

Minutes of January 24, 2025

ODDD Board Meeting



Board Meeting

Date and Time: January 24, 2025, 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:
5. Approval of December 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes
6. Monthly Financial Report
7. Going Sebastian Fisher Lebouef Engagement Letter- Action
8. **Old Business:**
 - a) South Park Project
 - o Phase I & Phase II
 - Bonding Status (Update)
 - Phase II Status (Update)
 - b) ODDD Big Grant (Update)
 - c) Opelousas Historic District Expansion
 - d) Engagement of Elizabeth Brooks to develop a list of areas, criteria, and contracts for Potential Naming Rights for Sponsorship
9. **New Business:**
 - a) 2025 Arts expo (Action)
 - b) DBE Seminar (Action)
 - c) Love Fest (Action)
 - d) State of the District Review (Action)
10. Board Members' Comments
11. Public Comments – Limit to 3 minutes
12. Adjourn

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

The following members were absent: Rob Hillard

The following were present virtually: Elizabeth Brooks

The following SLED members were present: Bill Rodier, Brittany Cretchain, Victoria Mott

The following guests were present: Colisha Kennerson, Grasshopper Mendoza, Steve Picou, Chris Rideau (City of Opelousas), Bobby Ardion, Delita Broussard (Opelousas City Council), James Bellard, Wayne Doucet (Toby's Downtown), Hily Lalonde (Toby's Downtown), Lee Cahanin (Hope, Hook & Ladder), Ann Warren (Prudhomme Properties), Yvonne Normand, Sarah Kirkpatrick (Epiphany Opelousas), Father Laurent DePrims (Epiphany Opelousas), Robbie Tomlinson (St. Landry Bank), Leisa Anderson (City of Opelousas)

Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the board and guests, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer at 9:07 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Lena recognized the business of the month, Toby's Downtown, as the ODDD Business of the Month for January 2025. Toby's Downtown is located at 125 N. Court Street, Opelousas, LA 70570.

Approval of December 20th, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Lena Charles presented the minutes from the December 20th, 2024, meeting. Don D'Avy noted that the minutes reflected the wrong meeting date of November 20th, 2025. Don D'Avy also suggested that from here on out, minutes should have a note that says "Minutes of ..." Sarah Branton noted that Keith Broussard's last names was misspelt under the financials section. Don D'Avy made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections. Pat Fontenot seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Financial Report: Treasurer Keith Brossard went over the monthly financials highlighting the revenues and expenditures. Pat Fontenot made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ogden Pitre seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

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Going Sebastian Fisher Lebouef Engagement Letter: Mr. Keith Broussard informed the board about the engagement letter from Going Sebastien Fisher & Lebouef, noting that it was a standard engagement, and he recommends moving forward with them. Ogden Pitre made a motion to accept Keith Broussard's recommendation to continue engagement with Going Sebastian Fisher & Lebouef. Don D'Avy seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Old Business:

South Park Project: Lena Charles gave a very brief update on the South Park Project.

BIG Grant Update: Sarah Branton updated the board that the deadline for Round 1 Grants was December 31, 2024, and the deadline for Round 2 Grants is March 30, 2025. They are currently awaiting the completion of the projects.

Opelousas Historic District Expansion: There is no update at this time.

Engagement of Elizabeth Brooks to develop a list of areas, criteria, and contracts for Potential Naming Rights for Sponsorship: Lena Charles introduced Elizabeth Brooks, who attended via Zoom. Mrs. Brooks was tasked with reviewing cost estimates, identifying appropriate naming rights opportunities, managing ongoing sponsorships, and collaborating with the branding and marketing teams.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Arts Expo: Lena Charles provided a brief overview of the Student Art Expo, highlighting its key components. She recommended that the board continue its role as the presenting sponsor, as it did in the previous year. The event is scheduled for March 29th, 2025. Don D'Avy made a motion for ODDD to be presenting sponsor for the 2025 Student Arts expo on March 29th, 2025, at a cost of \$7,500.00. Keith Broussard seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

DBE Seminar: Ms. Lena Charles provided a brief overview of the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) seminar program, explaining that Tracee Antee would essentially be overseeing the seminar, with ODDD serving as the sponsor at no cost. The responsibility of ODDD would be to provide a building, most likely the SLED building, for the event. Ogden Pitre made the motion for

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ODDD to sponsor the DBE Seminar. Keith Broussard seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Love Fest: Lena Charles inquired whether the board would like to participate in the Love Fest this year, scheduled for April 12, 2025. She mentioned that the board was initially slated to participate the previous year, but only two members attended. Lena also noted that the only costs associated with participation would be the booth fee and the cost of food. Don D'Avy made the motion for ODD to participate in the Love Fest on April 12th, 2025, at the cost it takes to operate the booth. Pat Fontenot seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

State of the District Review: The State of the District Review is to be held after the adjournment of the board meeting.

Board Member Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: With no further business to bring before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded Keith Broussard. The motion carried without objection and the meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles