

MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2024  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Patrick Duhon called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

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

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Claire Broussard, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent: Ms. Linda Vincent, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Jacob Landry

The following guests were present: Ms. Kayla Link, VEDA, and Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 10, 2024, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Anne Falgout. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$522.65. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kayla Link presented the board with her April administrative report. She noted that she completed two visits with existing businesses. She updated the board on the existing business prospects/projects and reviewed existing opportunities available to the parish. She noted attending meetings to discuss ongoing projects with the Town of Maurice and the Hometown Revitalization Project. She also met with the VPSB about workforce development and toured their career campus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There was no update from the Transition Committee.

Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board that the Workforce Development Committee is working with the Vermilion Parish School Board to schedule a June lunch event. This event would bring business leaders together with the school board and engage businesses in the educational process to promote job opportunities for students in the career tech pathways. She proposed a \$500 budget to provide lunch for the attendees and for social media outreach. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to allow a \$500.00 budget for the event. Ms. Anne Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Duhon led the report on the Sustainable Funding Committee. The board was presented with the cost of the election as well as estimated cost of printing and filing fees. It was noted that the election cost was much higher than what was originally quoted by the Secretary of State.

Ms. Vidos informed the board that she has discussed options for continuing economic development in Vermilion Parish with contacts at the EDA conference. It was suggested that she reach out to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to have them look into non-traditional funding options for VEDD.

Ms. Link gave the update on the Hometown Revitalization Project. She informed the board of the meeting with representatives from Sellers and Associates and the Police Jury. She noted that they are

still waiting to hear if the projects will be approved by the Office of Community Development. She also noted that if approved, each of the three projects will be taken over and will move forward.

Ms. Falgout gave the update for the Communications and Promotions Committee. She noted that the new website has been completed and contains a lot of great information.

There was no update from the Business and Industry Development Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Link updated the board on efforts to support the strategic planning for the town of Maurice. She noted that she is committed to supporting them in any way she can and is currently helping in gathering information.

Ms. Link informed the board that representatives from nine Vermilion Parish businesses attended the AI training event, held on April 16, 2024, at the Vermilion Parish Library. Mr. Rivera provided the board with his thoughts on the class.

Mr. Duhon noted that VEDD will continue regular business until the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board that Farmers Appreciation Dinner is being planned for Thursday, June 20, 2024. The board was presented with cost estimates for the event.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: The board members spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Ben Rivera, duly seconded by Ms. Nikki Vidos and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Ms. Anne T. Falgout  
Secretary