

MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2024
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Patrick Duhon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Joshua Anderson 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. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent: Ms. Linda Vincent, Mr. Elliot Broussard, 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 June 12, 2024, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Anne Falgout. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Nikki Vidos presented the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$747.08. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Claire Broussard entered the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kayla Link provided the board with her June administrative report. Ms. Link noted that she completed two visits with existing businesses and engaged with one possible new prospect. She updated the board on the existing business prospects/projects and reviewed existing opportunities available to the parish. She noted VEDD's Farmers' Appreciation Dinner and Workforce Development Luncheon with VPSS that took place in June and that VEDD is working with the Vermilion Chamber to host the Vermilion Parish Job Fair to be held on July 24, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Nikki Vidos gave an update for the Transition Committee. She noted that the committee will start discussing succession planning over the next few months. Mr. Duhon informed the board that Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande has resigned from the Transition Committee and Mr. Richard Guilbeaux will be replacing her.

Ms. Claire Broussard gave the update for the Workforce Development Committee. She noted that the Workforce Development Luncheon with VPSS was held in June with fourteen businesses in attendance. She also noted that VEDD has been invited to attend a Work Ready Communities Boot Camp in Lacombe, LA on August 28-29, 2024, and that she is planning to attend.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux led the report for the Sustainable Funding Committee. He informed the board that VEDD's dispute over the election invoice was successful, and a new invoice will be generated at the previously quoted amount. Mr. Duhon discussed the future of the Sustainable Funding Committee as its purpose has been served. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to dissolve the Sustainable Funding Committee. Ms. Anne Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Duhon discussed the future of the Strategic Planning Committee as it is no longer needed. Ms. Anne Falgout motioned the board to dissolve the Strategic Planning Committee. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Link updated the board on the Hometown Revitalization Program. She noted that the Kaplan and Abbeville projects have been approved to move on to the application process, but the Erath project is still pending. Ms. Nikki Vidos resigned as co-chair of the Hometown Revitalization Program Committee and Mr. Ben Rivera, as the other co-chair, will take over her duties.

Ms. Anne Falgout gave the update for the Communications and Promotions Committee. She said the committee will be working to promote the upcoming job fair and will be working with the Transition Committee to update the website and social media as needed.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Link provided the board with a copy of the letter of thanks that was mailed to all VEDD's stakeholders and investors.

The board was provided with the final cost report for the Farmers' Appreciation Dinner.

Mr. Duhon informed the board that any discussion of the future of the organization will be handled by the Transition Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Richard Guilbeaux informed the board of the need to engage with legal, accounting, and legislative professionals in anticipation of the organization's change in function and daily operations due to the lack of sustainable funding. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to allow the Transition Committee to seek legal, financial and legislative guidance related to the expected changes in organizational function. Ms. Anne Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Link discussed the Work Ready Communities Boot Camp as presented by VPSS in their effort to continue efforts for workforce development and technical education. Ms. Link noted that VPSS has requested our participation in the training and will cover the cost of registration, leaving a need for travel and lodging expenses to be covered by VEDD. Ms. Broussard will attend the training and requested that Ms. Link also attend. The board asked that Ms. Broussard bring the cost of travel and lodging to the August meeting for board consideration. Ms. Broussard also asked the board to allow the cost of printing workforce materials which will be distributed when speaking at local organizations. The board agreed that the printing expenses would be admissible under existing communications and marketing funds.

Ms. Link asked the board to suggest local manufacturing companies to nominate for the Lantern Award. The board discussed several businesses and gave Ms. Link four to consider for nomination.

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, August 14, 2024.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Anita Dupuis, duly seconded by Mr. Joshua Anderson and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary