

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2021  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Ms. Roslyn White, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Jeremy Lartigue, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Carlton Campbell, and Mr. Dexter Callahan

The following members were absent:

Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Aidan Broussard, Mr. Jason Picard, Mr. Jacob Landry, and Mr. Gerrod Brasseur

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 January 6, 2021 meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Roslyn White, and unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of the invoices and expenses totaling \$698.16. Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Mr. Dexter Callahan and unanimously carried, the invoices were approved for payment.

Ms. Shari Cormier presented the insurance policy renewal cost to the board. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to approve the renewal of the three insurance policies at the total cost of \$3,072.86. Mr. Carlton Campbell duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Anne T. Falgout provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in January. These included: Counseling 2 pre-ventures, launching VEDD's What's New? page, sharing information about a job opportunity at the City of Abbeville and Gueydan's Festival to the public and planning a jobseeker event with Acadiana Workforce Solutions. She also met with the Acadiana Center for the Arts about their supporting our local projects and worked with LED to provide information in support of their effort to increase trucking in our area due to the Amazon facility opening in Carencro, Louisiana.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that as part of the 2019 contract, Site Location Partnership arranged for her to meet with seven site selector companies. She noted that an additional two meetings are being rescheduled. Ms. Falgout felt that the meetings were beneficial because of the personal connections that were made with the site selectors, as well as the advice that she was given on how to get our community seen. She also noted that the next step will be to put together customized information on Food Manufacturing and Metal Fabrication and send it to the site selectors for review. Ms. Falgout suggested that we wait a few months before discussing the renewal of the SLP contract as the current COVID-19 travel restrictions will impede her attendance at trade shows and some in-person meetings.

Ms. Falgout updated the board on Prospect Graze. She informed the board that a new site search had to be conducted after the sale of the original property fell through and that she has provided LED with the prospect's job creation and construction numbers. She also noted that she attended a meeting with the prospect to discuss the possibility of distributing their products in the New Orleans area.

Ms. Falgout reported that VEDD is informing the public of a new round of Payroll Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster funds available to businesses and some nonprofits. She also noted that she distributed information about the "By Your Side Grant offered by the National Mainstreet Association. Although the grant was only open for a week, 18 downtown businesses were contacted about this opportunity to fund new strategies that sustain operations through the COVID pandemic. Ms. Falgout noted that she provided reference letters for two businesses who planned to submit applications.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ruben Rivera gave the Personnel Committee's recommendation regarding Ms. Anne Falgout's yearly review. The committee recommended continued employment without a salary change due to budget constraints. Mr. Carlton Campbell motioned the board to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Mr. Dexter Callahan duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Falgout informed the board that an email was sent out regarding our stakeholder meetings. She noted that they will be reaching out to each appointing authority to discuss our relationship and expectations. She also noted that this is not a meeting to ask them for money, but instead to start on a pathway to rebuild the alliance of organizations who are in support of economic development.

#### BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

There were no updates given at the meeting.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the District will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

#### ADJOURN

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

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Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande  
Secretary