



Board Meeting

Date and Time: November 17, 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 October 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ ODDD Business Recognition Program
 - Recognition of ODDD Board APA Award resented on October 29, 2021. (Group Photo)
 - “The Chicory’s at Palace Café.” At 135 W. Landry Street, owner, Wesley Guidroz.
 - ODDD Business Improvement Grant – Big Status
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
 - South Park Redevelopment Financial Status (Report)
- ❖ Executive Director’s Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
- ❖ **New Business**
 - ODDD reappointments to the Board, Pat Fontenot (Vision), Lena Charles (SLED).
 - ODDD require the Walking Ladies to provide a copy of Contractor’s Bonding Insurance and Certificate for Workman Comp.
 - ODDD Taxing District, TIF including additional businesses.
 - David Wolfe proposed process to add Parcels to ODDD Taxing District and Timeline
 - SLED’s Board Response to ODDD Request for an assigned Project Manager.
 - Job Description of Assigned Duties of Project Manager for ODDD.
- ❖ **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
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: Friday, December 17, 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, Rob Hilliard, and Ogden Pitre.

The following member was absent: Pat Fontenot, Sara Branton

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

Guest present in person were Herman Fuselier (St. Landry Parish Tourism), David Gerald

It was determined that a quorum was present and Chairwoman Lena Charles opened the meeting at 9:13 am.

Approval of October 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the October 22, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Rob Hillard and seconded by Keith Broussard. Motion carried without objection.

Chairperson Lena Charles shared with the board that on October 29, 2021, the ODDD has received award for Initiating the City of Opelousas Master Plan. The award presentation to the ODDD by APA, American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter.

ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2021: On behalf of the board Chairwoman Lena Charles recognized The Chicory at Palace Café is located on 135 W. Landry Street. Wesley Guidroz was unable to attend today do to a previously scheduled meeting. Mrs. Lena Charles advised she will present The Chicory at Palace Café with a certificate of appreciation.

The Big Grant: Chairwoman Charles gave an update on the Big Grant. To date Vera Nagy is the only business whose renovations are complete. She has turned in her invoices. The information has been submitted to Craig Lebeouf for payment.

Financial Report: Keith Broussard provided an overview of the October 2021 financials. A motion to accept the October 2021 financials was made by Don D'avy and seconded by Rob Hillard. Motion carried without objection. There was a brief discussion on the finances for the South Park Redevelopment. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

Bill Rodier gave an update on activities for and effecting the ODDD.

- The possibilities with the New Life Center. He suggested that ODDD would assemble a review committee for received proposals. A brief discussion followed. Don D'Avy and Lena Charles has agreed to serve on this committee.

- Bill Rodier advised of his contact with building owners around the downtown area.
- The variance has been approved on Vincent and Laurant for the project next to Lowes.
- The future traffic needs with the new businesses and residential developments coming to the area. He discussed a few businesses that are slated to begin construction over the next few months.
- Bill Rodier also advised although this is in the ODDD footprint, but he wanted the board to know that 75,000 sq ft portion of the Stage Building is currently under contract. A few clothing retailers are being courted for that area.

New Business:

- ODDD reappointments to the Board, Pat Fontenot (Vision), Lena Charles (SLED). Chairwomen Lena is reminding the board that the two positions are approaching the end of their terms. SLED should have this on their December agenda and the new term to begin January 1, 2022.
- ODDD require Walking Ladies to provide a copy of Contractor's Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance. Cynthia with the walking ladies has submitted the requested information. The work is coming along nicely; however, it probably will not be ready for the Nativity Program. The Nativity Scene is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It marks the opening of the Christmas Season for Downtown.
- ODDD Taxing District, TIF including additional businesses: The process for the board to include 16 additional businesses into their Taxing District. Chairwoman Lena Charles gave an update from David Wolf on the process. Bill Rodier gave a little clarification on some areas.
- SLED's Board response to ODDD's request for a dedicated Project Manager assigned to ODDD. Bill Rodier gave an overview of the SLED's future staffing needs of the entire organization. The amended staffing roles (CEO, Economic Development Liaison, and PMO Administrative Manager) responsibilities of each position was discussed at length. These positions will be effective December 1st. The positions are currently being advertised on Indeed and if everything goes smoothly all positions should be filled around February. He also reminded the board that for longevity a new CEA needs to be drawn up to document the relationship between the roles of the boards. Bill Rodier advised that in addition to the administrative duties, the ODDD will have a someone available to them to learn the nuances and tend to ODDD's needs. He also noted that these things may not be done through one specific person, but the job will get done. This current structure will happen at no additional cost to ODDD. Chairwoman Charles stated that the request for a dedicated person came after a 2-year struggle with the Master Plan and trying to figure out what they needed but knew they needed someone to go to meetings, grant research and writing, meet with partners and get acquainted with and keep up with our projects. After a brief discussion, the ODDD board agreed to have a sit down with Ogden Pitre, Lena Charles, and Andy Dakin from SLED to hash through the

details.

Old Business:

• **City of Opelousas:**

- South City Park Master Plan Update – Chairperson Lena Charles attended a meeting on November 16th. She was able to get the minutes from the previous minutes. Don D’Avy and Rob Hillard were able to attend the advisory meetings. There was a brief discussion in reference to ODDD’s role in the park upgrade.
- Asphalt Art Initiative Grant, (Fall) – Chairperson Charles advised this project is moving forward.
- Pedi Bike Trail Grant, Contractor Selected - David Gerald informed the board that this project is complete. They are awaiting the final clearance before use.
- Tap Grant Landry Street - David Jarrell gave a brief update. To be ADA compliant, DOTD is requesting we add the additional corners across the street. The project has been cleared through Environmental. He is preparing the letter needed to spell out the needs and concerns for the project.
- Keep Opelousas Clean Initiative –Richard Lebouf with Solid Waste is currently in the middle of altering the services for garbage collection within the city. Mr. Lebouf’s proposal includes picking up garbage. Chairwoman Charles will follow up with additional conversation. Herman Fuselier advised the Keep Louisiana Beautiful has been moved under the Lt. Governor. Susan Russell is the new director. The new campaign is the Love the Boot campaign. Love the Boot week is April 18-24.

❖ **Board Member Comments:**

- Chairperson Charles announced the annual Lighting of the Nativity on the Courthouse Square on Saturday, November 27, 2021.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, December 17, 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 Ogden Pitre. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.


Secretary


Chairperson