Unit grants and vested restricted stock units, net of forfeitures | 209,666 | — | 209,666 |
| Outstanding at March 31, 2018 | 121,457,073 | 42,520 | 121,499,593 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|---|
| Noncontrolling ownership interest in the Operating Trust | 0.03 | % |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|---|

The carrying value of the Noncontrolling interest is allocated based on the number of OP Units and LTIP Units in proportion to the number of OP Units and LTIP Units plus the number of common shares. We adjust the noncontrolling interest balance at the end of each period to reflect the noncontrolling partners' interest in the net assets of the Operating Trust. Net income is allocated to the Noncontrolling interest in the Operating Trust based on the weighted average ownership percentage during the period. Equity Commonwealth's weighted average ownership interest in the Operating Trust was 99.97% for the three months ended March 31, 2018.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Note 8. Cumulative Other Comprehensive Loss

The following table presents the amounts recognized in cumulative other comprehensive loss for the three months ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands):

| | Unrealized Loss on Derivative Instruments | Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Marketable Securities | Total |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance as of January 1, 2018 | \$ (456) | \$ 361 | \$(95) |
| Amounts reclassified from cumulative other comprehensive loss to cumulative net income pursuant to a change in accounting principle | — | (1,902) | (1,902) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications | 67 | (226) | (159) |
| Amounts reclassified from cumulative other comprehensive loss to net income | 50 | — | 50 |
| Net current period other comprehensive income (loss) | 117 | (226) | (109) |
| Balance as of March 31, 2018 | \$ (339) | \$ (1,767) | \$(2,106) |

The following table presents reclassifications out of cumulative other comprehensive loss for the three months ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands):

| Details about Cumulative Other Comprehensive Loss Components | Amounts Reclassified from Cumulative Other Comprehensive Loss to Net Income Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | Affected Line Items in the Statement of Operations |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Interest rate cap contract | \$50 | Interest expense |

Note 9. Income Taxes

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and are generally not subject to federal and state income taxes provided we distribute a sufficient amount of our taxable income to our shareholders and meet other requirements for qualifying as a REIT. We are also subject to certain state and local taxes without regard to our REIT status.

Our provision for income taxes consists of the following (in thousands):

Three
Months
Ended March

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

31,
2018 2017

Current:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-------|
| State and local | \$3,007 | \$170 |
| Federal | — | 5 |
| Income tax expense | \$3,007 | \$175 |

The taxable gain from sales of properties during the three months ended March 31, 2018 has fully utilized our net operating loss carryforward, and results in the tax expense recorded in the current period.

13

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Note 10. Derivative Instruments

Risk Management Objective of Using Derivatives

We are exposed to certain risks relating to our ongoing business operations, including the effect of changes in interest rates. The only risk we currently manage by using derivative instruments is our interest rate risk.

We may use derivative financial instruments, including interest rate swaps, caps, options, floors and other interest rate derivative contracts, to hedge all or a portion of the interest rate risk associated with our borrowings. The principal objective of such arrangements is to reduce the risks and/or costs associated with our operating and financial structure as well as to hedge specific anticipated transactions. We do not intend to utilize derivatives for speculative or other purposes other than interest rate risk management. The use of derivative financial instruments carries certain risks, including the risk that the counterparties to these contractual arrangements are not able to perform under the agreements. To reduce this risk, we only enter into derivative financial instruments with counterparties with high credit ratings and with major financial institutions with which we and our affiliates may also have other financial relationships. We do not anticipate that any of the counterparties will fail to meet their obligations.

Cash Flow Hedges of Interest Rate Risk

Our objectives in using interest rate derivatives are to add stability to interest expense and to manage our exposure to interest rate movements. To accomplish this objective, we use interest rate caps as part of our interest rate risk management strategy. Interest rate caps designated as cash flow hedges involve the receipt of variable-rate amounts if interest rates rise above the cap strike rate.

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives designated and that qualify as cash flow hedges is recorded in cumulative other comprehensive loss and is subsequently reclassified into earnings in the period that the hedged forecasted transaction affects earnings. During 2018, such derivatives were used to hedge the variable cash flows associated with variable-rate debt. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of the derivatives is recognized directly in earnings.

Amounts reported in cumulative other comprehensive loss related to derivatives will be reclassified to interest expense as interest payments are made on our variable-rate debt. During the next twelve months, we estimate that an additional \$0.4 million will be reclassified from cumulative other comprehensive loss as an increase to interest expense.

On March 4, 2016, we purchased an interest rate cap with a LIBOR strike price of 2.50%. The interest rate cap, effective April 1, 2016, has a notional amount of \$400.0 million and a maturity date of March 1, 2019.

As of March 31, 2018, we had the following outstanding interest rate derivative that was designated as a cash flow hedge of interest rate risk:

| Interest Rate Derivative | Number of Instruments | Notional Amount (in thousands) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Interest rate cap | 1 | \$ 400,000 |

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

The table below presents the fair value of our derivative financial instrument as well as its classification on the condensed consolidated balance sheets as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (amounts in thousands):

| Interest Rate Derivative Designated as Hedging Instrument | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value as of | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | March 31, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
| Interest rate cap | Other assets | \$ 84 | \$ 17 |

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The table below details the location in the financial statements of the gain or loss recognized on interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 (amounts in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | 2017 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Amount of gain (loss) recognized in cumulative other comprehensive loss | \$67 | \$(154) |
| Amount of loss reclassified from cumulative other comprehensive loss into interest expense | 50 | 1 |

Credit-risk-related Contingent Features

As of March 31, 2018, we did not have any derivatives in a net liability position.

Note 11. Share-Based Compensation

Recipients of the Company's restricted shares have the same voting rights as any other common shareholder. During the period of restriction, the Company's unvested restricted shareholders are eligible to receive dividend payments on their shares at the same rate and on the same date as any other common shareholder. The restricted shares are service based awards and vest over a four-year period.

Recipients of the Company's restricted stock units (RSUs) are entitled to receive dividends with respect to the common shares underlying the RSUs if and when the RSUs are earned, at which time the recipient will be entitled to receive an amount in cash equal to the aggregate amount of cash dividends that would have been paid in respect of the common shares underlying the recipient's earned RSUs had such common shares been issued to the recipient on the first day of the performance period. To the extent that an award does not vest, the dividends related to unvested RSUs will be forfeited. The RSUs are market based awards with a service condition and recipients may earn RSUs based on the Company's total shareholder return (TSR) relative to the TSRs of the companies that comprise the NAREIT Office Index over a three year performance period. Following the end of the three-year performance period, the number of earned awards will be determined. The earned awards vest in two tranches with 50% of the earned award vesting following the end of the performance period on the date the Compensation Committee of our Board of Trustees (the Committee) determines the level of achievement of the performance metric and the remaining 50% of the earned award vesting approximately one year thereafter, subject to the grant recipient's continued employment. Compensation expense for the RSUs is determined using a Monte Carlo simulation model and is recognized ratably from the grant date to the vesting date of each tranche.

LTIP Units are a class of beneficial interests in the Operating Trust that may be issued to employees, officers, or trustees of the Operating Trust, the Company or their subsidiaries (LTIP Units). Time-based LTIP Units have the same general characteristics as restricted shares and market-based LTIP Units have the same general characteristics as RSUs. Each LTIP Unit will convert automatically into an OP Unit on a one-for-one basis when the LTIP Unit becomes vested and its capital account is equalized with the per-unit capital account of the OP Units. Holders of LTIP Units generally will be entitled to receive the same per-unit distributions as the other outstanding OP Units in the Operating Trust, except that market-based LTIP Units will not participate in distributions until expiration of the applicable performance period, at which time any earned market-based LTIP Units generally will become entitled to

receive a catch-up distribution for the periods prior to such time.

15

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2018 Equity Award Activity

On January 29, 2018, the Committee approved a grant of 125,409 restricted shares and 254,615 RSUs at target (634,628 RSUs at maximum) to the Company's officers, certain employees and to Mr. Zell, the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, as part of their compensation for fiscal year 2017. The restricted shares granted on January 29, 2018 were valued at \$29.78 per share, the closing price of our common shares on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on that day. The assumptions and fair value for the RSUs granted during the three months ended March 31, 2018 are included in the following table on a per share basis.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---|
| | 2018 | |
| Fair value of RSUs granted | \$37.13 | |
| Expected term (years) | 4 | |
| Expected volatility | — | |
| Expected dividend yield | 1.68 | % |
| Risk-free rate | 2.26 | % |

2017 Equity Award Activity

On January 24, 2017, the Committee approved a grant of 39,364 time-based LTIP Units, 79,924 market-based LTIP Units at target (199,211 market-based LTIP Units at maximum), 76,424 restricted shares and 155,168 RSUs at target (386,756 RSUs at maximum) to the Company's officers, certain employees and to Mr. Zell, the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, as part of their compensation for fiscal year 2016.

Outstanding Equity Awards

As of March 31, 2018, the estimated future compensation expense for all unvested restricted shares and time-based LTIP Units was \$10.9 million. Compensation expense for the restricted share and time-based LTIP Unit awards is being recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for each separately vesting portion of the award. The weighted average period over which the future compensation expense will be recorded for the restricted shares and time-based LTIP units is approximately 2.3 years.

As of March 31, 2018, the estimated future compensation expense for all unvested RSUs and market-based LTIP Units was \$21.1 million. The weighted average period over which the future compensation expense will be recorded for the RSUs and market-based LTIP Units is approximately 2.3 years.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, we recorded \$5.3 million and \$5.2 million, respectively, of compensation expense, net of forfeitures, in general and administrative expense for grants to our trustees and employees related to our equity compensation plans. The \$5.3 million of compensation expense recorded during the three months ended March 31, 2018 includes \$0.4 million of accelerated vesting due to a staffing reduction. Forfeitures are recognized as they occur. At March 31, 2018, 868,268 shares/units remain available for issuance under the Equity Commonwealth 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as amended.

Note 12. Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The table below presents assets measured at fair value during 2018, categorized by the level of inputs used in the valuation of the assets (dollars in thousands):

| |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Fair Value at March 31, 2018 Using Significant Other |
|---------------------------------------------------------|

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

| Description | Total | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets | | Observable Inputs | Significant Unobservable Inputs |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |
| Recurring Fair Value Measurements: | | | | | |
| Interest rate cap contract | \$84 | \$— | \$ 84 | \$ | — |
| Marketable securities | \$247,879 | \$ 247,879 | \$ — | \$ | — |

16

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Interest Rate Cap Contract

The fair value of our interest rate cap contract is determined using the net discounted cash flows of the derivative based on the market based interest rate curve (level 2 inputs) and adjusted for our credit spread and the actual and estimated credit spreads of the counterparties (level 3 inputs). Although we have determined that the majority of the inputs used to value our derivative fall within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, the credit valuation adjustments associated with our derivative utilize level 3 inputs, such as estimates of current credit spreads, to evaluate the likelihood of default by us and the counterparties. As of March 31, 2018, we have assessed the significance of the impact of the credit valuation adjustments on the overall valuation of our derivative position and have determined that the credit valuation adjustments are not significant to the overall valuation of our derivative. As a result, we have determined that our derivative valuation in its entirety is classified as level 2 inputs in the fair value hierarchy.

Properties Held and Used

As part of our office repositioning strategy adopted by our Board of Trustees in December 2016, and pursuant to our accounting policy, in 2017, we evaluated the recoverability of the carrying values of each of the real estate assets that comprised our portfolio and determined that due to the shortening of the expected periods of ownership as a result of the office repositioning strategy and current estimates of market value less estimated costs to sell, it was necessary to reduce the net book value of a portion of the real estate assets in our portfolio to their estimated fair values. We anticipate the potential disposition of certain properties prior to the end of their remaining useful lives. As a result, in the first quarter of 2018, we recorded an impairment charge related to 777 East Eisenhower Parkway and 97 Newberry Road of \$12.1 million in accordance with our impairment analysis procedures. We determined this impairment based on independent third party broker information, which are level 3 inputs according to the fair value hierarchy established in ASC 820. We reduced the aggregate carrying value of these properties from \$41.8 million to their estimated fair value less estimated costs to sell of \$29.7 million. We evaluated each of our properties and determined there were no additional valuation adjustments necessary at March 31, 2018.

Financial Instruments

In addition to the assets described in the above table, our financial instruments include our cash and cash equivalents, real estate mortgage receivable, restricted cash, marketable securities, senior unsecured debt and mortgage notes payable. At March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the fair value of these additional financial instruments were not materially different from their carrying values, except as follows (in thousands):

| | March 31, 2018 | | December 31, 2017 | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | Carrying | Fair | Carrying | Fair |
| | Amount | Value | Amount | Value |
| Senior unsecured debt and mortgage notes payable | \$681,675 | \$693,328 | \$856,940 | \$874,280 |

The fair values of our senior notes are based on quoted market prices (level 2 inputs) and the fair values of our mortgage notes payable are based on estimates using discounted cash flow analyses and currently prevailing interest rates adjusted by credit risk spreads (level 3 inputs).

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

Other financial instruments that potentially subject us to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of rents receivable; however, as of March 31, 2018, no single tenant of ours is responsible for more than 7.0% of our total annualized rents, other than one tenant that is responsible for 13.0% of our total annualized rents.

Our interest rate cap counterparty is a major financial institution and we monitor the amount of our credit exposure to any one counterparty.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Note 13. Earnings Per Common Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (amounts in thousands except per share amounts):

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Numerator for earnings per common share - basic: | | |
| Net income | \$187,662 | \$23,822 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | (63) | (8) |
| Preferred distributions | (1,997) | (1,997) |
| Numerator for net income per share - basic | \$185,602 | \$21,817 |
| Numerator for earnings per common share - diluted: | | |
| Net income | \$187,662 | \$23,822 |
| Preferred distributions | — | (1,997) |
| Numerator for net income per share - diluted | \$187,662 | \$21,825 |
| Denominator for earnings per common share - basic and diluted: | | |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - basic(1) | 123,867 | 124,047 |
| RSUs(2) | 730 | 1,023 |
| LTIP Units(2)(3) | 136 | 80 |
| OP Units (4) | 1 | — |
| Series D preferred shares; 6 1/2% cumulative convertible | 2,363 | — |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding - diluted | 127,097 | 125,150 |
| Net income per common share attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders: | | |
| Basic | \$1.50 | \$0.18 |
| Diluted | \$1.48 | \$0.17 |
| Anti-dilutive securities: | | |
| Effect of Series D preferred shares; 6 1/2% cumulative convertible(5) | — | 2,363 |

(1) The three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, includes 307 and 0 weighted-average, unvested, measured RSUs, respectively.

(2) Represents weighted-average number of common shares that would have been issued if the quarter-end was the measurement date for RSUs and performance-based LTIPs.

(3) Represents weighted-average time-based and performance-based LTIPs that would have been issued if the quarter-end was the measurement date for the periods shown.

(4) Beneficial interests in the Operating Trust.

The Series D preferred shares are excluded from the diluted earnings per share calculation for the three months ended March 31, 2017 because including the Series D preferred shares would also require that the preferred distributions be added back to net income, resulting in anti-dilution.

Table of Contents

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Note 14. Segment Information

Our primary business is the ownership and operation of office properties, and we currently have one reportable segment. More than 90% of our revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2018 are from office properties.

Note 15. Related Person Transactions

The following discussion includes a description of our related person transactions for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017.

Two North Riverside Plaza Joint Venture Limited Partnership: We have a lease with Two North Riverside Plaza Joint Venture Limited Partnership, an entity associated with Mr. Zell, our Chairman, to occupy office space on the twentieth and twenty-first floors of Two North Riverside Plaza in Chicago, Illinois (20th/21st Floor Office Lease). The initial term of the lease is approximately five years, with one 5-year renewal option. We completed improvements to the office space utilizing the \$0.7 million tenant improvement allowance pursuant to the lease. In connection with the 20th/21st Floor Office Lease, we also have a lease with Two North Riverside Plaza Joint Venture Limited Partnership for storage space in the basement of Two North Riverside Plaza. The lease expires December 31, 2020; however, each party has the right to terminate on 30 days' prior written notice. During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, we recognized expense of \$0.2 million and \$0.2 million, respectively, pursuant to the 20th/21st Floor Office Lease and the related storage space.

Note 16. Subsequent Events

On April 11, 2018, we announced that our Board of Trustees declared a dividend of \$0.40625 per series D preferred share, which will be paid on May 15, 2018 to shareholders of record on April 27, 2018 (see Note 6).

On May 4, 2018, we redeemed at par the total \$400.0 million outstanding under our 5-year and 7-year term loans.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included in this Quarterly Report, and in our Annual Report.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements contained in this Quarterly Report constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Any forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report are intended to be made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act.

Forward-looking statements relate to expectations, beliefs, projections, future plans and strategies, anticipated events or trends and similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. In particular, statements pertaining to our capital resources, portfolio performance and results of operations contain forward-looking statements. Likewise, all of our statements regarding anticipated growth in market conditions are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” or “potential” or the negative of these words and phrases or similar words or phrases which are predictions of or indicate future events or trends and which do not relate solely to historical matters. You can also identify forward-looking statements by discussions of strategy, plans or intentions.

The forward-looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report reflect our current views about future events and are subject to numerous known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and changes in circumstances that may cause our actual results to differ significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statement. We do not guarantee that the transactions and events described will happen as described (or that they will happen at all). We disclaim any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect changes in underlying assumptions or factors, of new information, data or methods, future events or other changes. For a further discussion of these and other factors that could cause our future results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements, see the section entitled “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

OVERVIEW

We are an internally managed and self-advised REIT primarily engaged in the ownership and operation of office buildings throughout the United States. We were formed in 1986 under Maryland law. On November 10, 2016, we converted to what is commonly referred to as an umbrella partnership real estate investment trust, or UPREIT, structure. Substantially all of the Company’s assets and liabilities are now held in an Operating Trust through which the Company conducts its business.

At March 31, 2018, our portfolio, excluding properties classified as held for sale, consisted of 13 properties (22 buildings), with a combined 6.3 million square feet for a total investment of \$1.2 billion at cost and a depreciated book value of \$0.9 billion.

As of March 31, 2018, our overall portfolio was 88.6% leased. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we entered into leases, excluding leasing activity for assets during the quarter in which the asset was sold or classified as held for sale for 117,000 square feet, including lease renewals for 71,000 square feet and new leases for 46,000 square feet. Renewal leases entered into during the three months ended March 31, 2018 had weighted average cash and GAAP rental rates that were approximately 1.7% higher and 9.5% higher, respectively, as compared to prior rental rates for the same space, and new leases entered into during the three months ended March 31, 2018 had weighted average cash and GAAP rental rates that were approximately 6.7% higher and 15.3% higher, respectively, than prior

rental rates for the same space. The change in GAAP rents is different than the change in cash rents due to differences in the amount of rent abatements, the magnitude and timing of contractual rent increases over the lease term, and the years of term for the newly executed leases compared to the prior leases.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we sold three properties (four buildings) with a combined 2.6 million square feet for an aggregate gross sales price of \$785.2 million, excluding closing credits and closing costs. We have generated significant proceeds from our dispositions to date and have cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities of \$3.1 billion as of March 31, 2018. For more information regarding these transactions, see Note 3 to the notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report. As our real estate investments have decreased, our income from operations has also declined.

Table of Contents

In the first quarter, we continued executing our office repositioning strategy to own and acquire at a discount to replacement cost high-quality, multi-tenant office assets in markets and sub-markets with favorable long-term supply and demand fundamentals. We expect our efforts to continue to be primarily focused on larger buildings in central business districts and major urban areas that offer an attractive quality of life, including opportunities for tenants to live and play in close proximity to where they work, with a preference for markets that have above average limitations on new supply. We currently target our efforts towards acquiring portfolios of properties or pursuing other large acquisitions as opposed to purchasing individual properties, although we may acquire individual properties if opportunities to do so are consistent with our office repositioning strategy.

While executing this strategy, depending on market conditions, we may sell additional properties. With the progress we have had executing dispositions, and the strength and liquidity of our balance sheet, we are in a position to increasingly shift our focus to capital allocation. We seek to use this capital to purchase new properties, repay debt, buy back common shares or make other investments or distributions that further our long-term strategic goals.

As we continue to reposition our portfolio, we expect our efforts will be balanced among leasing assets to create value, selling assets when we are able to achieve attractive pricing, and evaluating a wide range of opportunities to deploy capital. Our goal is to utilize the proceeds from asset dispositions to make new investments that will create shareholder value, but we may be unable to identify suitable opportunities. If we do not redeploy capital, we will strive to achieve a sale or liquidation of the Company in a manner that optimizes shareholder value. We are currently unable to predict if or when we will make a determination to sell or liquidate the Company. We continue to evaluate opportunities and courses of action to increase shareholder value and will make such a determination based on market conditions and available opportunities if and when our Board of Trustees believes it to be appropriate.

As part of the office repositioning strategy noted above, and pursuant to our accounting policy, in 2018, we evaluated the recoverability of the carrying values of each of the real estate assets that comprised our portfolio and determined that due to the shortening of the expected periods of ownership as a result of our office repositioning strategy and current estimates of market value, it was necessary to reduce the net book value of a portion of the real estate assets in our portfolio to their estimated fair values less estimated costs to sell. As a result, we recorded an impairment charge of \$12.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018 in accordance with our impairment analysis procedures.

The taxable gain from sales of properties during the three months ended March 31, 2018 has fully utilized our \$120 million net operating loss carryforward that we had as of December 31, 2017. Although we did not make a distribution to common shareholders in 2017 or the first quarter of 2018, we expect to be required to make a 2018 distribution in order to maintain our status as a REIT. Whether we will make a distribution in 2018 and the timing of any such distribution remains uncertain.

We have engaged CBRE, Inc. (CBRE) to provide property management services for our properties. We pay CBRE a property-by-property management fee and may engage CBRE from time-to-time to perform project management services, such as coordinating and overseeing the completion of tenant improvements and other capital projects at the properties. We reimburse CBRE for certain expenses incurred in the performance of its duties, including certain personnel and equipment costs.

For the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, we incurred expenses of \$3.0 million and \$5.2 million, respectively, related to our property management agreement with CBRE, for property management fees, typically calculated as a portion of the properties' revenues, and salary and benefits reimbursements for property personnel, such as property managers, engineers and maintenance staff. As of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, we had amounts payable pursuant to these services of \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million, respectively.

Table of Contents

Property Operations

Leased occupancy data for 2018 and 2017 are as follows (square feet in thousands):

| | All Properties(1) | | Comparable Properties(2) | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | As of March 31, 2018 | As of March 31, 2017 | As of March 31, 2018 | As of March 31, 2017 |
| Total properties | 13 | 28 | 13 | 13 |
| Total square feet | 6,344 | 14,593 | 6,344 | 6,324 |
| Percent leased(3) | 88.6 % | 89.0 % | 88.6 % | 87.2 % |

(1) Excludes properties sold or classified as held for sale in the period.

(2) Based on properties owned continuously from January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, and excludes properties sold or classified as held for sale during the period.

(3) Percent leased includes (i) space being fitted out for occupancy pursuant to existing leases and (ii) space which is leased but is not occupied or is being offered for sublease by tenants.

The weighted average lease term based on square feet for leases entered into during the three months ended March 31, 2018 was 7.8 years. Commitments made for leasing expenditures and concessions, such as tenant improvements and leasing commissions, for leases entered into during the three months ended March 31, 2018 totaled \$6.9 million, or \$59.23 per square foot on average (approximately \$7.56 per square foot per year of the lease term).

As of March 31, 2018, approximately 3.1% of our leased square feet and 4.2% of our annualized rental revenue, determined as set forth below, are included in leases scheduled to expire through December 31, 2018. Renewed and new leases and rental rates at which available space may be relet in the future will depend on prevailing market conditions at the times these leases are negotiated. We believe that the in-place cash rents for leases expiring for the remainder of 2018, that have not been backfilled, are below market. Lease expirations by year, as of March 31, 2018, are as follows (square feet and dollars in thousands):

| Year | Number of Tenants Expiring | Leased Square Feet Expiring(1) | % of Leased Square Feet Expiring(1) | Cumulative % of Leased Square Feet Expiring(1) | Annualized Rental Revenue Expiring(2) | % of Annualized Rental Revenue Expiring | Cumulative % of Annualized Rental Revenue Expiring |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2018 | 26 | 175 | 3.1 % | 3.1 % | \$ 6,824 | 4.2 % | 4.2 % |
| 2019 | 50 | 643 | 11.4 % | 14.5 % | 23,050 | 14.3 % | 18.5 % |
| 2020 | 38 | 885 | 15.7 % | 30.2 % | 30,889 | 19.2 % | 37.7 % |
| 2021 | 38 | 256 | 4.6 % | 34.8 % | 8,819 | 5.5 % | 43.2 % |
| 2022 | 32 | 406 | 7.2 % | 42.0 % | 13,894 | 8.6 % | 51.8 % |
| 2023 | 35 | 456 | 8.1 % | 50.1 % | 15,441 | 9.6 % | 61.4 % |
| 2024 | 9 | 142 | 2.5 % | 52.6 % | 4,820 | 3.0 % | 64.4 % |
| 2025 | 12 | 205 | 3.6 % | 56.2 % | 7,633 | 4.7 % | 69.1 % |
| 2026 | 8 | 134 | 2.4 % | 58.6 % | 4,839 | 3.0 % | 72.1 % |
| 2027 | 11 | 189 | 3.4 % | 62.0 % | 7,479 | 4.7 % | 76.8 % |
| Thereafter | 32 | 2,130 | 38.0 % | 100.0 % | 37,101 | 23.2 % | 100.0 % |
| | 291 | 5,621 | 100.0 % | | \$ 160,789 | 100.0 % | |

Weighted average remaining lease term (in years): 7.0

5.7

Square footage as of March 31, 2018, excluding leases related to properties classified as held for sale, includes space subject to leases that have commenced, space being fitted out for occupancy pursuant to existing leases, and (1) space which is leased but is not occupied or is being offered for sublease by tenants. The year expiring corresponds to the latest-expiring signed lease for a given suite. Thus, backfilled suites expire in the year stipulated by the new lease.

Annualized rental revenue is annualized contractual rents from our tenants pursuant to leases which have commenced as of March 31, 2018, plus estimated recurring expense reimbursements; includes triple net lease rents and excludes lease value amortization, straight line rent adjustments, abated (free) rent periods and parking revenue. We calculate annualized rental

Table of Contents

revenue by aggregating the recurring billings outlined above for the most recent month during the quarter reported, adding abated rent, and multiplying the sum by 12 to provide an estimation of near-term potentially-recurring revenues. Annualized rental revenue is a forward-looking non-GAAP measure. Annualized rental revenue cannot be reconciled to a comparable GAAP measure without unreasonable efforts, primarily due to the fact that it is calculated from the billings of tenants in the most recent month at the most recent rental rates during the quarter reported, whereas historical GAAP measures include billings from a potentially different group of tenants over multiple months at potentially different rental rates. Excludes the annualized rental revenue of space that is leased but not commenced.

A principal source of funds for our operations is rents from tenants at our properties. Rents are generally received from our tenants monthly in advance. As of March 31, 2018, tenants representing 1.5% or more of our total annualized rental revenue were as follows (square feet in thousands):

| Tenant(1) | Square Feet(2) | % of Total Square Feet(2) | % of Annualized Rental Revenue(3) | Weighted Average Remaining Lease Term |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Expedia, Inc. | 427 | 7.6 % | 13.0 % | 1.8 |
| 2. Flex Ltd. (formerly known as Flextronics International Ltd.) | 1,051 | 18.7 % | 6.8 % | 11.8 |
| 3. Ballard Spahr LLP | 219 | 3.9 % | 5.3 % | 11.9 |
| 4. Georgetown University(4) | 240 | 4.3 % | 4.2 % | 1.5 |
| 5. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc. | 117 | 2.1 % | 2.3 % | 5.3 |
| 6. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Inc. | 77 | 1.4 % | 2.2 % | 6.7 |
| 7. BT Americas, Inc. | 59 | 1.0 % | 1.8 % | 1.3 |
| 8. Alcan Corporation | 85 | 1.5 % | 1.8 % | 5.0 |
| 9. Statoil Oil & Gas LP(5) | 83 | 1.5 % | 1.8 % | 1.0 |
| 10. KPMG, LLP | 66 | 1.2 % | 1.6 % | 4.9 |
| 11. Aberdeen Asset Management, Inc. | 58 | 1.0 % | 1.5 % | 1.5 |
| Total | 2,482 | 44.2 % | 42.3 % | 7.3 |

(1) Tenants located in properties classified as held for sale are excluded.

