

Central St. Landry Economic Development District

Board Meeting

Meeting Date and Time: February 9, 2023 @ 8:30 am

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

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ CSLEDD Business Recognition Program: La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant
- ❖ Approval of the January 12, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Financial Report
- ❖ Committee Reports
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Land Use
 - District Expansion
- ❖ Old Business
 - Sewer Project Update
 - Vegetation Maintenance/Litter Abatement Update
 - Judson Walsh Mural Update
 - Oak Tree Mural
 - Bridge Rail Repair Update
 - Retail Strategies
- ❖ New Business
 - Equine Sales Facility
 - Réserve Naturelle de la Paroisse de Saint Landry

The following members were present in person: Frank “Buddy” Helton, Tina Vidrine, Senic Batiste, Dr. Derek Metoyer, Yvonne Normand, Ammy Taylor

The following members were absent:

The following members were present virtually: Rod Sias

The following non-voting members were present in person: Bill Rodier (CEO of SLED), Teresa Reaves (SLED)

The following non-voting members were absent: Julius Alsandor (Mayor), Jessie Bellard (Parish President), and Vivian Olivier, (Parish Council Chair)

The following guests were present in person: Kade Jones, Tyler Bruno, Jim Lastrapes, Lena Charles

Mr. William Jarrell

The following guests were present virtually: None.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Chairman Helton recognized the guests, thanked everyone for their time, and opened the meeting at 8:36 AM.

CSLEDD Business of the Month – La Hacienda Chairman Helton announced the business of the month as La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant. They have been in business in Opelousas for many years and are a staple among the restaurant community. They were not available to accept their award so Chairman Helton will make the presentation in person.

Approval of January 12, 2022, Minutes: Chairman Helton asked if the board had a chance to review the minutes of January 12th, 2023. Ms. Yvonne Normand made a motion to accept the January minutes as presented. A second was made by Senic Batiste. Motion passed without objection.

Financial Report: Treasurer Tina Vidrine reported that the financials were straightforward this month, and there was not a whole lot to report. She went over the income and expenditures. There were questions and discussion.

Committee Reports:

Marketing and Communications: Ms. Teresa Reaves reported on the Social Media and let the board know that we upgraded our Canva for creating graphics and can now brand our posts according to colors and font styles from our branding package. She also reported on the Newsletter and that it will be posted on the website as well.

Land use: Mr. Kade Jones from APC gave the report. He reminded the board that in the last update everything was still in legal review. The legal team has finished its review. After meeting with the Parish President and Mr. Rodier to discuss, APC now recommends that a planning commission be put into place to handle any court issues that should come up in the future. The next stage is to present again to the local community governments for public input and will then move forward to the City Councils of each of the municipalities along the corridor. Questions and discussion ensued.

District Expansion: Mr. Senic Batiste gave a short update on the progress and announced that CSLEDD and ODDD will be meeting on February 16.

Old Business:

Sewer Project Update: Mr. William Jarrell of Morgan Goudeau and Associates reported that the pump station project is in the waiting stage. Some of the drawings have been received by the contractors and progress is happening. Discussion ensued. Things are proceeding as expected.

Vegetation Maintenance / Litter Abatement Update: Everything is moving along. Cutting is over for now and Litter Abatement is moving forward. Ms. Janece Riser is still staying on top of it and getting things addressed as they come up. This is the fifth year of a five-year contract for our litter abatement project, so we will be putting the project up for bid again in September. Discussion ensued.

Judson Walsh Mural Update: Chairman Helton reported that the contract has been signed with Mr. Jerome Ford and the DOTD permit as been completed. The project is now just waiting for adequate weather to be completed.

Oak Tree Mural Update: Chairman Helton reported on the I-49 and 190 murals. The board has received the artist renderings from Mr. Jerome Ford. It was requested that Mr. Ford include St Landry Parish as the Equine Capital of Louisiana in the design. Chairman Helton reported that he feels that the City of Opelousas should be involved with the approval process since it is in the city limits. Mr. Bill Rodier brought up the possibility of getting the City of Opelousas to provide a resolution stating who holds responsibility of maintenance and cleaning going forward. (Was there an outcome to this?) Ms. Tina Vidrine stated that Mr. Ford has put it in his contract to perform the checkups on the project and maintenance for 10 years. (We should make sure we define the outcome of this. Was there something going to be done?) The board asked for clarification as to what that statement means. Conversation ensued.

Bridge Rail Repair Update: Chairman Helton reported that we received a quote back of \$10,175 for the repair work from Traffic Control Products (TCP) to repair the bridge rail. Questions and conversation ensued. Yvonne Normand made a motion to proceed with the quote from TCP. Tina Vidrine seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Retail Strategies Update: No Update currently.

New Business:

Equine Sales Facility: Chairman Helton reported on the purchase agreement proposal on the Equine Sales Facility. There has also been dialog with the property owners adjacent to the Equine Sales property. Conversation ensued. The board was presented with a copy of purchase agreements for both properties. A motion was made by Yvonne Normand to proceed forward with the purchased agreement for the 23.55 acres of property on Harry Guilbeau Road, currently owned by the Grange Guilbeau Estate. The motion included allowing for 4 months of due diligence at a sales price of \$55,000 per acre, if the property will appraise for this price. Seconded by Mr. Senic Batiste. Motion carried without objection. Mr. Rodier informed the board that he would contact Ken Simeral and coordinate presenting the purchase agreement and terms to the executors of the estate. The board also discussed contacting the estate of the adjacent Richard Property. The board also discussed conducting a special meeting, if necessary, in the event of a counteroffer by the sellers of the Grange Guilbeau property.

Reserve Naturelle de la Paroisse de Saint Landry: Chairman Helton reported on the information that came back from Land Architecture. Mr. Bill Rodier reported that negotiations are ongoing with Our Saviors Church regarding the property directly behind the church. Discussion and questions ensued.

Adjourn: Without any further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Yvonne Normand and seconded by Dr. Derek Metoyer. Motion passed without objection. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.


Secretary


Chairman