

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2018
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. The meeting was held in the Judge's Library, on the second floor of the Courthouse in Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

A roll call was done by Ms. Shari Cormier, with the following members present:

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Kirk Frith, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Gerrod Brasseur, Mr. Carlton Campbell, and Mr. Ruben Rivera

The following members were absent:

Ms. Gale Smith, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Christine Trahan, and Ms. Tammy Gordon

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, and Mr. Elliot Broussard

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

Mr. Ben Rivera informed the board of Mr. Kirk Frith's resignation from the VEDA board and the appointment of his replacement, Mr. Elliot Broussard, by the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office. Mr. Broussard will serve beginning October 1, 2018 until the end of the term on August 1, 2019. On behalf of the board, Mr. Rivera gave his appreciation to Mr. Frith for his work during the creation of the organization as well as his years of service. Mr. Dane Hebert motioned the board to ratify the appointment of Mr. Broussard. Ms. Megan Lalande duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 6, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Kirk Frith, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. He provided a list of the invoices and expenses, totaling \$1,159.83. Upon motion by Mr. Kirk Frith, duly seconded by Mr. Dane Hebert and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout reminded the board of the Retail Strategies Workshop that will be held on September 5, 2018. This workshop is aimed to focus on best practices, trends and retail recruitment. They also set aside time to talk with each municipality about the best opportunities in their town. She provided the board with a list of Vermilion Parish attendees for the event which included representatives from Maurice, Abbeville, Kaplan, Delcambre and Erath.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the first draft of the Vermilion video has been completed and offered the board members to view the video after the meeting. She noted that she has some suggestions for changes that she feels need to be made. The board decided to view the video at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she has a meeting scheduled with Ms. Brittney Lopez (Sunrise Realty), Ms. Roslyn White (Abbeville City Councilwoman) and Ms. Charlene Beckett (Abbeville Main Street) on the Destination Downtown project. This project is meant to promote retail in the downtown area and would consist of a walking tour and open house of vacant properties with a sit-down discussion at the end of the event. Ms. Falgout added that this project would be duplicated in the other municipalities. She noted that she may need to request money for posters, signage and possibly food. She also noted that she would have final details at the October meeting. The board noted their concern about the project starting in Abbeville and requested that Ms. Falgout make plans to duplicate the project in the other municipalities before the Abbeville event is announced.

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux gave the board the committee's recommendation regarding Ms. Shari Cormier's review. Mr. Guilbeaux noted that the committee felt that Ms. Cormier's job performance was satisfactory, and her continued employment was recommended. He also noted that because of the budget shortfall, no raises can be given at this time. Mr. Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the personnel committee's recommendation. Mr. Dane Hebert duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ruben Rivera informed the board of the need to replace Ms. Pat Rost and Mr. Kirk Frith as members of the Personnel Committee. Mr. Carlton Campbell and Ms. Megan Lalande volunteered to serve on the committee. The members of the Personnel Committee will now consist of Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Carlton Campbell and Ms. Megan Lalande.

Ms. Anne Falgout informed the board that the state did not accept the Basic Economic Development Course that she took several years ago for certification purposes, and it would need to be taken again. This course will be offered in January at a fee of \$350.00 – \$500.00. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to attend the course if the fee is \$450.00 or under. It was noted that this motion includes the course fee only, travel and transportation will be discussed at the October meeting or when more information becomes available. Ms. Megan Lalande duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Ruben Rivera noted that he would like to consider adding funds to the 2019 budget that would allow other board members to attend this course.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a By the Numbers report that contains information reflecting the work done by the VEDA office in the four years it has been operating. She briefly went over the report, but Mr. Ben Rivera asked that she give more detail on the report at the next meeting.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of the need to reprint promotional materials describing the need for economic development in Vermilion Parish. She noted that the cost to print 200 half sheet cards will be \$108.00. Ms. Megan Lalande motioned the board to allow for the printing of the needed materials. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she and Mr. Rivera had met with the Mayor Theriot of Maurice. To address some of the mayor's concerns, and encourage more sales in Vermilion, Ms. Falgout suggested sending postcards to Maurice and South Lafayette residents promoting the available products and services in Maurice. Because of time constraints this item was tabled until next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Because of time constraints there were no committee reports given.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a written report detailing the accomplishments made by the VEDA office in the month of August.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, October 1, 2018 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Dane Hebert, duly seconded by Mr. Aidan Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Gale Smith
Secretary