Square footage as of March 31, 2018 includes space subject to leases that have commenced, space being fitted out (2) for occupancy pursuant to existing leases, and space which is leased but is not occupied or is being offered for sublease by tenants.

Annualized rental revenue is annualized contractual rents from our tenants pursuant to leases which have commenced as of March 31, 2018, plus estimated recurring expense reimbursements; includes triple net lease rents and excludes lease value amortization, straight line rent adjustments, abated (free) rent periods and parking revenue. We calculate annualized rental revenue by aggregating the recurring billings outlined above for the most recent month during the quarter reported, adding abated rent, and multiplying the sum by 12 to provide an (3) estimation of near-term potentially-recurring revenues. Annualized rental revenue is a forward-looking non-GAAP measure. Annualized rental revenue cannot be reconciled to a comparable GAAP measure without unreasonable efforts, primarily due to the fact that it is calculated from the billings of tenants in the most recent month at the most recent rental rates during the quarter reported, whereas historical GAAP measures include billings from a potentially different group of tenants over multiple months at potentially different rental rates.

(4) Georgetown University's leased space includes 111,600 square feet that are sublet to another tenant. During the fourth quarter of 2017, the other tenant committed to lease this space through September 30, 2037.

(5) During the second quarter of 2018, Statoil Oil & Gas LP renewed approximately 80,000 square feet through December 31, 2023.

Financing Activities

On March 7, 2018, we redeemed at par all \$175.0 million of our 5.75% senior unsecured notes due 2018 and recognized a loss on early extinguishment of debt of \$4.9 million from the write off of unamortized deferred financing fees.

Regulation FD Disclosures

We intend to use any of the following to comply with our disclosure obligations under Regulation FD: press releases, SEC filings, public conference calls, or our website. We routinely post important information on our website at www.eqcre.com, including information that may be deemed to be material. We encourage investors and others interested in the

Table of Contents

company to monitor these distribution channels for material disclosures. Our website address is included in this Quarterly Report as a textual reference only and the information on the website is not incorporated by reference into this Quarterly Report.

24

Table of Contents

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Three Months Ended March 31, 2018, Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2017

| | Comparable Properties Results(1) | | | | Other Properties Results(2) | | Consolidated Results | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 | | Three Months Ended March 31, 2017 | | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| | (dollars in thousands) | | | | | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$32,401 | \$31,974 | \$427 | 1.3 % | \$11,148 | \$48,231 | \$43,549 | \$80,205 | \$(36,656) | (45.7)% |
| Tenant reimbursements and other income | 11,749 | 12,259 | (510) | (4.2)% | 3,290 | 7,087 | 15,039 | 19,346 | (4,307) | (22.3)% |
| Operating expenses | (18,094) | (17,624) | (470) | 2.7 % | (6,505) | (23,463) | (24,599) | (41,087) | 16,488 | (40.1)% |
| Net operating income(3) | \$26,056 | \$26,609 | \$(553) | (2.1)% | \$7,933 | \$31,855 | 33,989 | 58,464 | (24,475) | (41.9)% |
| Other expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | | | | | | | 13,903 | 26,915 | (13,012) | (48.3)% |
| General and administrative | | | | | | | 13,339 | 12,078 | 1,261 | 10.4% |
| Loss on asset impairment | | | | | | | 12,087 | 1,286 | 10,801 | 839.9% |
| Total other expenses | | | | | | | 39,329 | 40,279 | (950) | (2.4)% |
| Operating (loss) income | | | | | | | (5,340) | 18,185 | (23,525) | (129.4)% |
| Interest and other income, net | | | | | | | 5,780 | 4,372 | 1,408 | 32.2% |
| Interest expense | | | | | | | (10,115) | (15,014) | 4,899 | (32.6)% |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | | | | | | | (4,867) | — | (4,867) | (100.0)% |
| Gain on sale of properties, net | | | | | | | 205,211 | 16,454 | 188,757 | 1,147.2% |
| Income before income taxes | | | | | | | 190,669 | 23,997 | 166,672 | 694.6% |
| Income tax expense | | | | | | | (3,007) | (175) | (2,832) | 1,618.3% |
| Net income | | | | | | | 187,662 | 23,822 | 163,840 | 687.8% |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | | | | | | | (63) | (8) | (55) | 687.5% |
| Net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth | | | | | | | 187,599 | 23,814 | 163,785 | 687.8% |
| Preferred distributions | | | | | | | (1,997) | (1,997) | — | —% |
| Net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders | | | | | | | \$185,602 | \$21,817 | \$163,785 | 750.7% |

(1) Comparable properties consist of 13 properties (22 buildings) we owned continuously from January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

(2) Other properties consist of properties sold or classified as held for sale as of the end of the period.

We define net operating income, or NOI, as shown above, as income from our real estate including lease termination fees received from tenants less our property operating expenses. NOI excludes amortization of capitalized tenant improvement costs and leasing commissions. We consider NOI to be an appropriate supplemental measure to net income because it may help both investors and management to understand the operations of our properties. We use NOI internally to evaluate property level performance, and we believe that NOI provides useful information to investors regarding our results of operations because it reflects only those income and expense items that are incurred at the property level and may facilitate comparisons of our operating performance between periods and with other REITs. NOI does not represent cash generated by operating activities in accordance with GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income or cash flow from operating activities, determined in accordance with GAAP, or as an indicator of our financial performance or liquidity, nor is this measure necessarily indicative of sufficient cash flow to fund all of our needs. This measure should be considered in conjunction with net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income and cash flow from operating activities as presented in our consolidated statements of operations, consolidated statements of comprehensive income and consolidated statements of cash flows. Other REITs and real estate companies may calculate NOI differently than we do.

Our condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 include the operating results of 13 properties we owned continuously from January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Table of Contents

Rental income. Rental income decreased \$36.7 million, or 45.7%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to the properties sold in 2018 and 2017. Rental income increased \$0.4 million, or 1.3%, at the comparable properties primarily due to an increase in lease termination revenue and parking revenue, partially offset by several large tenant lease expirations.

Rental income includes straight line rent adjustments totaling \$1.5 million in the 2018 period and \$4.4 million in the 2017 period, and net reductions for amortization of acquired real estate leases and assumed real estate lease obligations totaling \$0.1 million in the 2018 period and \$0.6 million in the 2017 period. Rental income also includes the recognition of lease termination fees totaling \$1.0 million in the 2018 period and \$1.7 million in the 2017 period.

Tenant reimbursements and other income. Tenant reimbursements and other income decreased \$4.3 million, or 22.3%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to the properties sold in 2018 and 2017. Tenant reimbursements and other income decreased \$0.5 million, or 4.2%, at the comparable properties primarily due to a decrease in utility expense, partially offset by an increase in real estate tax expense.

Operating expenses. Operating expenses decreased \$16.5 million, or 40.1%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to the properties sold in 2018 and 2017. Operating expenses increased \$0.5 million, or 2.7%, at the comparable properties primarily due to an increase in real estate tax expense.

Depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization decreased \$13.0 million, or 48.3%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period primarily due to properties sold in 2018 and 2017.

General and administrative. General and administrative expenses increased \$1.3 million, or 10.4%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to \$1.7 million of compensation expenses in the 2018 period relating to a staffing reduction, partially offset by a \$0.3 million decrease in share-based compensation expense.

