

MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2024  
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

President Patrick Duhon called the meeting to order at 5:33 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 Mr. Duhon requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Ms. Linda Vincent, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet, Ms. Nikki Vidos, and Mr. Patrick Duhon

The following members were absent: Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Jacob Landry

The following guests were present: Ms. Kayla Link, VEDA, and Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA, and Ms. Lynn Guillory, Ms. Stacy Mire, Ms. Kady Rost, Mr. Landen Moore, Mr. Joshua Rowe, Mr. Everett Young

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 14, 2024, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Ben Rivera. Ms. Nikki Vidos 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 \$1,343.72. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout and Ms. Anita Dupuis entered the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kayla Link presented the board with her February Administrative Report. She noted that she assisted 2 new business start-ups, completed 6 visits with existing businesses and had 2 business inquiries. She met with the mayor of Maurice to discuss town needs, coordinated APC meeting with Delcambre to assist with water projects, developed content for the new VEDD website, and co-hosted a marketing class along with the Chamber.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Stacy Mire gave a brief presentation on the Rails to Trails Program. She informed the board that the railway has been inactive since 2020 and that there are no plans to complete the needed repairs. She noted the need to be prepared to acquire the property, that includes the unused railway from the Vermilion River to the Delcambre Canal as soon as it is released from the railroad and asked the board for a letter of support for the project. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to have VEDD write a letter of support for the Rails to Trails Program. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Link updated the board on the Maurice Strategic Planning event. She noted that they are waiting on Parish Strategies before taking the next step.

Ms. Link informed the board that the business training event, entitled "How Processes And AI Can Save Time, Money And Your Sanity", that was approved by the board at the last meeting will be held on April 16, 2024, at the Vermilion Parish Library.

NEW BUSINESS: The Farmers Appreciation Dinner discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board of her plan to schedule a Transition Committee meeting.

Mr. Richard Guilbeaux gave the update for the Workforce Development Committee. He informed the board that members of the committee toured the Iberia Parish Career Campus, and he believes that there are some things they are doing that can be slowly implemented here in Vermilion. He also noted that three of the businesses that attended the internship and apprenticeship meeting with the Vermilion Parish School Board and local businesses in November have taken on internships. Ms. Link added that their discussions with local businesses have brought to light the opportunity to initiate instruction on application completion and the interview process.

Mr. Patrick Duhon led the report on the Sustainable Funding Committee. He noted the number of presentations and visits that were completed to discuss the services provided by VEDD and the parcel fee with members of the parish.

Ms. Nikki Vidos informed the board that the Strategic Planning Committee is working with Stacey Duvic with LED to relaunch the LDRC program in the next few months. She also noted that she is working with the Acadiana Planning Commission on possible EDA grants to fund a strategic plan to work in tandem with that program.

Ms. Vidos gave the update on the Hometown Revitalization Project. She informed the board that the projects that were submitted are still under consideration.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout gave the update for the Communications and Promotions Committee. She noted that the VEDD office has been working on website content. She also noted that the list of local upcoming events has been updated and urged the board members to attend, if possible.

Ms. Kristy Touchet gave the update for the Business and Industry Committee. He noted that a list of businesses was submitted for Ms. Link to reach out to.

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, April 10, 2024.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, duly seconded by Ms. Nikki Vidos and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Ms. Anne T. Falgout  
Secretary