



Board Meeting

Date and Time: November 17, 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 – Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts
131 S Liberty St.
Opelousas, La. 70570

- ❖ Approval of October 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ Executive Director's Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.

- ❖ **Old Business:**
- ❖ South Park Project (Update)
 - Feasibility Study (Update)
 - Bonding Commission (Update)
 - Opelousas Historic District National Registry (Update)
 - ODDD Big Grant (Update)
 - TAP Grant – Landry Street (Update)
 - Capital Outlay FY2024-2025

- ❖ **New Business**
 - Christmas Social

- ❖ **Board Member Comments**

- ❖ **Public Comments** – Limit to 3 Minutes

- ❖ **Adjourn**

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Pat Fontenot, Don D’Avy, Keith Broussard, Robert Hillard

The following members were absent: Sarah Branton, Ogden Pitre

The following SLED members were present: Brittany Cretchain (SLED), Janece Riser (SLED)

Guests present in person: Melanie Lebouef (City of Opelousas Main Street), Herman Fuselier (St Landry Tourism), David Jarrell (Morgan Goudeau & Associates), Reggie Dupre (Opelousas Main Street), Mr. Bobby Ardoin (St Landry Now), Stephen Woods (St Landry Parish Government), Chris Rideau, (City of Opelousas)

Guests present virtually: Jason Boudrie, Kelly Calhoun

Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the board and guests and opened the meeting at 9:10 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program:

Chairwoman Lena Charles introduced Mr. John Bertrand of Bumper-to-Bumper Auto Parts to the board. Chairwoman Charles gave thanks, and recognition to Mr. Bertrand. Mr. Bertrand informed the board that Bumper to Bumper has been in business for over 100 years. He shared that it isn’t a big chain like Auto Zone but more like a family business. They are known for carrying parts for older vehicles and farming equipment.

Approval of October 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes: Mr. Don D’Avy reported that his name is misspelled in a few different places. Mrs. Janece Riser corrected those misspellings. He also reported that Mr. Eric LaFleur’s name was misspelled as well and that has also been corrected. Mr. Don D’Avy made a motion to accept the October Board meeting minutes as submitted with the necessary changes. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Keith Broussard gave the financial report and advised the board on the income and expenditures. A motion was made by Mr. Don D’Avy to accept the financial report as submitted. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Rob Hillard. The motion was carried without objection.

Executive Director’s Report: Chairwoman Lena Charles gave a brief report regarding the new Chik-fil-A. Chairwoman Charles mentioned that she hasn’t heard when the grand opening or ribbon cutting will take place. Ms. Brittany Cretchain informed the board that the owner / operator is Ms. Camille Cook. Ms. Cretchain reported that she was able to speak with her by stopping by and visiting with her at the restaurant. Ms. Cretchain reported that there is a tentative opening date of November 30.

Old Business:

South Park Project Update: Chairwoman Charles gave an update on the Bonding Commission. The application was accepted and is moving forward. The next step is to approach the local banks, and that should take place within the next two weeks. Chairwoman Charles gave appreciation to the board for their hard work. Mr. Jason Boudrie gave an update regarding the feasibility study on the project. He was concerned that an area for the steeple chase was left off the drawings by Land Architecture. Mr. Boudrie stated that the architects that work with him on his projects are looking at those drawings to fix that. Mr. Boudrie stated that that should only take a couple of days and from a timeline standpoint a couple of days won't make a difference. Chairwoman Charles informed Mr. Boudrie that the financials will be in place within two or three weeks. Mr. Boudrie asked who pays the water and light bills for the park and Mr. Chris Rideau of City of Opelousas Parks and Recreation answered that the stadium is on an isolated billing statement, and he can get those to Mr. Boudrie. Mr. Boudrie asked if he could be invited to the December meeting, so it is on his calendar. Mrs. Janece Riser responded and let him know that she sent an invite and asked him to please reply with what he needs from the board.

Opelousas Historic District National Registry Update: Chairwoman Charles asked Ms. Kelly Calhoun to give an update on the Historic District. Ms. Calhoun informed the board that she would like to come to town and photograph the historic houses and businesses. She mentioned that it would be a good idea to inform the public that she will be in the area taking photographs. She reported that she will be in Opelousas on Monday, November 20-Wednesday November 22nd. After that she will be gathering digital and paper files and developing a list with Ms. Melanie Lebouef from Main Street Tourism. From there she can reach out to other people. This portion will take from now until mid-December.

BIG Grant: Chairwoman Charles reported that none of the businesses have responded to the letter that went out. She reported that Holy Ghost Catholic Church will be working on their project soon and will be finished by the 31st of December. Chairwoman Charles anticipates that Board Member Sarah Branton will have a more detailed report in December.

TAP Grant Update: Chairwoman Charles informed the board that there is a walkthrough of the Landry Street project scheduled for today, November 21st, so there will be another update at the next meeting. Mr. David Jarrell reported that the financial end is coming together and the ODDD should be receiving a refund for some of the project funding. Mr. Keith Broussard asked if there will be a ribbon cutting for the project and Chairwoman Charles answered yes.

Capital Outlay FY2024-2025: Chairwoman Charles reported that Mr. Purvis Morrison completed the application for the capital outlay and will be bringing a copy to the board soon.

New Business:

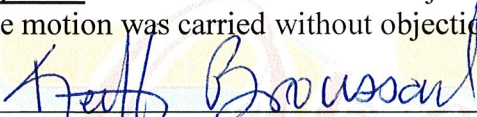
Christmas Social: Chairwoman Charles reported that the Social is going to be on December 4th, at the Steamboat Warehouse.

Board Member Comments: Mr. Rob Hillard wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and wished

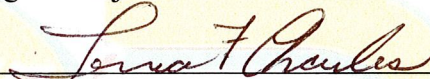
good luck to the local football teams still in the playoffs. Mr. Pat Fontenot said Happy Thanksgiving to everyone as well and asked that there not be conversations outside of the board regarding the projects so that everyone stays on the same page. He also asked everyone to go vote and please vote for the millage. Chairwoman Charles asked the board to not worry about the other areas around us doing their own park renovations. She said please don't worry about that. It's important to have our own for our kids. Chairwoman Charles also reported that she met with Ms. Gretchen Erlingson twice and had good conversations with her. She said there will be a good collaboration between ODDD and Main Street. Mr. Don D'Avy asked for an update at the next meeting regarding the New Life Center. Chairwoman Charles reported that the mayor just recently put together a committee for that project. Mrs. Janece Riser commented that there is a new requirement for board compliance, Cyber Security Awareness and informed the board that she sent them the link to take that training.

Public Comments: Mr. Bobby Ardoin said that the St Landry Now crew is having some issues with staffing, but they are doing their best. Mr. Herman Fuselier reported that he attended a tourism event at The Parlor, and it was wonderful.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded by Mr. Rob Hillard. The motion was carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.



Secretary Keith Broussard



Chairperson Lena Charles