Loss on asset impairment. We recorded impairment charges of \$12.1 million in the 2018 period related to 777 East Eisenhower Parkway and 97 Newberry Road and \$1.3 million in the 2017 period related to 25 S. Charles Street based upon the shortening of our expected period of ownership and updated market information in accordance with our impairment analysis procedures.

Operating (loss) income. Operating income decreased \$23.5 million, or 129.4%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to the properties sold in 2018 and 2017 and an increase in the loss on asset impairment.

Interest and other income, net. Interest and other income, net increased \$1.4 million, or 32.2% in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to additional interest received on higher invested balances and higher average interest rates in 2018, partially offset by a \$5.0 million loss on the sale of marketable securities.

Interest expense. Interest expense decreased \$4.9 million, or 32.6%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to the repayment of the \$41.3 million mortgage debt at Parkshore Plaza in April 2017, the prepayment of \$250.0 million of our 6.65% senior unsecured notes in July 2017, and the prepayment of all \$175.0 million of our 5.75% senior unsecured notes in March 2018, partially offset by an increase in interest expense on our term loans as a result of an increase in interest rates, partially offset by lower borrowing spreads as a result of an upgrade in our credit rating received from Moody's Investor Services in November 2017.

Loss on early extinguishment of debt. The loss on early extinguishment of debt of \$4.9 million in the 2018 period reflects the write off of unamortized deferred financing fees related to our repayment at par of our 5.75% senior unsecured notes due 2042.

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

Gain on sale of properties, net. Gain on sale of properties, net increased \$188.8 million in the 2018 period, as compared to the 2017 period. Gain on sale of properties, net in the 2018 period primarily relates to the following (dollars in thousands):

| Asset | Gain on Sale |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1600 Market Street | \$54,599 |
| 600 West Chicago Avenue | 107,830 |
| 5073, 5075, & 5085 S. Syracuse Street | 42,762 |
| | \$205,191 |

Table of Contents

Gain on sale of properties, net in the 2017 period relates to the following (dollars in thousands):

| Asset | Gain (Loss) on Sale |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 111 Market Place | \$(5,968) |
| Cabot Business Park Land | (57) |
| Seton Center | 22,479 |
| | \$16,454 |

Income tax expense. Income tax expense increased \$2.8 million, or 1,618.3%, in the 2018 period, compared to the 2017 period, primarily due to the state and local taxes incurred for the sale of properties.

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest. In 2017, we granted LTIP Units to certain of our trustees and employees. The net income attributable to noncontrolling interest of \$63,000 in the 2018 period and \$8,000 in the 2017 period relates to the allocation of net income to the LTIP Unit holders.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our Operating Liquidity and Resources

As of March 31, 2018, we had \$3.1 billion of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities. We expect to use our cash balances, cash flow from our operations and proceeds of any future property sales to fund our operations, repay debt, make distributions, repurchase our common shares, acquire assets or entities, fund tenant improvements and leasing costs and for other general business purposes. We believe our cash balances and the cash flow from our operations will be sufficient to fund our ordinary course activities.

Our future cash flows from operating activities will depend primarily upon our:

- ability to maintain or improve the occupancy of, and the rental rates at, our properties;
- ability to control operating and financing cost increases at our properties; and
- ability to purchase additional properties, consistent with our office repositioning strategy, which produce rents, less property operating expenses, in excess of our costs of acquisition capital.

Volatility in energy costs and real estate taxes may cause our future operating costs to fluctuate; however, the impact of these fluctuations is expected to be partially offset by the pass through of operating costs to our tenants pursuant to lease terms, although there can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully offset these costs or that doing so would not negatively impact our competitive position or business.

Cash flows provided by (used in) operating, investing and financing activities were \$(0.4) million, \$751.6 million and \$(267.2) million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2018, and \$(4.0) million, \$(200.0) million and \$(2.5) million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2017. Changes in these three categories of our cash flows between 2018 and 2017 are primarily related to a decrease in property net operating income, real estate improvements, dispositions of properties, purchase of marketable securities, proceeds from sales of marketable securities, repayments of debt and repurchase of our common shares.

Our Investment and Financing Liquidity and Resources

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

In order to maintain financial flexibility, to fund potential acquisitions and to meet cash needs that may result from timing differences between our receipt of rents and our desire or need to make distributions and investments or pay operating or capital expenses, we maintain an unsecured revolving credit facility with a group of institutional lenders. Our credit agreement provides us with (i) a \$750.0 million unsecured revolving credit facility, (ii) a \$200.0 million 5-year term loan facility and (iii) a \$200.0 million 7-year term loan facility. The revolving credit facility has a scheduled maturity date of January 28, 2019, which maturity date may be extended for up to two additional periods of six months at our option subject to satisfaction of certain conditions and the payment of an extension fee of 7.5 basis points of the aggregate amount available under the revolving credit facility. The 5-year term loan and the 7-year term loan have scheduled maturity dates of January 28, 2020 and January 28, 2022, respectively.

Table of Contents

Borrowings under our revolving credit facility currently bear interest at LIBOR plus a spread, which was 105 basis points as of March 31, 2018. We also pay a facility fee of 20 basis points per annum on the total amount of lending commitments under our revolving credit facility. Both the interest rate spread and the facility fee are subject to adjustment based upon changes to our credit ratings. We are allowed to borrow, repay and reborrow funds available under our revolving credit facility until maturity, and no principal repayment is due until maturity. As of March 31, 2018, the interest rate payable on borrowings under our revolving credit facility was 2.93%. As of March 31, 2018, we had no balance outstanding under our revolving credit facility.

Our term loans currently bear interest at a rate of LIBOR plus a spread, which was 115 and 155 basis points for the 5-year and 7-year term loan, respectively, as of March 31, 2018. The interest rate spread is subject to adjustment based upon changes to our credit ratings. As of March 31, 2018, the interest rate for the amounts outstanding under our term loan was 3.03% and 3.43% for the 5-year and 7-year term loan, respectively. As of March 31, 2018, our 5-year and 7-year term loans each had outstanding balances of \$200.0 million. On May 4, 2018, we redeemed at par the total \$400.0 million outstanding under our 5-year and 7-year term loans.

On March 7, 2018, we redeemed at par all \$175.0 million of our 5.75% senior unsecured notes due 2042.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we paid an aggregate of \$2.0 million of distributions on our series D preferred shares. On April 11, 2018, we announced that our Board of Trustees declared a dividend of \$0.40625 per series D preferred share, which is expected to be paid on May 15, 2018 to shareholders of record on April 27, 2018.

On March 15, 2017, our Board of Trustees authorized the repurchase of up to \$150.0 million of our outstanding common shares over the twelve month period following the date of authorization. In March 2018, this share repurchase authorization, of which \$81.0 million was not utilized, expired. On March 14, 2018, our Board of Trustees authorized the repurchase of up to an additional \$150.0 million of our outstanding common shares over the twelve month period following the date of authorization. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we repurchased and retired 2,970,209 of our common shares, at a weighted average price of \$29.67 per share, for a total investment of \$88.1 million, of which \$69.0 million was under the March 2017 authorization and \$19.1 million was under the March 2018 authorization. The \$130.9 million of remaining authorization available under our share repurchase program as of March 31, 2018 is scheduled to expire on March 14, 2019.

