

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2023
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

Vice-President Anita Dupuis called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Ben Rivera led the Pledge of Allegiance before Ms. Dupuis requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Nikki Vidos, and Mr. Joshua Anderson

The following members were absent: Mr. Dexter Callahan, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Mr. Patrick Duhon, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet Mr. Jacob Landry, and Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande

The following guests were present: Ms. Kayla Link, VEDA, and Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA,

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

Ms. Nikki Vidos motioned the board to amend the agenda to allow for the Communications Committee Report to be discussed after item 5. The motion was duly seconded by Ms. Claire Broussard and unanimously carried.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 8, 2023, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Nikki Vidos. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$680.83. Ms. Anne T. Falgout motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Ms. Kristin Vincent duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ITEM 9E – COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Anne Falgout gave the report for the Communications and Promotions Committee. She informed the board that the new website splash page would be ready soon. She noted the upcoming need for collateral and promotional materials and asked the board to consider allocating funds for the purchase of t-shirts, rack cards and advertising. Mr. Ruben Rivera motioned the board to allow the remaining funds in Promotions and Entertainment to be assigned to the Communications and Promotions Committee for the needed promotional materials. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kayla Link informed the board that she is reaching out to the contact person for each of the VEDD's Prospects and Projects to introduce herself and get updates on their progress. She also informed the board that VEDD assisted 10 businesses with their Small Business Saturday promotions and noted that she was able to meet with each business while delivering Shop Small materials. She also noted that VEDD is currently promoting their Business Visitation program with seven businesses requesting meetings.

Mr. Joshua Anderson entered the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Richard Guilbeaux informed the board that legal counsel has not yet been able to review the wording of the proposed procedure that was drafted to meet the required changes of the Open Meetings Law. The item was tabled until the January meeting.

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board that VEDD will be co-hosting a Grant Opportunity Breakfast on January 15, 2023. At this event, the Acadiana Planning Commission will review grant status and opportunities with our parish leaders.

Mr. Ruben Rivera left the meeting.

Ms. Cormier presented the board with a list VEDA's 2024 board meeting dates. She noted that VEDA is required to post the meeting dates in the Abbeville Meridional at the beginning of every year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the report for the Transition Committee. She noted that VEDD was asked by One Acadiana to sponsor their Acadiana Solar Development Roundtable. She noted that there would be no financial responsibility. Ms. Anne Falgout motioned the board to allow VEDD to sponsor the event. Ms. Nikki Vidos duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Ms. Vidos then presented the board with information on the Scoutcities.com website and asked the board members to contact their municipalities to have them customize their respective profiles. She also informed the board that VEDD and The Nehemiah Project of Acadiana have applied for the Co-heart of the Equity Impact Investments Program. The program will facilitate training for two members of the board and completing the 10-hour online course and public service will enable VEDD to get help from the organization in creating a more equitable community.

Ms. Claire Broussard gave the update for the Workforce Development Committee. She noted a meeting with Mr. Lonnie Richard from the V. P. School Board and local businesses to discuss pathways to internships and apprenticeships for credits toward graduation in the Tech Ready Program. She noted plans for another meeting in January that will focus on healthcare and the hospitality industries.

Ms. Nikki Vidos gave the report on the Sustainable Funding Committee. She noted that they, along with the Communications and Promotion Committee, are currently strategizing ways to inform the public about the organization, as well as planning for the promotion of the parcel fee. Ms. Link discussed how the board members can contribute to this initiative.

Ms. Vidos gave the update on the Hometown Revitalization Project for the Strategic Planning Committee. She noted that the plan that was presented to the VPPJ has been approved and that the next steps include writing and formalizing the plan for approval. She asked that a new committee be formed for this project. She asked for volunteers to join the committee and received confirmation from Ms. Linda Vincent, Ms. Anne Falgout and Ms. Claire Broussard. She then motioned the board to form the Hometown Revitalization Committee with herself and the three volunteers. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

There was no update for the Business and Industry Committee.

Ms. Vidos asked the board to consider VEDD's strengths and weaknesses and be prepared for a discussion at the January meeting. She noted that the discussion will contribute to the goals incorporated in VEDD's 2024 action plan.

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Anne T. Falgout, duly seconded by Ms. Claire Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary