

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM. The meeting was held via teleconference with access to the general public per guidelines issued by the Governor's office.

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. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Dexter Callahan and Ms. Roslyn White

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, Mr. Gerrod Brasseux, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Patrick Duhon and Mr. Jeremy Lartigue

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 May 6, 2020 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Carlton Campbell duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Aidan Broussard gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$550.76. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Dexter Callahan 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 May. These included: Publishing 5 e-newsletters with various COVID-19 related resources & updates, working with the media on COVID-related stories, including a live interview with KPEL & KADN News 15 and providing COVID-related funding information to elected officials. She also coordinated spotlights with KADN on 3 Vermilion Parish businesses and participated in a legislative forum about reopening Louisiana.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she is still responding to requests, but they have shifted from COVID-related to more traditional economic development related issues from expanding or relocating businesses.

Ms. Falgout informed the board that she vetted the project ideas with the Acadiana Planning Commission and only one of the potential grant projects presented at the last meeting met the

guidelines set by the Delta Regional Authority. The project selected for the grant application will purchase equipment/aid in construction of a commercial kitchen/incubator/food hub for Louisiana-made food products. This grant will support a current project that is currently being considered by the Twin Parish Port Commission and address one of the needs outlined in the UL Lafayette Seafood Study. Ms. Falgout also noted that no financial commitment from VEDA is required for this grant. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux asked the location of this facility and which parish would receive the sales tax revenue. Ms. Falgout informed the board that the facility would be located in Vermilion Parish. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to authorize Ms. Falgout to move forward with the Delta Regional Authority SEDAP Grant application process. Ms. Tammy Gordon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

As requested at the last meeting, Ms. Falgout presented the board with a letter she drafted to be sent to VEDD's stakeholders. This letter informs the stakeholders of VEDD's plan to include a parcel fee proposition on the November 3, 2020 ballot, lets them know that VEDD will still be asking for funding in 2020 and informs them that the yearly invoices will go out later because of the COVID-19 crisis. Ms. Roslyn White motioned the board to have Ms. Falgout send out the letter as written. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Falgout presented the board with the findings from VEDD's 2019 Financial Reports. She noted that the CPA said that there were no issues that needed to be brought to the board and that everything looked good.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout was asked to present the board with a long-term project idea that VEDD could focus on if the parcel fee election were successful. After reviewing plans and strategies developed for Vermilion Parish, Ms. Falgout presented the idea of a multi-use facility that would feature an amphitheater that could be used as a cultural venue or fairgrounds. She noted that the money received, if the parcel fee passes, could be used for grant matches that could help fund the project. Mr. Rivera polled each of the board members to hear their thoughts and questions. Ms. Falgout informed the board that to move forward with this idea, an Economic Impact Study, at the cost of \$500.00, an artistic rendering, at the cost of \$2,000.00 and a Feasibility Study, at the cost of \$25,000.00 would be needed. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to allow Ms. Falgout to have the Economic Impact Study and the artistic renderings done at a cost of \$2,500.00. Ms. Tammy Gordon duly seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. Ms. Falgout will incorporate the board's feedback into the master plan.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Roslyn White noted that the Rotary Club has rescheduled their comedy night to June 20th and Ms. Tammy Gordon informed the board that the Delcambre Seafood Market will not reopen until possibly August as they will be in phase 3 of the reopening plan. She also noted that Delcambre Direct Seafood is selling shrimp at the old dock.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

ADJOURN

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

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande
Secretary