Our outstanding debt maturities and weighted average interest rates as of March 31, 2018, were as follows (dollars in thousands):

| Year | Scheduled Principal Payments During Period | | | | Weighted Average Interest Rate(2) | |
|------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Unsecured Floating Rate Debt | Unsecured Fixed Rate Debt | Secured Fixed Rate Debt | Total(1) | | |
| 2018 | \$— | \$— | \$798 | \$798 | 5.7 | % |
| 2019 | — | — | 1,126 | 1,126 | 5.7 | % |
| 2020 | 200,000 | (3) 250,000 | 1,189 | 451,189 | 4.6 | % |
| 2021 | — | — | 25,463 | 25,463 | 5.7 | % |
| 2022 | 200,000 | (3)— | 663 | 200,663 | 3.4 | % |
| 2023 | — | — | 702 | 702 | 5.7 | % |
| 2024 | — | — | 743 | 743 | 5.7 | % |
| 2025 | — | — | 787 | 787 | 5.7 | % |
| 2026 | — | — | 204 | 204 | 5.7 | % |
| 2027 | — | — | — | — | — | % |

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----|---|
| Thereafter | — | — | — | — | — | % |
| | \$400,000 | \$250,000 | \$31,675 | \$681,675 | 4.3 | % |

(1) Total debt outstanding as of March 31, 2018, including net unamortized premiums and discounts and net unamortized deferred financing costs, was \$678,527.

(2) Weighted based on current contractual interest rates.

(3) On May 4, 2018, we redeemed at par the total \$400.0 million outstanding under our 5-year and 7-year term loans.

Table of Contents

For further information about our indebtedness, see Note 5 to the notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report.

When significant amounts are outstanding under our revolving credit facility, or as the maturity dates of our revolving credit facility and term debts approach, we explore alternatives to repay amounts due. Such alternatives may include incurring additional debt and issuing new equity securities, extending the maturity of our revolving credit facility and entering into a new revolving credit facility. We have an effective shelf registration statement that allows us to issue public securities on an expedited basis, but it does not assure that there will be buyers for such securities.

We believe that we will have access to various types of financings, including debt or equity offerings, to fund any future acquisitions and to pay our debts and other obligations as they become due. The completion and the costs of any future debt transactions will depend primarily upon market conditions and our credit ratings. We have no control over market conditions. Our credit ratings depend upon evaluations by credit rating agencies of our business practices and plans and, in particular, whether we appear to have the ability to maintain our earnings, to space our debt maturities and to balance our use of debt and equity capital so that our financial performance and leverage ratios afford us flexibility to withstand any reasonably foreseeable adverse changes. We intend to conduct our business activities in a manner which will continue to afford us reasonable access to capital for investment and financing activities. However, there can be no assurance regarding our credit ratings or our ability to complete any debt or equity offerings or that our cost of any future public or private financings will not increase.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, we sold three properties (four buildings) with a combined 2.6 million square feet for an aggregate sales price of \$785.2 million, excluding closing credits and closing costs. For more information regarding these transactions, see Note 3 to the notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, amounts capitalized at our properties, including properties sold or classified as held for sale, for tenant improvements, leasing costs and building improvements were as follows (amounts in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Tenant improvements(1) | \$ 10,907 | \$ 9,427 |
| Leasing costs(2) | 2,842 | 4,617 |
| Building improvements(3) | 1,951 | 4,785 |

(1) Tenant improvements include capital expenditures to improve tenants' spaces.

(2) Leasing costs primarily include brokerage commissions and legal expenses.

(3) Building improvements generally include expenditures to replace obsolete building components and expenditures that extend the useful life of existing assets. Tenant-funded capital expenditures are excluded.

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, commitments made for expenditures in connection with leasing space at our properties, excluding leasing activity for assets during the quarter in which the asset was sold or classified as held for sale, were as follows (dollar and square foot measures in thousands):

| | New Leases | Renewals | Total |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Rentable square feet leased during the period | 46 | 71 | 117 |
| Tenant improvements and leasing commissions | \$ 3,015 | \$ 3,910 | \$ 6,925 |

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Tenant improvements and leasing commissions per rentable square foot | 65.55 | \$ 55.07 | \$ 59.23 |
| Weighted average lease term by square foot (years) | 8.7 | 7.2 | 7.8 |
| Total tenant improvements and leasing commissions per rentable square foot per year | 7.49 | \$ 7.61 | \$ 7.56 |

Debt Covenants

Our unsecured debt obligations at March 31, 2018 were our term loans and our publicly issued senior unsecured notes. Our public debt indenture and related supplements and our credit agreement contain a number of financial ratio covenants which generally restrict our ability to incur debts, in excess of calculated amounts, restrict our ability to make distributions under certain circumstances and require us to maintain other financial ratios. At March 31, 2018, we believe we were in compliance with all covenants under both our indenture and related supplements, and under our credit agreement. In

Table of Contents

addition to our unsecured debt obligations, we had \$32.3 million (including net unamortized premiums and net unamortized deferred financing costs) of mortgage notes outstanding at March 31, 2018.

None of our indenture and related supplements, our credit agreement, or our mortgage notes contain provisions for acceleration or require us to provide collateral security which could be triggered by our debt ratings. However, our senior debt rating is used to determine the interest rate and the fees payable under our credit agreement.

Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of March 31, 2018, we had no off balance sheet arrangements that have had or that we expect would be reasonably likely to have a future material effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources. We had no swaps or hedges as of March 31, 2018, other than the interest rate cap described in Note 10 to the notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements, and under “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk” included in Part I, Item 3 of this Quarterly Report.

Funds from Operations (FFO) and Normalized FFO

We compute FFO in accordance with standards established by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT). NAREIT defines FFO as net income (loss), calculated in accordance with GAAP, excluding real estate depreciation and amortization, gains (or losses) from sales of depreciable property, impairment of depreciable real estate, and our portion of these items related to equity investees and non-controlling interests. Our calculation of Normalized FFO differs from NAREIT’s definition of FFO because we exclude certain items that we view as nonrecurring or impacting comparability from period to period. We consider FFO and Normalized FFO to be appropriate measures of operating performance for a REIT, along with net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income and cash flow from operating activities.

We believe that FFO and Normalized FFO provide useful information to investors because by excluding the effects of certain historical amounts, such as depreciation expense, FFO and Normalized FFO may facilitate a comparison of our operating performance between periods and with other REITs. FFO and Normalized FFO do not represent cash generated by operating activities in accordance with GAAP and should not be considered as alternatives to net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income or cash flow from operating activities, determined in accordance with GAAP, or as indicators of our financial performance or liquidity, nor are these measures necessarily indicative of sufficient cash flow to fund all of our needs. These measures should be considered in conjunction with net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income and cash flow from operating activities as presented in our condensed consolidated statements of operations, condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive income and condensed consolidated statements of cash flows. Other REITs and real estate companies may calculate FFO and Normalized FFO differently than we do.

