

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2019
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:30 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.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Christine Trahan, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Tammy Gordon, and Mr. Ruben Rivera

The following members were absent:

Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux and Mr. Aidan Broussard

The following guests were present:

Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Jason Picard, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$803.24. Upon motion by Mr. Jason Picard, duly seconded by Ms. Christine Trahan and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Falgout provided the board with a written report detailing the accomplishments made by the VEDA office in the month of March. She also provided a list of items that she wanted to highlight at the meeting. These included: answering 12 requests for information, conducting 6 business visits, hosted the Jobseeker Training event with over 20 jobseekers in attendance and the continued planning of the Employer Breakfast, Destination Downtown, Job Fair, Business Tune-up, and the 55 by 25 event. Also noted in the report was the completion the application for a \$30,000 USDA Rural Business Development Grant to study the cattle industry.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Shari Cormier informed the board that two new events were added to the upcoming events list that was provided at the last meeting. She noted that the new owners of Chloe Rose have asked VEDA to help with promoting their grand opening on April 6th and the Mayor of Gueydan, Jude Reese, has asked VEDA's help with the planning and promotion of their community event to be held on June 1st. Ms. Roslyn White noted the time change of the Destination Downtown event. It will be held from 1:00 pm

to 4:00 pm on April 13, 2019. She also noted that they have added a number of properties to the list and that they will have renovated properties to explore as well as vacant properties.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that Ms. Falgout has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Adam Falgout with Infinite Focus to discuss the completion of the videos. She also noted that Ms. Falgout provided links to view the working videos online.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fred Hoyt gave his presentation before the official meeting as a quorum had not yet been met. He spoke about his opposition to the sales tax the City of Abbeville has put on the May 4, 2019 ballot.

Ms. Cormier informed the board that Mr. Rhett Hebert has offered VEDA the unused office space in his building for a reduced rent that would include phone and internet costs. She noted that Mr. Hebert has invited the board members to tour the available space. Mr. Rivera said he would go by the offices and asked other board members to also view the office space. Ms. Cormier also noted that Ms. Falgout had provided her response to the last month's request from Mr. Robert Greer regarding our possible use of old post office after it transitions into a community center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A copy of the current funding report was provided, no changes were noted.

Mr. Ben Rivera informed the board that Ms. Falgout was trying to schedule a date to hold an informal Business Retention and Expansion class for our board members to learn more about economic development.

Mr. Rivera noted that he and Ms. Falgout had met with USDA Rural Development State Director, Dr. Castille, to gain insight on how to pursue initiatives to support agriculture in Vermilion Parish from the state level. Dr. Castille's suggestions were supplied to the board. One suggestion given was to apply for the USDA Rural Business Development Grant for the cost of the proposed feasibility study as well as the market research that is needed to conduct the study. As the grant deadline was March 29, 2019, Ms. Falgout submitted the application for the USDA Rural Business Development Grant in the amount of \$30,000 for both the market research and the feasibility study. The grant narrative and scope of work was provided to the board members.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

No updates were given from the board.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Jason Picard duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.