

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Bayou Vermilion District
Held by ZOOM at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, July 22, 2020

Call to Order was given by Acting President Michot. The meeting was called at 4:30 pm. The BVD meeting is on ZOOM because of COVID-19. Adhering to Governor's Proclamation, following mandate and guidance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Given by the Secretary: to the Board: Commissioners Thomas Michot, Catherine Comeaux, Kristie Cornell, Jennifer Farr, and Don McConnell were on Zoom. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION:** (C. Comeaux/J. Farr) Motion to accept the updated and amended minutes from the May 27, 2020 regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest(s): Guest: Staff: CEO Cherie

Public Comment(s): Phyllis Mouton express her support to the board for their released statement of racial justice. Elsa Dimitriadis supported BVD for the statement. The public attention is a painful process, but it is a learning opportunity. Applauded the board's courage for leading the way for other entities. Approval also from Anne Swanson and Rick Swanson.

President's Report:

A. Election of new officers

MOTION: (D. McConnell/C. Comeaux) to open nominations for president. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION: (C. Comeaux/J. Farr) to nominate Tommy Michot as president.

MOTION: (D. McConnell/J. Farr) to close nominations. All were in favor. Motion carried.

All in favor of Tommy Michot being president. Motion carried.

MOTION: (C. Comeaux/J. Farr) to open nominations for vice president. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION: (J. Farr/K. Cornell) to nominate Catherine Comeaux as vice president.

MOTION: (D. McConnell/J. Farr) to close nominations. All were in favor. Motion carried.

All were in favor of Catherine Comeaux being vice president. Motion carried.

MOTION: (C. Comeaux/D. McConnell) to open nominations for secretary. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION: (C. Comeaux/K. Cornell) to nominate Jennifer Farr as secretary.

MOTION: (D. McConnell/K. Cornell) to close nominations. All were in favor. Motion carried.

All were in favor of Jennifer Farr being secretary. Motion carried.

B. Orientation of new board members

Vice President Comeaux wants to make sure all new incoming board members have an orientation. There will be four new members joining the board between now and September and now is the time to implement a plan for them. Gary McGoffin (pro bono attorney) will help the new member's orientation. BVD does have an orientation package for new staff (on boarding documents), board member should have one also. Education/Programming/Grants committee will be in charge of making an orientation package for new board members.

Commissioner Comeaux announced to the board that Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folk Life Park has been accredited. Much thanks to Anne Mahoney, her staff and many others who worked on this project.

C. Ratification of Vermilionville statement

President Michot read the Vermilionville statement for racial justice.

MOTION: (C. Comeaux/J. Farr) to move to ratify statement for racial justice for release to the public. Discussion: Commissioner Comeaux stated that Vermilionville is making a statement with words and action to help cast a wider net for new members of the board and help influence opportunities. President Michot applauded staff for making the statement and apologized for not issuing the statement sooner. There were no public comments. The vote was called. All were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Proposed changes to BVD by-laws

President Michot explained that the by-laws have been neglected too long and BVD needs to update them to be in sync with enabling legislation and with the new Lafayette city/parish structure. There are 9 members on the board and to be a member of the BVD board, there are 2 qualifications: Must be a U.S. citizen and reside within the limits of the District during their term in office. At this time there is only one guaranteed black member. The current would like more diversity. The executive committee will be working to have changes to the BVD by-laws by the August meeting. Gary McGoffin pointed out that the board could amend the agenda and add an item that would address the appointing authorities appointments going forward. The board members could write, talk, interact with the appointing authorities to show their support for applying potential board members.

MOTION: (J. Farr/C. Comeaux) to change the agenda and add Resolution to diversify the BVD board members. All were in favor. Motion carried. Much discussion followed as to the wording of the resolution.

MOTION: (J. Farr/C. Comeaux) to more fully accomplish our mission, the BVD requests that the appointing authorities take into consideration the cultural and racial diversity of Lafayette Parish and make appointments which result in a board that reflects that diversity. All were in favor. Motion carried.

F. Appointment of CEO Cheramie to the Evangeline Thruway Redevelopment Team (ETRT)

The ETRT is I-49 connector south of I-10, Evangeline Thruway. BVD's role would be to be actively aware of what would be happening along the bayou. This appointment has no power, except as advisory. Nonetheless, BVD needs to give its input.

MOTION: (D. McConnell/J. Farr) to appoint David Cheramie to represent the BVD on the ETRT. All in favor. Motion carried.

CEO Report

A. Proposed changes to the budget

Vermilionville has lost revenue due to COVID-19. There have been cuts in spending, employees furloughed, and overall tightening of belts. BVD is not in bad shape but the budget for 2021 will have to have some tough decisions implemented. CEO Cheramie would like to meet with the executive committee to discuss decisions and plans going forward.

B. Update on Watershed building

The building is coming along slowly. The contractors are waiting for steel to come in and the concrete to cure.

C. Update on LWI Region V

The steering committee is accepting projects and plans to develop their project list. CEO and Water Quality Department working to see what if there are any projects we could submit. The deadline for submitting projects is October 16, 2020.

D. Legislative Auditor filing deadline extended to September 30, 2020

The legislative auditor has extended the deadline from June 30 to September 30 because of COVID-19. BVD will begin its audit process the last week of July.

E. Black Pot Update

With many events and festivals being cancelled, Glenn Fields has September 15th as his deadline to decide if Black Pot will take place this year.

Committee Reports

Marketing/Public Relations: The committee did not meet.

Finance/Capital/Budget: The committee did not meet. The financial analysis comparison for the month ending June 2020 and June 2019 and the financials were emailed to the commissioners. CEO Cheramie made note of June's revenues and expenses.

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: The committee did not meet.

Environmental: The committee did not meet but will meet July 23rd.

Programming/Education/Grants: The committee did not meet but will do so before the August board meeting.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: The committee did not meet. Anne Mahoney informed the board that with the accreditation of Vermilionville, it is necessary to keep these standards going forward.

New Business: Former commissioner Robert Minyard was the BVD's board liaison to the Foundation Board. The BVD board needs to have a liaison at the foundation meetings, possibly rotating commissioners.

Adjournment: MOTION: (D. McConnell/K. Cornell) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Thomas Michot, President

Jennifer Farr, Secretary