

MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 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 Judges Library, on the second floor of the Courthouse in Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Demetria Constantine.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon and Mr. Ruben Rivera

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Jason Picard, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Gerrod Brasseux

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDA, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, and Ms. Demetria Constantine

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ms. Roslyn White entered the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Anne T. Falgout informed the board that the City of Kaplan has appointed Mr. Jeremy Lartigue to replace Ms. Christine Trahan for the remainder of the term ending June 4, 2022. She noted that our meeting time may be a problem for Mr. Lartigue. She also informed the board that Mr. Richard Guilbeaux has been reappointed to represent the Vermilion Parish School Board, Mr. Elliot Broussard has been reappointed to represent the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office and Mr. Carlton Campbell has been reappointed to represent the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal District. Mr. Guilbeaux, Mr. Broussard and Mr. Campbell will serve the new term beginning August 1, 2019 and ending August 1, 2023. Mr. Dane Hebert motioned the board to ratify the appointments. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard, 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 \$780.80. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Tammy Gordon and unanimously carried.

Mr. Patrick Duhon entered the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a list of accomplishments made by the VEDA office in the month of May. These included: conducting 5 business visits, answering 12 requests for information, and working with 2 pre-ventures, providing them with resources and insight on how to bring their business concept to Vermilion. She held a meeting with the four coastal port directors to discuss opportunities and local advantages. Ms. Falgout also noted that Vermilion's Community Competitiveness score has had a 300% + improvement since 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that the yearly invoices have not yet gone out because she was wanted to add information that would be voted on at this meeting to the letters that accompany the invoices.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a letter addressed to Mr. Rhett Hebert with Red Royal House Buyers in reference to their available office space and asked the board if they had any changes to the terms stated in the letter. Ms. Falgout was asked to include a 2-year agreement with a 60-day notice required for both parties.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that Mayor Kloesel of Kaplan has requested that the time of VEDA's board meetings be changed to 6:00pm because of the difficulty in finding a representative that can attend the 5:00pm meetings. Ms. Falgout supplied the board with a calendar that included the meeting schedules of local municipalities and governmental agencies. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to change the meeting date and time to the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm. The motion had no second. Ms. Falgout was asked to contact the board members to secure a new meeting place and date for review at the next board meeting.

Mr. Dane Hebert left the meeting.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a proposal to partner with Site Location Partnership (SLP). SLP would represent the parish at trade shows, help VEDA develop relationships with site selectors, and maintain a robust communication strategy with industries suitable for Vermilion. She noted that this is the only company she could locate to execute this type of work on a contract basis. She stated that she would like to use money that has been set aside for special projects to generate a business recruitment pipeline. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow \$12,500.00 per year to SLP for their services with the total project costs – including travel and other expenses – not to exceed \$15,000.00 per year. He noted that the budget would have to be amended and the funds would need to be transferred from the Special Projects account into the checking account. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout also noted that she would like to use money in the special projects fund for small grants to local businesses and would formally present that to the board at a later date.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with pricing for an ad in the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce's 2019-2020 Community Guide. Ms. Falgout recommended the 1/8-page size ad. Mr. Richard motioned the board to allow for the ad at the cost of \$595.00. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that during the board member training sessions, board members offered to vet new revenue-generating projects in lieu of fundraising. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux suggested that those board members contribute in other ways including submitting business names to be contacted by the Fundraising Committee.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a copy of the grant support letter from Farm Bureau. She noted that she hasn't gotten any notification from the USDA grant committee but will send them a copy of the support letter to be added to the application.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Anita Dupuis informed the board that another Gueydan Community Outreach Festival will be held in October and Ms. Tammy Gordon mentioned that the Delcambre Farmers Market will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2019.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary