



Board Meeting

Date and Time: January 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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

AGENDA

- 1.) Welcome
- 2.) Pledge and Opening Prayer
- 3.) Roll Call
- 4.) ODDD Business Recognition Program – Supreme Kutz
Keith Biagase, Owner
621 S. Union Street, Opelousas, La. 70570
- 5.) Approval of December 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- 6.) Monthly Financial Report
- 7.) Executive Director's Report
 - a. Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
- 8.) Old Business:**
- 9.) South Park Project (Update)
 - a. Bonding Commission (Update)
 - b. Opelousas Historic District National Registry (Update)
 - c. ODDD Big Grant (Update)
 - d. TAP Grant – Landry Street (Update)
- 10.) New Business:**
 - a.) 2024 ODDD Meeting Dates
 - b.) C/D Rates
 - c.) Election of Officers

Board Member Comments:

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

❖ **Adjourn**

The following members were present in person: Lena Charles, Don D'Avy, Keith Broussard, Ogden Pitre

The following members were absent: Rob Hillard, Pat Fontenot

The following members were present virtually: Sarah Branton

The following SLED members were present: Bill Rodier (SLED), Teresa Reaves (SLED), Janece Riser (SLED), Brittany Cretchain (SLED)

Guests present in person: Mr. Herman Fuselier (St Landry Tourism), Mr. Bobby Ardoin (St Landry Now), Ms. Gretchen Erlingson (Main Street Opelousas), Ms. Colisha Kinnerson, Ms. Jutta Codori, Mr. Stephen Dash, Mr. Chris Rideau (City of Opelousas),

Guests present virtually: Mr. Michael Cullen, Ms. Kelly Calhoun

Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the board and guests and opened the meeting at 9:09 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Chairwoman Charles asked for a motion to add two items to the agenda in the section of New Business. A motion was made to add the M & M Associates Contract as Item D by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

A motion was made by Mr. Don Davy to add the item Acadiana Arts Festival as item E under New Business and seconded by Mr. Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Charles announced the business of the month as Supreme Kutz and welcomed Mr. Keith Biagase, the owner/operator. The business is located at 621 S Union Street. Mr. Biagase brings over 2 decades of experience in offering services to people of all ages. Mr. Biagase participated in the “Hair Cuts for School” program with free hair cuts for back to school and enjoys giving back to his community.

Approval of December 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted by Mr. Don D’Avy. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Ogden Pitre. The 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 to accept the financials as submitted with Mr. Broussard correcting the % Variance shown on the Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for Total Sales Tax Collection and Total Income. Motion made by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. The motion was carried without objection.

Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Bill Rodier stated that he is hoping to see some movement in ownership of the Federal Building in 2024, and he also stated that the Viviano family is getting ready to list two downtown buildings for sale. Mr. Rodier stated that he feels that there needs to be movement this year with the New Life Center because if the building doesn’t go back into commerce soon it may deteriorate beyond repair, Mr. Rodier also stated that the Hayes- Hirsch building is still under discussion and he’s hoping to find some middle ground with that conversation soon. Mr. Keith Broussard asked what is happening in 2024 regarding the blighted

and unoccupied building ordinance. Chairwoman Charles said that Ms Margaret Doucet has retired as the Code Enforcement Director and the new hire is Mr. Lance Ned. Chairwoman Charles said she has spoken with Mr. Ned, and he will be prioritizing the ordinance. Chairwoman Charles stated that the ordinance is the City's and that any support by the ODD will need to be a collaboration with the City of Opelousas, Main Street and the ODDD to stay on top of the ordinance procedures. Mr. Rodier stated that it would be a good idea to invite Mr. Ned to the next ODDD Board Meeting. Mr. Rodier stated that he is hoping to have a conversation with the Boagni family to discuss getting a development plan together for 2024. Mr. Rodier stated that he would like to try and get five of the downtown properties moving forward in some way throughout the course of 2024. Chairwoman Charles asked about the possible CSLED Nature Reserve project. Mr. Rodier stated that it is probably not going to happen because another buyer is in negotiations with a purchase of the lakes property.

Old Business:

South Park Project Update: Chairwoman Lena Charles reported that Mr. Eric Lafleur's office should be in touch today with information regarding the bonding with the local bank bids. The local banks are St Landry Bank, Evangeline Bank, and Catalyst Bank that have been given the opportunity to purchase the bonds. Chairwoman Charles introduced Mr. Michael Cullen of Land Architecture and asked for a follow up on the timeline. Mr. Cullen stated that there is a meeting to be scheduled with the City of Opelousas the last week of the month. Mr. Cullen shared the timeline of the project. Part of the discussion for the meeting with the city is regarding adding the Steeple Chase event to the sport's complex plans.

Opelousas Historic District National Registry Update: Chairwoman Charles introduced Ms. Kelly Calhoun. Ms. Calhoun surveyed about 600 buildings in the downtown area. About half of those need to be in their own historic district because of the age of the buildings. Ms. Calhoun gave a presentation of the mapping software that she has implemented that is interactive and will allow easy access to people looking into the historic district to obtain tax incentives.

BIG Grant: Ms. Sarah Branton gave her BIG report for the end of year 2023. Ms. Branton stated that an extension was given to Toby's due to painting issues in the hot summer heat. Ms. Branton stated that all funds have been allocated and she doesn't yet have the economic impact numbers but will report on that next month. Ms. Colisha Kinnerson, one of the BIG recipients, was present and gave thanks for receiving the grant. She stated that her project was painting all four buildings of the Inn and that she will soon be ready for phase two of her project. The target date for the 2024 BIG applications will be released in April/May.

TAP Grant Update: Chairwoman Charles asked Ms. Janece Riser to report on the TAP Grant update. Ms. Riser stated that the City of Opelousas gave a punch list to Morgan Goudeau, and they are now waiting for reimbursement to be able to pay the contractor so they can start on the last few items to be completed. Mr. Ogden Pitre stated that he feels that there should be a railing added because the sidewalk is very high, and he personally almost took a tumble. Ms. Riser said she will investigate that.

New Business:

2024 ODDD Meeting Dates: Chairwoman Charles presented the potential dates for the ODDD monthly meetings going through 2024. Mr. Rodier noted that there was a conflict again this year with the St Landry Parish Business Summit and the February board meeting that would prohibit him being able to attend that meeting. A motion was made to accept and approve the meeting dates by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Keith Broussard. The motion was carried without objection.

C/D Rates: Chairwoman Charles stated that the CD was scheduled for renewal, and she had a conversation with St Landry Bank. A ratification motion was made by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre to allow the renewal of the 5% Interest bearing 90-day CD at St Landry Bank. A second motion was made to give Chairwoman Lena Charles authorization to sign and to renew the CD at St Landry Bank if there is no rate change, or if there is an increase in rate, by Mr. Keith Broussard and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. The motion carried without objection.

Election of Officers: A motion was made by Mr. Ogden Pitre to table the election of officers until the February meeting and seconded by Mr. Don D’Avy. The motion carried without objection.

M & M Associates Contract: Chairwoman Charles reported that she wanted to discuss the contract submission from M & M Associates to lobby for the board to push for the capital outlay funds. The bid was for \$2500 per month, and she stated it would be for six months. There were questions regarding whether M & M could do the job since Mr. Morrison has a full-time job with the City of Carencro. Mr. Keith Broussard asked what the fee was for hiring Mr. Nick Gautreau who works for CSLEDD. Mr. Rodier stated that if the board would like that he could reach out to Mr. Nick Gautreau for a quote for his government affairs services. No action was taken at this time.

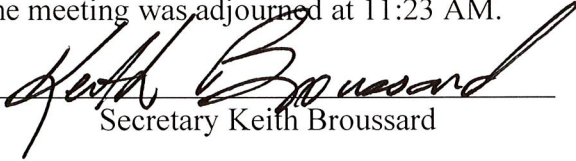
Acadiana Art Festival for 2024: Chairwoman Charles stated that the Acadiana Student Art Festival is usually in March, and she wanted to present it at the meeting today for discussion to see if the board wants to sponsor again this year. Mr. Broussard asked what the sponsorship amount was last year, and the answer was \$7500. A motion was made by Mr. Keith Broussard to consider the sponsorship again with a cap of \$7500. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. The motion was carried without objection.

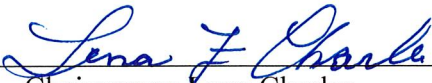
Board Member Comments: None

Public Comments: Mr. Herman Fuselier reported that Musician Keith Frank will be performing in Court House Square again this Mardi Gras and stated that there will be food and booths this year. Mr. Fuselier also stated that there will be a Cajun Jam at the St Landry visitors center this Saturday from 1 to 3. Mr. Bobby Ardoin stated that he saw in the Michael Cullen / Land Architecture presentation that the park will be completed in January of 2025. He asked if the football season will be moved out of the stadium and the answer was yes, the schools have been

informed. He asked when the construction will begin, and the answer was that it is yet to be determined.

Adjourn: With no further business to bring before the board, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. The motion was carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles

