



Board Meeting

Date and Time: November 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

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

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ Approval of October 2020 Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Financial Report
 - Audit Report-Lisa Manuel with John S. Dowling & Co.
- ❖ **Old Business**
 - CPEX Update
 - City of Opelousas Updates
 - Vine Street Project
 - LDG Evaluation Update
- ❖ Board Member Comments
- ❖ Adjourn

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

The following members were virtually: Rob Hillard.

The following members were absent: None

The following SLED staff member was in attendance in person: Bill Rodier/CEO-Director

The following SLED staff member was present virtually: Taylor Lormand/Development Specialist

The following SLED staff members were absent: Glenda Carriere/Support Coordinator

There was also present in person: Lisa Manuel/John S. Dowling Co., Mayor Julius Alsandor/City of Opelousas, and Scott ‘Alex’ Peyton/Financial Representative

There were also present virtually: Melanie LeBouef, and Herman Fusilier.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of October 2020 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the October 2020 meeting minutes was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection.

Financial Report: Keith Broussard provided an overview of the October 2020 financials. A motion to accept the October 2020 financials was made by Don D'Avy and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried with no objection.

Audit Report-Lisa Manuel with John S. Dowling: Lisa Manuel stated this year the Opelousas Downtown Development District had enough revenue to perform an audit. The audit was found to be an unmodified opinion, no significant deficiencies, no instances of non-compliance, no management letter comments, and this is not a single audit. A motion to accept the Audit Report as written by John S. Dowling was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Don D'Avy. Motion carried with no objection.

Old Business

CPEX Update: Lena Charles thanked all the members in attendance who came out to the Courthouse Square to help and support the Opelousas Downtown Development District Public Input Meeting on November 7, 2020. Taylor Lormand also thanked everyone for coming and stated we received feedback from CPEX. Along with the committee members, about 70 public participates, students from Opelousas High School, the Mayor, and the Superintendent of St. Landry Parish Schools were in attendance. We received feedback from the community on some of their priorities, such as the redevelopment of historic structures, improve street amenities and accessibility, reflect the history and culture, and developing additional programming. The information gathered specified that participates are focused on family-friendly places, youth programming, preserve and support existing businesses, green spaces, diverse housing, and incorporate stormwater improvements.

The next steps for this project will be to analyze and collect remaining data such as GIS, drone footage, and building inventory. Conducting development and redevelopment feasibility analysis, performing interviews with redevelopers, and discussing draft recommendations to prioritize with the steering committee. Depending on the information collected, we plan to have another steering committee in about 6 to 9 weeks from now.

She stated that CARBO is putting together a toolkit and looking at the entire district. Fregonese Associates are currently conducting their analysis on the downtown district using software called Envision Tomorrow. They will be starting interviews with local and regional developers soon. All this information gathered will turn into a map of the district identifying parcels and breaks them out into short, medium, and long-term development with specific details. The tax assessor denied two requests for information.

City of Opelousas Updates: Melanie LeBouef, City of Opelousas Tourism, gave an update on grants. The National Trust Preservation offers a grant through Saving Places to expand an existing historic register district, to come out on February 1, 2020. She stated she has a conference call coming up with AT&T regarding building a 158 ft. tower in the downtown area.

Mayor Julius Alsandor stated the City of Opelousas was awarded a \$2.5 million through capital outlay for road and drainage improvements and has found matching funds for these projects.

Vine Street Project: Mayor Alsandor indicated that DOTD is taking care of Vine Street with the help of Dr. Shawn Wilson. Don D'Avy stated he made a motion at our last board meeting stating we would try to schedule a special meeting before this meeting with Secretary Wilson, Senator Boudreaux, and Representative Dustin Miller, Opelousas Downtown Development District with the City of Opelousas to discuss the Vine Street Project to let everybody know that this was a priority to us. Chairwoman Lena Charles stated that all we need at this point is a resolution of support from the City of Opelousas. Mayor Julius Alsandor said he would mail a letter to the Opelousas Downtown Development District regarding the draft resolution. This resolution will be presented to the

City of Opelousas at next month's meeting as a resolution of support from the City of Opelousas. Bill Rodier stated he met with the director of DOTD, and they have \$135,000 dedicated towards this project. Representative Deviller is calling it a Bipartisan Road Project. Bill Rodier spoke to Camille with CPEX, and she said she could help by trying to make it a Smart Street Project. DOTD has assigned a project manager and number to Vine Street.

LDG Evaluation Update: Bill Rodier stated that we spent a significant amount of time with Lafayette Economic Development in modeling their policies and procedures and planning. Andy Dakin with SLED created a draft proposal of the Cooperative Committee.

Board Member Comments: Board members asked for updates on projects. Chairwoman Lena Charles introduced Mr. Scott Peyton, a financial representative. Karen LaGrange Cox does web design and just relocated her business downtown. Chairwoman Lena Charles brought up for discussion a business recognition certificate be given to new businesses locating downtown. A motion was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, December 18, 2020, at 9:00 am at SLED.

There being no further business to come before the board, motion to adjourn was moved by Don D'Avy and seconded by Ogden Pitre, and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:55 am.


Secretary


Chairman