

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2022
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. The meeting was held via teleconference per guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

Mr. Elliot Broussard led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Rivera requested a moment of silence for prayer or reflection with special intentions for Ms. Ramsie Baumgardner.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, and Mr. Dexter Callahan.

The following guests were present: Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD and Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments regarding any of the items on the agenda.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 5, 2021, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$403.50. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in January. These included: 2 site selector introductory calls, reviewing 3 prospect RFP's, consulting with 1 pre-venture client, sharing job opportunities at 3 local businesses, and working on 1 existing business project to meet their specific requests. She contacted DOTD and local delegation about the safety issues on US Hwy. 167. She also partnered with the Vermilion Chamber to speak at their general membership meeting with the South Louisiana Community College Chancellor Dr. Vincent June.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Falgout provided the board with the final draft and planned pricing of t-shirts for the first Vermilion Parish design. She noted that the agreement with the designer calls for two more designs that will be released later this year. She reminded the board that Manuel Screen Printing will be managing the sales through their website.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with details of the upcoming Farmers' Appreciation Dinner to be held on March 16, 2022. She noted that Barry Toups has agreed to cook the meal in exchange for a sponsorship for the event. Ms. Falgout asked the board's opinion on what sponsorship level would be appropriate. The board agreed to offer Mr. Toups a \$500 sponsorship in return for cooking the meal. Ms. Falgout also asked the board for a budget to cover the cost of side dishes, drinks, paper goods, décor, etc. for the event. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to set a budget for the dinner expenses at \$1,500.00. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout reminded the board that about the Seafood Hub announcement on Thursday, February 24, 2022. She noted that she is awaiting a formal invitation and would pass any details on to the board members.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Ruben Rivera presented the Personnel Committee's recommendation regarding Ms. Falgout's annual review. He noted that the committee recommends continued employment for Ms. Falgout and wanted the board to know of Ms. Falgout's offer to waive her \$200 per month car allowance program in 2022 in lieu of being a stakeholder. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the committee's recommendation of continued employment for Ms. Falgout. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the Accelerate Vermilion Program will take place in partnership with UL Lafayette's LEED Center and Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana. The program offers valuable information to people interested in starting or growing their business. She informed the board that VEDD will sponsor the catering for the 3-day course and asked the board for a budget to cover the cost, which will be reimbursable through VEDD's EDA grant. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to allow a \$1,000.00 for the Accelerate Vermilion food sponsorship. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that Scott Angelle has asked for local partners to ask the Biden Administration to reconsider the moratorium on offshore leasing. Ms. Falgout asked the board's approval to sign the letter of support on behalf of the organization. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout's signature on the letter. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce has requested that he and Ms. Falgout attend their February meeting to discuss the organization and its financial stability.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Rivera asked Ms. Falgout to put together a schedule to visit with VEDD's stakeholders with a focus on the Vermilion Parish municipalities. Ms. Roslyn White suggested that they schedule visits with Abbeville and Kaplan after their March elections.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that after meeting with people within the community, they think it may be advantageous to go back to the polls with an adjustment to the proposal. They will contact the Sheriff's Office about the possible changes.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: Board members shared events and initiatives happening in their respective communities and developed by their appointing authorities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, as well as via teleconference.

ADJOURN: Upon motion Ms. Roslyn White, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary