

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2019  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Elliot Broussard.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Dane Hebert, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Jason Picard, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Tammy Gordon and Mr. Gerrod Brasseur

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Ms. Anita Dupuis

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 August 5, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Carlton Campbell, duly seconded by Mr. Elliot Broussard, and unanimously carried by the board.

Ms. Roslyn White entered the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$737.40. Upon motion by Mr. Dane Hebert, duly seconded by Mr. Jason Picard and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a list of accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of August. These included: conducting 1 business visit, answering 7 requests for information, worked with 3 start-up ventures on their information gathering, completed an update to VEDD's property database and contacted 9 businesses about a unique public/private partnership at Palmetto Island State Park. Ms. Falgout noted initiatives that she is currently working on, such as the UL Seafood Study, Prospect Skin, Abbeville Opportunity Zone and the Site Location Partnership Project.

Mr. Patrick Duhon entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that because of decreased staff capacity and lease terms at the Red Royal House Buyers location, she is suggesting that the issue be tabled. Mr. Dane Hebert motioned the board to table the issue. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that twelve of the fifteen board members had no reservations regarding the date/time/location change of the board meetings. She noted that without the change the Town of Kaplan expressed concern about finding a representative for the board. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to change the meeting schedule to the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the VEDD office in the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex at 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, LA. Mr. Elliot Broussard duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Gerrod Brasseux left the meeting.

Ms. Falgout updated the board on VEDD's relationship with Site Location Partnership. She noted that she created an external marketing piece that SLP took with them to the Great American Trucking Trade Show in Dallas last month. She also noted that she received a report from them last week that included 11 companies with expansion and relocation plans within the trucking industry. Those companies will be vetted to see if any may be a fit for Vermilion Parish.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rivera informed the board that he and Ms. Falgout met with Mr. Calvin Woodruff, who serves as legal counsel, about sustainable funding opportunities. As a result of that conversation they feel a committee is needed to discuss the options that were discussed. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to form the committee. Mr. Dane Hebert duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Volunteers for the Sustainable Funding Committee include Mr. Ben Rivera, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Patrick Duhon and Mr. Aidan Broussard. Ms. Roslyn White will serve as an alternate when necessary.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux and Mr. Carlton Campbell left the meeting.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of the results of the UL Lafayette Seafood Study. She noted that the report included several recommendations and opportunities for the coastal parishes. She also noted that she was contacted about a business opportunity that falls within the seafood study's recommendations. Ms. Falgout presented the board with a business plan for Project Skin and asked the board to consider a grant for up to \$40,000 for gap financing in exchange for job creation. She noted that funds were put into an account for special projects and this grant would fall into this area. Mr. Jason Picard motioned the board to grant up to \$40,000 in gap financing for Prospect Skin in return for job creation with a clawback, pending bankability and legal oversight. There will be a clause added to the contract that: requires that the business must be located in Vermilion Parish; the business should employ Vermilion Parish residents where possible; and the business should use Vermilion Parish products when possible. Mr. Dane Hebert duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Jason Picard also motioned the board to authorize the Executive Committee to oversee the funding, the contract and distribution of the funds. Mr. Dane Hebert duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout informed the board of her plan to hold an Opportunity Zone/Community Development Event. The event will bring together the Vermilion Economic Opportunity Zone committee and representatives from other community businesses and organizations with the intention of exposing ideas that can positively impact the social, political and business future of Vermilion Parish. Ms.

Falgout asked the board for \$150.00 to provide refreshments for the event. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to allow \$150.00 for the event. Mr. Aidan Broussard seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ben Rivera noted that Ms. Falgout has met with Ms. Clair Marceaux, Cameron Parish Port Director and Representative Ryan Bourriaque about the possibilities of Vermilion Parish businesses or employees working with the business at the Cameron port. Mr. Rivera asked the boards opinion on how the VEDD office should pursue the issue. Ms. Falgout noted that Vermilion should take advantage of the opportunities available in Cameron Parish. The board agreed to have Ms. Falgout initiate a purchasing event to bring together the Cameron businesses with Vermilion companies that may be able to provide services to them.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that the Personnel Committee has completed Ms. Shari Cormier's review and the committee's recommendation is to continue her employment at the current rate of pay. Mr. Dane Hebert motioned the board to accept the committee's recommendation regarding Ms. Cormier. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout noted that the 2020 budget planning meeting will be scheduled in September. She asked the board members who want more detailed budget information to contact the office.

Ms. Falgout reminded the board that the annual elections of officers is scheduled to be held at the October meeting.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout provided the board members with a list of invoices that have been sent to the stakeholders and noted funds that have been received.

#### BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

There were no updates provided.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

#### ADJOURN

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

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Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande  
Secretary