Table of Contents

The following table provides a reconciliation of net income to FFO attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders and unitholders and a calculation to Normalized FFO attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders and unitholders (in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Reconciliation to FFO: | | |
| Net income | \$ 187,662 | \$ 23,822 |
| Real estate depreciation and amortization | 13,603 | 26,616 |
| Loss on asset impairment | 12,087 | 1,286 |
| Gain on sale of properties, net | (205,211) | (16,454) |
| FFO attributable to Equity Commonwealth | 8,141 | 35,270 |
| Preferred distributions | (1,997) | (1,997) |
| FFO attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders and unitholders | \$ 6,144 | \$ 33,273 |
| Reconciliation to Normalized FFO: | | |
| FFO attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders and unitholders | \$ 6,144 | \$ 33,273 |
| Lease value amortization | 98 | 573 |
| Straight line rent adjustments | (1,528) | (4,387) |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | 4,867 | — |
| Loss on sale of securities | 4,987 | — |
| Income taxes related to gains on property sales | 2,969 | — |
| Normalized FFO attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders and unitholders | \$ 17,537 | \$ 29,459 |

Property Net Operating Income (NOI)

We use property net operating income, or NOI, to evaluate the performance of our properties. We define NOI as income from our real estate operations including lease termination fees received from tenants less our property operating expenses. NOI excludes amortization of capitalized tenant improvement costs and leasing commissions and corporate level expenses.

The following table includes the reconciliation of NOI to net income, the most directly comparable financial measure under GAAP reported in our consolidated financial statements. We consider NOI to be an appropriate supplemental measure to net income because we believe it helps to understand the operations of our properties. We use NOI internally to evaluate property level performance, and we believe that NOI provides useful information to investors regarding our results of operations because it reflects only those income and expense items that are incurred at the property level and may facilitate comparisons of our operating performance between periods and with other REITs. NOI does not represent cash generated by operating activities in accordance with GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income or cash flow from operating activities, determined in accordance with GAAP, or as an indicator of our financial performance or liquidity, nor is this measure necessarily indicative of sufficient cash flow to fund all of our needs. This measure should be considered in conjunction with net income, net income attributable to Equity Commonwealth common shareholders, operating income and cash flow from operating activities as presented in our consolidated statements of operations, consolidated statements of comprehensive income and consolidated statements of cash flows. Other REITs and real estate companies may calculate NOI differently than we do.

Table of Contents

A reconciliation of NOI to net income for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, is as follows (in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Rental income | \$43,549 | \$80,205 |
| Tenant reimbursements and other income | 15,039 | 19,346 |
| Operating expenses | (24,599) | (41,087) |
| NOI | \$33,989 | \$58,464 |
| NOI | \$33,989 | \$58,464 |
| Depreciation and amortization | (13,903) | (26,915) |
| General and administrative | (13,339) | (12,078) |
| Loss on asset impairment | (12,087) | (1,286) |
| Operating (loss) income | (5,340) | 18,185 |
| Interest and other income, net | 5,780 | 4,372 |
| Interest expense | (10,115) | (15,014) |
| Loss on early extinguishment of debt | (4,867) | — |
| Gain on sale of properties, net | 205,211 | 16,454 |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes | 190,669 | 23,997 |
| Income tax expense | (3,007) | (175) |
| Net income | \$187,662 | \$23,822 |

Related Person Transactions

For information about our related person transactions and about the risks that may arise as a result of these related person transactions and relationships, see Note 15 to the notes to our condensed consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

The Company's market risk has not changed materially from the amounts and information reported in Part II, Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk, to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

As of the end of the period covered by this report, our management carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15. Based upon that evaluation, our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended March 31, 2018 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

We are or may be a party to various legal proceedings that arise in the ordinary course of business. We are not currently involved in any litigation nor, to our knowledge, is any litigation threatened against us where the outcome would, in our judgment based on information currently available to us, have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or consolidated results of operations.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

There have been no material changes to the risk factors relating to the Company disclosed in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

Common Share Repurchase Program

The following table provides information with respect to the common share repurchases made by the Company during the quarter ended March 31, 2018:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (1) | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number or Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 2018 | 1,239,985 | \$ 29.39 | 1,239,985 | \$ 113,566,087 |
| March 2018 | 1,730,224 | \$ 29.88 | 1,730,224 | \$ 130,893,395 |
| Total | 2,970,209 | \$ 29.67 | 2,970,209 | \$ 130,893,395 |

(1) On August 24, 2015, our Board of Trustees approved a common share repurchase program. On March 15, 2017, our Board of Trustees authorized the repurchase of up to \$150.0 million of our outstanding common shares over the twelve month period following the date of authorization. On March 14, 2018, our Board of Trustees authorized the repurchase of up to an additional \$150.0 million of our outstanding common shares over the next twelve month period following the date of authorization.

Surrender of Common Shares for Tax Withholding

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, certain of our employees surrendered common shares owned by them to satisfy their statutory tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted common shares and restricted stock units.

The following table summarizes all of these repurchases during the three months ended March 31, 2018:

| Period | Total Number of | Average Price | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced | Maximum Number or Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|--------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

| | Shares Purchased(1) | Paid per Share | Plans or Programs | Under the Plans or Programs |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| January 2018 | 298 | \$ 29.79 | N/A | N/A |
| February 2018 | 54,729 | \$ 28.79 | N/A | N/A |
| March 2018 | 2,321 | \$ 30.27 | N/A | N/A |
| Total | 57,348 | \$ 28.86 | | |

(1) The number of shares repurchased represents common shares surrendered by certain of our employees to satisfy their statutory minimum federal and state tax obligations associated with the vesting of restricted common shares and restricted stock units of beneficial interest. With respect to these shares, the price paid per share is based on the closing price of our common shares as of the date of the determination of the statutory minimum federal and state tax obligations.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Other Information.

Not applicable.

34

Edgar Filing: Equity Commonwealth - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits.

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1 | <u>Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Declaration of Trust of the Company, dated July 1, 1994, as amended to date.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 1, 2014.) |
| 3.2 | <u>Articles Supplementary, dated October 10, 2006.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 11, 2006.) |
| 3.3 | <u>Articles Supplementary, dated May 31, 2011.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 31, 2011.) |
| 3.4 | <u>Articles Supplementary, dated March 14, 2018.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 15, 2018.) |
| 3.5 | <u>Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, adopted March 15, 2017.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2017.) |
| 4.1 | <u>Form of Common Share Certificate.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014.) |
| 4.2 | <u>Form of 61/2% Series D Cumulative Convertible Preferred Share Certificate.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.) |
| 4.3 | <u>Indenture, dated as of July 9, 1997, between the Company and State Street Bank and Trust Company, as Trustee.</u> (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1997, File Number 001-09317.) |
| 4.4 | <u>Supplemental Indenture No. 20, dated as of September 17, 2010, between the Company and U.S. Bank, relating to the Company's 5.875% Senior Notes due 2020, including form thereof.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010.) |
| 10.1 | <u>Real Estate Sale Agreement by and among EOC 600 West Chicago Property LLC, EOC Operating Trust and Chicago Kingsbury, LLC, dated January 22, 2018.</u> (Incorporated by reference to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 23, 2018.) |
| 31.1 | <u>Rule 13a-14(a) Certification.</u> (Filed herewith.) |
| 31.2 | <u>Rule 13a-14(a) Certification.</u> (Filed herewith.) |
| 32.1 | <u>Section 1350 Certification.</u> (Furnished herewith.) |
| 101.1 | The following materials from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations, (iii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and (v) related notes to these condensed consolidated financial statements, tagged as blocks of text and in detail. (Filed herewith.) |

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

EQUITY COMMONWEALTH

By: /s/ David A. Helfand

David A. Helfand

President and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: May 8, 2018

By: /s/ Adam S. Markman

Adam S. Markman

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Dated: May 8, 2018