

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2022
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

President Ruben Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:37 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, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Mr. Jacob Landry and Ms. Anita Dupuis

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Ms. Tammy Gordon, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, and Ms. Linda Vincent

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

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

Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to amend the agenda, allowing for item 8 to be discussed after item 11. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT- VPPJ: Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande motioned the board to table this discussion until the November meeting. Ms. Anne T. Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS: Ms. Nikki Vidos nominated Mr. Ruben Rivera to continue in his role as president. Mr. Jacob Landry seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Rivera was unanimously elected to serve another term as president.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux nominated Mr. Patrick Duhon to continue in his role as vice-president. Ms. Nikki Vidos seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Duhon was unanimously elected to serve another term as vice-president.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux nominated Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande to serve as Treasurer. Mr. Jacob Landry seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Landry-Lalande was unanimously elected to serve as Treasurer.

Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande nominated Ms. Anne T. Falgout to serve as Secretary. Ms. Anita Dupuis seconded the nomination. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux nominated Ms. Nikki Vidos, who declined the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Falgout was unanimously elected to serve as Secretary.

Ms. Cormier will contact Vermilion Bank about having the signers changed on the bank accounts.

MINUTES: The minutes of the September 7, 2022, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande. Ms. Anita Dupuis 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 \$454.90. Mr. Patrick Duhon motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the invoices. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Bourque provided the board with an update on her visits with VEDD's stakeholders.

Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board that the Stakeholder Dinner Committee is planning to reschedule the event to the first quarter of 2023, but no date has been set. Ms. Bourque asked the board to consider Thursday, January 26, 2023. Mr. Rivera noted that dates for the event should be discussed as a committee.

The board was provided with updated pricing for the t-shirt designs. Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande asked the board to move forward with reestablishing the committee (Megan Landry-Lalande, Anne T. Falgout and Victoria S. Bourque), to put together a plan for promotions and utilize the remaining funds allocated for merchandise. Mr. Rivera noted that no motion was needed to reestablish the committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Rivera informed the board that he met with Ms. Cormier to show his appreciation for what she has done for the organization. He also noted that the Personnel Committee's recommendation to the board is to continue Ms. Cormier's employment at her current rate because of budget restraints. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the committee's recommendation. Mr. Patrick Duhon duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

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

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board of the continued discussions being held by the Sustainable Funding Committee and noted that they hope to have a formal plan to be presented to the board soon.

Mr. Jacob Landry informed the board that he has been visiting with career campuses in the area to learn how their students are pushed into the workforce. Ms. Bourque noted that she has been working with the Vermilion Parish School board as they are hosting a career fair for students. Ms. Bourque is working to include local businesses to speak to the students about their industries and the educational requirements for their fields. She also noted that VEDD and the Vermilion Chamber are hosting a breakfast event with SLCC focusing on workforce development.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Ms. Victoria S. Bourque provided the board with a review of the accomplishments made by the VEDD office in August and September. These included: working with 6 business prospects/projects to meet their specific requests, 2 business visits, and continued meetings with businesses, organizations, and individuals to introduce herself. She is co-hosting a forum with local landowners and federal, state, and local land management coastal representatives to discuss opportunities for coastal projects and potential jobs. She is partnering with LSBDC to spend full days visiting with businesses in each municipality. She attended economic development educational classes and several regional and community meetings.

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, November 9, 2022, at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex.

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

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary