

Minutes of August 15th, 2025

ODDD Board Meeting



Board Meeting

Date and Time: August 15, 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: Custom Muffler Shop
1437 West Landry Street, Opelousas LA
5. Public Comments – Limit to 3 Minutes
6. Approval of July 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes
7. Monthly Financial Update
8. **Old Business:**
 - a) Vacant Structures Ordinance Update- Lance Ned
 - b) M&M Associates – Purvis Morrison
 - o Capital Outlay Update
 - o Contract Approval (Action)
 - c) South Park Project
 - o Phase I & Phase II Update
 - d) ODDD Big Grant
 - o 2025 Grant Update
9. **New Business**
 - a) Public Records Request
10. Board Member Comments
11. Adjourn

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

The following members were absent: Sarah Branton

The following were present virtually:

The following SLED members were present: Janece Riser, Victoria Mott, Bill Rodier,

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Brittany Cretchain

The following guests were present: Amos Cravins (Zydeco Unplugged), Purvis Morrison (M&M Associates), Brodie Ortego (Opelousas Police Department), Bobby Ardion (St. Landry Now)

Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the board and guests, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer at 9:17 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Lena recognized Custom Muffler Shop as the ODDD Business of the Month for August 2025. The shop, located at 1437 West Landry Street in Opelousas, LA, was honored for its impact within the district.

Although the agenda originally listed Java Square as the Business of the Month, it was later noted that Java Square had already received recognition in early 2021. Since ODDD strives to highlight a different business each time, the recognition was updated to feature Custom Muffler Shop.

Ms. Charles shared that, while Custom Muffler Shop is a small operation, it is well known and well liked in the community. Board member Rob Hillard added that the business attracts clientele from across the state and even the country, thanks to its specialization in race-car customizations.

Public Comments: None

Approval of July 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Don D'Avy made a motion to accept the July 25th, 2025, meeting minutes. Rob Hillard seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Treasurer, Keith Broussard, went over the monthly financials highlighting the revenues and expenditures. The financials were not received in time to send out for board member review, so there will be no vote to approve this month's financial report.

OLD BUSINESS

Vacant Structure Ordinance Update: Janece Riser informed the board that she had spoken

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with Mr. Lance Ned a few days earlier to receive an update. Mr. Ned reported that he will have finalized numbers regarding delinquencies, registrations, and the number of businesses/buildings that need to be addressed—and those that have already been addressed—under this ordinance. Mr. Ned will present the full report at the September ODDD monthly meeting.

M&M Associates: Mr. Purvis Morrison with M&M Associates provided an update on the work he and State Representative Dustin Miller have been doing. He noted that they secured \$4.3 million in grant funds through the Gumbo Concept. The funds must be used by December 2026, but Morrison explained there is little cause for concern since the architectural plans are already complete, and project bidding will be opening soon.

Morrison emphasized that, because these are federal dollars, all spending and allocations will be subject to federal audit. His role is to ensure that everything is handled properly, in compliance with regulations, and in a timely manner.

Board member Don D’Avy asked for clarification on whether architectural and consulting costs (M&M Associates) would be covered by the grant funds. Morrison responded that the funds only cover demolition and construction expenses—not architectural or consulting fees.

Patrick Fontenot made a motion to accept the contract with M&M Associates. Don D’Avy seconded the motion, and it carried without objection.

Lena Charles asked when the next legislative session would be held, and Mr. Morrison responded that it would take place next year. Bill Rodier then inquired about Mr. Morrison’s relationship with the new head of DOTD. Morrison assured Rodier that he and Representative Miller plan to establish a strong working relationship with him and intend to meet with him at least once a month.

After the vote passed, Keith Broussard clarified that the cost of employing M&M Associates for a nine-month period is \$300 per hour, for up to 40 hours of work per month.

South Park Project

Phase I & II: Ms. Lena Charles informed the board that Michael Cullen had sent an email update, which was forwarded to members for review. Ms. Charles noted that the breakdown provided a strong summary of the work being done. Ms. Charles also mentioned that the coating for the stadium seating requires a specific temperature in order to cure and set

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properly.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Comments:

- Lena Charles introduced Jolee Woods, who shared that she is the founder of Anchored Scholars.
- Keith Broussard expressed interest in expanding the capacity of the ODDD Board by hiring an Executive Director dedicated exclusively to managing and advancing the board's projects. Sarah Branton added that a Project Manager position had previously been discussed and approved

Adjournment: With no further business to bring before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Keith Broussard. The motion carried without objection and the meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles