

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

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. The meeting was held via teleconference per guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

Mr. Patrick Duhon led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Aidan Broussard, 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 February 2, 2022, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande. The motion was duly seconded by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, 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 \$1,208.67. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Mr. Carlton Campbell duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Shari Cormier presented the 2022 insurance policy renewal quotes to the board. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to approve the renewal of the three insurance policies at the total cost of \$3,067.86 and to have Mr. Rivera sign the renewal documents. Mr. Carlton Campbell 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 February. These included: 1 business visitation, reviewing 1 prospect RFP, 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 hosted the Accelerate Vermilion class for 3 consecutive weeks with 25 attendees and met with the new owner of Tiffany Plaza shopping center to discuss development. She also co-hosted the Acadiana Seafood Hub informational meeting with over 40 attendees. Mr. Rivera noted that the Acadiana Seafood Hub was a product of a meeting facilitated by VEDD and Twin Parish Port in order to use the information from the Seafood Study to benefit Vermilion Parish.

Ms. Tammy Gordon entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Falgout informed the board that the Vermilion branded designs are ready and will be available online through Manuel Screen Printing's website. She also informed the board that she has purchased koozies with the Vermilion design. Ms. Falgout noted that she will be sending the board the link to purchase the items.

Ms. Falgout provided the flier for the upcoming Farmers' Appreciation Dinner to be held on March 16, 2022, and informed the board that planning was going well. She noted that she currently has 6 sprout sponsors and 64 guests.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Ruben Rivera informed the board that there will be 10 board seats expiring in June. He provided a list showing the expiration dates for each board member and asked that they contact him regarding their plans for the next term.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Falgout provided the board with an updated funding report.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Personnel Committee has received Ms. Falgout's letter of resignation from her position as VEDD's Executive Director, effective March 17, 2022. He asked the board to ratify the committee's recommendation to accept Ms. Falgout's resignation. Mr. Gerrod Brasseux motioned the board to accept Ms. Falgout's resignation. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Rivera also informed the board that Ms. Falgout will be working on a 30-, 60- and 90-day exit strategy to ease the transition. Ms. Falgout showed her appreciation to the board for their leadership, guidance, friendship, and trust. She also informed them that she would make herself available to the staff and board to ensure that the organization and the community are successful.

Mr. Rivera recommended the board form an ad hoc working committee to take on new business, routine business, requests from the public and to serve as a hiring committee. Ms. Tammy Gordon motioned the board to form an ad hoc committee that has the authority to organize the organization's workflow and create and advertise the open position. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Rivera noted that he will serve as committee chair and asked the board for volunteers to serve on the committee. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux and Mr. Gerrod Brasseux volunteered to serve as well as Ms. Anne Falgout.

Mr. Rivera asked the board for their thoughts about opening the position as a "Program Director" rather than a "Executive Director", stating that the program of work has already been established and the need now is to have someone who can keep these programs moving forward. Several board members were in favor of this course of action.

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, April 6, 2022, at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, as well as via teleconference.

ADJOURN: Upon motion Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Ms. Tammy Gordon and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary