

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2019
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 6:03 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. Ruben Rivera.

Mr. Ruben Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting.

Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Roslyn White, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent:

Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Dane Hebert, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry and Mr. Gerrod Brasseur

The following guests were present:

Ms. Anne T. Falgout, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, Ms. Emily Broussard, VPSB, and Mr. Lonnie Richard, VPSB

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Lonnie Richard and Ms. Emily Broussard of the Vermilion Parish School Board gave a presentation on their WorkKeys Assessment, which is geared for improving workforce quality. The assessment, developed by ACT, determines, builds and measures essential workplace skills that affect job performance. Ms. Falgout offered to put together some recommendations for getting information about the WorkKeys Assessment to local employers.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Mr. Patrick Duhon, duly seconded by Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$2,316.80. Upon motion by Mr. Patrick Duhon, duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout presented VEDD's 2019 budget amendment to the board. Ms. Falgout noted that the surplus balance from Promotions and Entertainment and Business Retention and Expansion are being reallocated to expenses associated with the business recruitment process. These expenses fell under Consulting Expenses and Travel, Meals & Lodging. Ms. Falgout also noted that this reallocation was done without any change to the original budget total. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned

the board to accept the amended budget. Ms. Roslyn White duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a list of accomplishments made by the VEDD office in the month of November. These included: conducting 1 business visit, answering 5 requests for information, assisting 1 jobseeker with their search and working with 4 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests. She solicited participation in Small Business Saturday - received registrations from 19 businesses across the parish and provided marketing through media appearances, social media and a comprehensive listing on VEDD's website. These companies were also provided tips for a successful event and Shop Small swag. Ms. Falgout also attended the Fabtech Expo to meet companies potentially interested in expanding to the Gulf Coast and offer them a perspective on Vermilion.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout updated the board on Prospect Skin. She noted that she is currently waiting to hear from the client regarding the bank's decision.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a recap on her trip to the Fabtech Expo. She noted that there were more than 48,000 attendees and over 1,700 exhibiting companies. Ms. Falgout attended a special event for SLP clients and site selector professionals, the "Women of Fabtech" breakfast which provided networking opportunities and insight into best practices for manufacturers specifically as it relates to human resource issues, and "Industry Night" which was a networking opportunity with fellow attendees. She also met with the SLP team to discuss strategy and introduced herself to exhibiting companies with questions about expansion plans or potential relationships with Vermilion-based businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout presented the board with a list of the meeting dates for the 2020 calendar year. VEDD will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex. The meeting dates are January 8, 2020, February 5, 2020, March 4, 2020, April 1, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 3, 2020, July 1, 2020, August 5, 2020, September 2, 2020, October 7, 2020, November 4, 2020 and December 2, 2020.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rivera informed the board that at the upcoming meeting on January 8, 2020 there will be a discussion regarding the Sustainable Funding Committee's recommendations.

Ms. Falgout provided the board with an updated funding report.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Rivera asked the board members to share information about their communities. Mr. Jeremy Lartigue mentioned the upcoming Christmas Parade in Kaplan. Ms. Roslyn White noted Abbeville's Christmas Stroll, their Farmers Market, the Christmas Parade, Painting under the Oaks and Movies in the Square. Ms. Anita Dupuis noted Gueydan's Christmas in the Park and Mr. Ruben Rivera spoke about the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce's toy drive.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 8, 2019 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary