

Board Meeting

Date and Time: March 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road,
Opelousas, LA 70570

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ ODDD Business Recognition Program – C&R Auto Detailing
538 S. Union Street
Opelousas, La 70570
- ❖ Approval of February 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ Executive Director's Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
 - New Businesses Updates
- ❖ **New Business**
 - BIG 2023
 - Diversity Policy Committee Report
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - City of Opelousas Ordinance (Update)
 - South Park Master Plan (Update)
 - Consultant's Report
 - TAP Grant - Landry Street (Update)
 - Keep Opelousas Beautiful Grant (Update)
 - Love the Boot
 - Courthouse Phase II Lighting (Update)
 - Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements
 - Additional Turning Lane (Update)
 - ODDD District Expansion
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Ogden Pitre, Sarah Branton, Pat Fontenot, Keith Broussard, Don D'avy

The following members were present virtually:

The following members were absent: Mr. Rob Hillard

The following SLED members were present: Bill Rodier, Teresa Reaves, Janece Riser

Guests present in person: Mr. Paul Scott, Mr. Bobby Ardoin of St. Landry Now Newspaper, Mr. Herman Fusilier of Acadiana Tourism, Ms. Melanie Lebouef of Opelousas Main Street

Guests present virtually: Ms. EB Brooks

Chairwoman Charles welcomed the board and opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

It was determined a quorum was present.

ODDD Small Business of the Month Recognition 2022: Chairwoman Lena Charles announced that the business of the month as C & R Auto Detailing at 538 S. Union Street. He and his wife Cora operate the business together.

Approval of February 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the February 24, 2023, minutes as submitted was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded by Mr. Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Keith Broussard gave a report on the financials and gave a brief overview of the expenses and income. There were a few questions and discussions. Ms. Sarah Branton made a motion to accept the financials as submitted and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Bill Rodier reported that there is still interest in the Federal Building but for now anything to do with the building is on hold. There are two potential investment groups interested in the building. Mr. Rodier also reported that The Viviano family is getting all their properties appraised. There was discussion about the buildings amongst the board. Mr. Rodier explained that he plans to bring the people involved in the development projects that were accomplished in Monroe to a future board meeting. Mr. Rodier reported that there is drainage work to be done around the Billy's site that should tie into the Lowes site and once everything is done on the Chik Fil and the building starts going up, then a conversation will need to be had regarding all the other drainage issues with the family that owns that property. It would be to their benefit to have those issues resolved before any other potential growth happens in that area. Mr. Rodier also gave updates on the Loves site and the Judson Walsh Interchange mural. Conversation ensued.

New Business:

BIG 2023: Ms. Sarah Branton reported that the 2023 BIG Cycle starts April 1st. Melanie Lebouef made all the graphics and the press release which has gone out. The grant cycle is open from April first to May first, closes May first and will be awarded June first. The question came up that the businesses need to be within the district, and they get an additional point if they are in the Main St. District.

Diversity Committee Report: Mr. Keith Broussard reported that there is an individual from our community that works with diversity programs with Fortune 500 companies and is willing to give his input. Mr. Broussard also reported that we will be working with Southern University and their Diversity program. Mr. Broussard requested that a member of the city of Opelousas be involved with these discussions. Mr. Broussard also asked a staff person from SLED to help develop this policy. Mr. Broussard reported that they will have a committee meeting this month. Conversation ensued.

Old Business

City of Opelousas Ordinance Update: Ms. Lena Charles reported that the ordinance passed the City Council Committee and will be going back before the regular City Council. She further reported that the community members are showing interest in learning about all the information in the ordinance and the extra time is helping to build up the confidence of the community to get behind the ordinance. The ordinance will be on the April 11th Opelousas City Council Meeting Agenda at 5:00 PM. Mayor Julius Alsandor stated that he is behind the ordinance and that if he had been allowed to vote, he would have voted in favor of it. Conversation ensued.

South Park Master Plan:

Consultant's Report: Chairwoman Charles recapped the last meeting and then introduced EB Brooks, the hired consultant. Ms. Brooks gave a brief report on the progress of the project. Confirming that the decision was to move forward with Phase 1 of the South Park project which includes the parking lot, track and field, refurbishment of the stadium, Astroturf, lighting, concessions, bathrooms, and playground at \$5,500,000.00. Mr. Keith Broussard asked to know all the costs associated with the bond. He wanted to know why we would get a bond instead of depleting the funds we have. Mr. Pat Fontenot disagreed and included that many cities use a bond to secure funding rather than deplete their entire bank account. Conversation ensued.

TAP Grant – Landry Street Update: Ms. Janece Riser reported that there will be a construction meeting the week of the 4th of April and then should start soon after. Chairwoman Lena Charles gave a brief update of the project for those that didn't know what the TAP Grant would be covering.

Keep Opelousas Beautiful Grant: Chairwoman Charles gave a brief update on the details of the grant project. Ms. Melanie Lebouef explained the art project.

Love the Boot: Ms. Janece Riser reported that she contacted the Grant project manager and is meeting with her on Monday. The project needs to be completed by May 1st.

Courthouse Phase II Lighting Update: There is no update currently.

Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements: Ms. Janece Riser reported that there were some issues with the water and sewer improvements. The sewer manhole and the fire hydrant are in the wrong place and there will be some additional costs because of this but should fall within the budgeted amount.


Additional Turning Lane: Ms. Janece Riser reported that there is a CEA that needs signed. Ms. Sarah Branton made a motion that Chairwoman Lena Charles has permission to sign the CEA to be given to the City of Opelousas. A Second was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.


ODDD District Expansion: Chairwoman Lena Charles reported that CSLEDD came to her with a question about sharing the cost of Police Cars with them to help support the city at a cost of \$250,000.00. Discussion ensued. Mr. Pat Fontenot made a motion that the ODDD will set a protocol to entertain any problems within the city when they are directed to the ODDD from the city administration. A second was made by Mr. Ogden Pitre. Motion carried with no objections.

Board Member Comments: Mr. Keith Broussard asked again about an office space within the SLED building for Chairwoman Lena Charles to do business. Mr. Ogden Pitre responded that he didn't feel it was time for that. Chairwoman Charles responded that she really didn't need an actual office and that she is fine using the space provided with the open area, the conference room or the Cave and wanted to make sure that everyone knew that she did not ask anyone to ask for an office for her. Mr. Broussard accepted her answer.

Public Comments: Mr. Bobby Ardoin asked for clarification about the status of the South Park project. Chairwoman Charles reported that it's on hold for the time being.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Don D'avy and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection and meeting was adjourned at 10:51 PM.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles