



Board Meeting

Date and Time: February 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
**Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road, Opelousas, LA
70570**

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of January 2021 Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Financial Report
- ❖ **Old Businesses**
 - ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2021
 - City of Opelousas
 - CPEX-Joni Hammons
 - Public Input Meeting, February 27, 2021
- ❖ **New Business**
 - 2021 Objectives
 - Grant Program Presentation, (Sarah W. Branton)
 - Business Recognition Awards
 - Building Improvement Grant, (BIG)
- ❖ **Board Member Comments**
- ❖ Adjourn

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Keith Broussard, Don D'Avy, Rob Hillard, Sarah Branton and Pat Fontenot

The following members were present virtually: none

The following member was absent: Ogden Pitre

The following SLED staff member was present in person: Glenda Carriere/E.D. Support Coordinator

The following SLED staff members were absent: Bill Rodier/CEO and Taylor Lormand/E.D. Specialist

There were also present in person: Melanie LeBouef/City Tourism and Janet Tharp/CPEX

There were also present virtually: Joni Hammons/CPEX and Herman Fusilier/St. Landry Parish Tourism

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of January 2021 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the January 2021 meeting minutes was made by Don D’Avy and seconded by Rob Hillard. Motion carried without objection.

Financial Report: Keith Broussard provided an overview of the January 2021 financials. A motion to accept the January 2021 financials was made by Don D’Avy and seconded by Rob Hillard. Motion carried with no objection.

Old Business:

- **ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2021:** Chairwoman Lena Charles stated the members of the businesses were unable to attend due to previous engagements.
- **City of Opelousas:** Melanie Lebouef stated she did not have any updates to report.
- **CPEX-Joni Hammons:**
 - **Public Input Meeting, February 27, 2021:** Janet Tharp with CPEX gave a presentation regarding the rollout and feedback of the vision for Downtown Opelousas. The input collected will be placed together in a draft masterplan. She stated they are meeting with developers, and obtaining positive feedback, but there are some obstacles to development, such as standards of minimum size lots. She stated they met with high school students from OHS and OCS and received feedback with concerns about the need for more programming and activities. Another point they brought up was litter and the way the city looks. Joni Hammons with CPEX stated she will send today’s presentation to all the board members.

New Business:

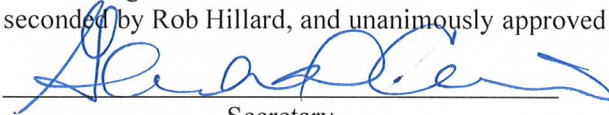
- **2021 Objectives:** Chairwoman Lena Charles stated the first objective on her list is to see the completion of the masterplan to make a difference right away. Janet Tharp with CPEX stated the final plan is projected to be finished by July 2021. The second objective is the Vine Street progress project and keeping the line of communication open. Her third objective is the Opelousas Tap Grant and where we are with this project. The total cost of the project on the Landry Street side of the courthouse is \$327,063. There is \$139,000 available from the grant, leaving \$188,063 to do this project. We need the final okay from DOTD and find out when the deadline to apply for the TAP Grant. Her fourth objective is Business Incentive Programs to give businesses recognition and a Business Improvement Grant (BIG). Her fifth objective is seeing the completion of the AT&T Cell Tower. Her sixth objective is a market plan for the New Life Center to seek incentives to attract developers. Her seventh and final objective for the year is to create a district business directory-catalog to access potential businesses and what is an acceptable list of commercial properties available. A motion to move forward with the goals and objectives presented was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Don D’Avy. Motion carried with no objection.
- **Grant Program Presentation, (Sarah Branton)**
 - **Business Recognition Awards:** The companies being recognized were not available to participate in the meeting.

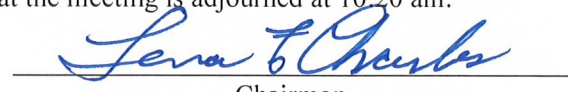
- **Building Improvement Grant, (BIG):** Sarah Branton presented a draft of the grant application and criteria. She welcomed feedback from the other board members of their recommendations for changes. Included in this packet was a list of eligible funds that would be available. One of the rules would be that a business needed to be located within the Opelousas Downtown Development District. Sarah suggested the board members take the packet home to review and come back with inputs at our next board meeting.

Board Member Comments:

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, March 19, 2021, at 9:00 am at SLED.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Rob Hillard, and unanimously approved that the meeting is adjourned at 10:20 am.


Secretary


Chairman

