



Board Meeting

Date and Time: October 22, 2021, 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 September 24, 2021, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Approval of October 15, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- ❖ ODDD Business Recognition Program
 - The Art Box, 115 S, Main Street, Neketta Guillory
 - ODDD Business Improvement Grant – Big Status
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
 - Annual Audit (Report)
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - City of Opelousas and ODDD Project Updates
 - South City Park Master Plan Update
 - Asphalt Art Initiative Grant, (Fall)
 - Pedi Bike Trail Grant, Contractor Selected
 - Tap Grant Landry Street
 - Keep Opelousas Clean Initiative
- ❖ **New Business**
 - The ODDD will receive award for Initiating the City of Opelousas Master Plan. The award presentation by APA, American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter, Annual Luncheon held on October 29, 2021, in Lafayette.
 - ODDD Taxing District, TIF including additional businesses.
 - Review Process to add Parcels to ODDD Taxing District and Timeline
 - Review List of additional Named Corporate Franchise Chain Businesses
 - ODDD Board decision to request a Dedicated Project Manager assigned to ODDD.
 - Job Description of Assigned Duties of the Project Manager for ODDD.
 - Board Review and feedback of Advisory Board Committee.
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: Friday, November 19, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. on the campus of SLED.

The Public and any interested parties are welcome to attend. If you require reasonable accommodations, submit your request as far in advance as possible.

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Keith Broussard, Don D'Avy, Pat Fontenot, Rob Hilliard, and Sarah Branton

The following member was absent: Ogden Pitre

The following SLED members were present in person: Bill Rodier, Taylor Lormand, and Janece Riser

Guest present in person were Herman Fuselier (St. Landry Parish Tourism), Lisa Manuel (JS Dowling)

It was determined that a quorum was present and Chairwoman Lena Charles opened the meeting at 9:02 am.

Chairperson Lena Charles explained there was a mistake on the agenda on the approval of minutes. The month stated was August but should have been September and the special meeting of October 2021. She also stated that some members need to leave early so she is requesting to move the new business before the old business to allow ample representation. A motion was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Pat Fontenot to amend agenda with requested changes. Motion carried without objection.

Approval of September 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the September 24, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Don D'Avy and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Approval of October 15, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the October 15, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Sarah Branton. Motion carried without objection.

ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2021: On behalf of the board Chairwoman Lena Charles recognized The Art Box is an instructional art studio located on 115 S. Main Street. Although Neketta Guillory was unable to attend today because she is an educator and couldn't take off, Mrs. Lena Charles presented The Art Box with a certificate of appreciation.

The Big Grant: Sarah Branton advised that the construction at the qualified businesses downtown are progressing. There will be signs placed closer to completion. She also advised that there was an exclusive news story done by KLFY Channel 10 with a few of the recipient.

Financial Report: Keith Broussard provided an overview of the September 2021 financials. A motion to accept the September 2021 financials was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Don D'avy. Motion carried without objection. Lisa Manuel with John S. Dowling presented the findings from the annual audit. The audit was favorable with no citations. A motion to accept the annual audit as presented was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Rob Hilliard. Motion carried without objection. Chairperson Lena Charles congratulated the board, financial treasure and Craig Lebeouf for maintaining ODDD financials.

New Business:

- Chairperson Lena Charles shared with the board that the ODDD will receive award for Initiating the City of Opelousas Master Plan. The award presentation to the ODDD by APA, American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter, Annual Luncheon held on October 29, 2021, in Lafayette.
- ODDD Taxing District, TIF including additional businesses. The board is looking at including a minimum of 16 additional businesses. A comment was made to delay the implementation. After a brief discussion, it was decided not to delay the implementation to include the additional businesses that were initially omitted.
 - Review Process to add Parcels to ODDD Taxing District and Timeline – Bill Rodier advised that the businesses will not be notified until the sales tax collections office notifies them so the timeline may be extended.
 - Review List of additional Named Corporate Franchise Chain Businesses – The list includes Advanced Auto, Auto Zone, O’Reilly, Tobacco Plus, Popeye’s, Sonic, Little Caesar’s, Raising Cane, Walgreens, Church’s, Dollar General stores, Family Dollar stores, and Dollar Tree store.

A motion was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Pat Fontenot to move forward with implementation of the additional parcels into the TIF. Motion carried with 1 opposition. A motion was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Rob Hillard to allow David Wolfe to prepare necessary paperwork with cost of up to \$10,000. Motion carried without objection.

- ODDD Board decision to request a Dedicated Project Manager assigned to ODDD.
 - Chairperson Charles advised that Bill Rodier requested a job description of assigned duties of the Project Manager for ODDD. Chairperson Lena Charles handed out two job descriptions and asked the board to review both descriptions and make any necessary notes. She would like the board to get back with her within a week with any comments. A motion was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Sarah Branton to request from the Industrial Board to get a dedicated Project Management for ODDD. Motion carried with one objection. A brief discussion was held about the possible timeline and cost.
- Board Review and feedback of Advisory Board Committee – Chairperson Charles explained that the biggest complaint between boards is communication. This board will help bridge the gap between the boards. After a brief conversation, a motion was made by Keith Broussard and seconded by Pat Fontenot to carry forward with the advisory board. Motion carried without objection.

Old Business:

- **City of Opelousas:**

- South City Park Master Plan Update – the contract with Land Architecture has been signed and the project is being moved forward. A brief conversation was had in reference to the boundaries of ODDD and the various parks around Opelousas. The board decided that because this is a joint venture financially, the board should get regular updates in reference to this project. Bill Rodier suggested having a meeting with the mayor to voice their concerns. Don D’avy and Rob Hillard volunteered to attend. There is a public meeting Tuesday at 3pm at City Hall.
- Asphalt Art Initiative Grant, (Fall) – Chairperson Charles advised this project is moving forward.
- Pedi Bike Trail Grant, Contractor Selected - Chairperson Charles informed the board that this project is also moving along.
- Tap Grant Landry Street - Chairperson Charles gave a brief update.
- Keep Opelousas Clean Initiative – Update: There is some movement by the City of Opelousas in reference to cleaning along our corridor. A brief discussion about the litter around the city beginning to get out of hand. Bill Rodier suggested speaking with Richard Lebouf with Solid Waste because they previously had something in place. Chairperson Charles also discussed the crime and how the students from a meeting she attended feel they aren’t safe to walk around Opelousas.
- Walking Sister’s Courthouse – Landscapers have begun. The mulch has been placed. Chairperson Charles stated that it is beginning to look beautifully. The Chairperson will speak with the Parish President to discuss how to handle the financial aspects of this project.
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Board Member Comments:

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, November 29, 2021, at 9:00 am at SLED.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Don D’avy and seconded by Rob Hilliard. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.



 Secretary



 Chairperson