

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Patrick Duhon led the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Rivera requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Linda Vincent, Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent: Mr. Jacob Landry, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Mr. Elliot Broussard, and Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet

The following guests were present: Ms. Victoria Sagrera Bourque, VEDD, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDD, Ms. Charlene Beckett, and Ms. Lynn Guillory

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 8, 2023, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Patrick Duhon. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$1,669.65. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in February. These included: working with 8 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests, holding 1 business event, and conducting 6 business visitations. Ms. Bourque attended the LIDEA Basic Economic Development Course in New Orleans. She continued the planning of a grant writing workshop to be held in conjunction with Congressman Higgins' office and worked on VEDD'S Vermilion at Work business series.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Claire Broussard updated the board on Stakeholder Dinner. She noted that there were over 80 guests in attendance at the event. She also noted that the guests were asked what they would love to see in Vermilion Parish and the board was provided with a list of the responses. Mr. Rivera suggested that copies of the list be sent to VEDD's committees and asked that the Promotions Committee reach out to the guests as a follow-up to the event.

Mr. Rivera informed the board that VEDD would not be able to make changes to the legislation this session as the area's legislators are committed to other items, but added that this would give VEDD time to look into other changes that could be made to improve VEDD's funding options.

Ms. Bourque provided the board with a list of VEDD's committees with detailed descriptions and current members. She reviewed each committee with the board and finalized the committee membership.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Cormier presented pricing to reorder koozies to the board. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to allow for the purchase of 300 koozies at a price of \$297.00. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion and the motion failed. After further discussion about the style quality of the item, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to set a budget of not more than

\$350.00 for koozies with a 2-color logo. Mr. Dexter Callahan duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried by the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Cormier provided the board with an updated funding report.

Ms. Nikki Vidos noted that because the March 8, 2023, board meeting had to be rescheduled, the required posting to allow for the discussion of the proposed parcel fee had to be resubmitted. Ms. Cormier then informed the board, as well as the guests, that a discussion and possible formal vote would be held at the April 12, 2023, board meeting to adopt a resolution and move forward with the election process.

Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board of the Workforce Development Committee's plans to meet in order to update the new committee members on the committee's current plans and get their input.

Ms. Nikki Vidos, with the Strategic Planning Committee discussed the Vermilion LDRC (Louisiana Development Ready Community) strategy and reviewed the steps included in the process.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: The board members spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the District will be at 5:30pm on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, duly seconded by Mr. Patrick Duhon and unanimously carried, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary