

MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2019
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:00 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. Jacob Landry.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Christine Trahan, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Aidan Broussard and Mr. Ruben Rivera

The following members were absent:

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux and Mr. Carlton Campbell

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 April 1, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Dane Hebert, duly seconded by Mr. Jacob Landry, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$949.01. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Christine Trahan and unanimously carried, these invoices were approved for payment.

Mr. Elliot Broussard and Mr. Patrick Duhon entered the meeting.

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 April. She also provided a list of items that she wanted to highlight at the meeting. These included: answering 8 requests for information, conducting 1 business visit, working with 1 pre-venture and hosting four events. She also worked with Councilwoman Melissa Guidry on requirements for ENCORE Louisiana Retirement-Ready Communities website and attended UL's Seafood Study announcement, where she spoke with the Lt. Governor, Omega Protein, USDA and Meridian Institute about non-traditional/seasonal funding needs for local seafood businesses.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with copies of letters sent to Ms. Shannon Neveaux and Mr. Sammy Babineaux who are the outgoing and incoming Presidents of Friends of Palmeto Island State Park, Inc.

Mr. Dane Hebert asked about the meeting Ms. Falgout has scheduled with the Port Directors in Iberia and Cameron Parishes, Abbeville Harbor and Terminal District and the Twin Parish Port. She stated that businesses in Vermilion Parish may be able to supply resources or services to businesses located at our neighboring ports.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on the four events (Employer Workshop, Destination Downtown, Job Fair and 55 X 25) that were held during the month of April. She supplied the board with a report showing a description of each event, along with their respective partners, sponsors, budget, and attendees. Regarding the 55 X 25 event, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux asked if there is any tracking mechanism to determine how many students are seeking training after leaving the school system.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that because of a computer crash, the producers lost our Vermilion videos. She informed the board of the Executive Committee's decision to have the videos re-shot. Filming began last week, and they hope to have the video ready within the next few weeks.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she and Mr. Elliot Broussard toured the prospective office space owned by Mr. Rhett Hebert. She stated that the building was very professional. The space has two offices available with a shared conference room and kitchen space. The board mentioned concerns about the ethics of being located in a private business and the cost of terminating the current phone/internet contract. The board requested Ms. Falgout move forward with a proposal that would include the cost of moving to this location.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that VEDA's 2018 financial review has been completed. She presented the board with copies and noted that the CPA did not have any concerns that needed to be addressed with the board.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a program being offered by Louisiana Workforce Commission. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program is a summer worker program that employs young adults without work experience to give them useful experience they can use for their future job search. The board declined to participate in the program.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that four board members have terms ending on August 1, 2019 and asked the board about sending letters to those stakeholders requesting they either reappoint their board representative or appoint a replacement. Ms. Anita Dupuis motioned the board to send the letters requesting that they make the appointment at their next board meeting and to send us a letter informing us of their decision. Mr. Dane Hebert duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout asked the board about sending out invoices to our supporting entities. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to have the VEDA office send invoices to everyone who has given us money in the past subject to a discussion with the representative of the stakeholder to determine the amount to be billed. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Ms. Christine Trahan asked if there was a letter that could be sent to businesses that she has spoken to about funding. Ms. Falgout informed the board that a letter has been prepared that will be sent to businesses that we have met with in the past. She stated that the letter could also be sent to business that the board members have spoken to.

Mr. Dane Hebert left the meeting.

Ms. Falgout informed the board about the South Louisiana Food Summit to be held on June 17, 2019 and June 18, 2019. She stated that two-day rural agritourism event would include tours of three Vermilion Parish businesses and will cost \$60.00 for one day or \$100.00 for both days. Ms. Anita Dupuis motioned the board to allow up to \$100.00 for Ms. Falgout to attend. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Falgout presented the board with pricing of an 18" X 36" dry erase check to be used in promoting businesses who financially support our organization. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow for the purchase of the \$70.00 check. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Rivera discussed the need to form a committee to discuss funding options. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux stated that we need to move forward with the current funding initiative. He stated that the new Highlight sheets Ms. Falgout is reporting could be used in fundraising. Ms. Roslyn White suggested it be sent each month to the municipalities and to ask that it be distributed to each council member.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she would be scheduling a date and time to hold a basic economic development training session, so our board members would be better prepared when asked about our services.

Mr. Rivera stated that he presented to Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau Association regarding promoting agriculture and to explain VEDA's cattle industry project. He stated that Farm Bureau has offered to send a letter of support for VEDA's recent grant application request for funds to complete a feasibility study about the cattle industry in Vermilion Parish. He asked Ms. Falgout to contact Ms. Gwen Broussard at the Farm Bureau office in Abbeville.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Elliot Broussard wanted to acknowledge Ms. Falgout for the help she gave his father when he requested information in purchasing a local business.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 5:00 PM. in the Judge's Library/Conference Room.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary