



Board Meeting

Date and Time:

April 22, 2022, 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 March 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes
 - ODDD Business Recognition Program, Business of the Month Award.
 - **“Dupre Sebastian Fine Jewelry,” Owner Robbie Sebastian**
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ Review Process for 2022-2023 Proposed Budget
- ❖ Executive Director’s Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
 - New Life Center Update
- ❖ **New Business**
 - ODDD Business Improvement Grant, BIG for Year 2022
 - Presented by Sarah Branton.
 - Master Plan Review of Opelousas City Ordinance, Vacant Structures and Maintenance Codes, CPEX (Goal2022 #3)
 - Update on Billy’s and Proposed Project Chik-Fil-A
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - ODDD Responses to SLED Board on CEA.
 - The Walking Ladies Update for Phase II of permanent lighting.
 - City of Opelousas and ODDD Projects Updates
 - Tap Grant Scheduled for Bid by June8, 2022
 - Keep Opelousas Clean Initiative with City of Opelousas, Healthy Communities Grant was submitted. Thank you, Mel and Janece for meeting that deadline.
 - New Life Center RFP Update
 - Small Business Summit Update
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: Friday, ODDD Regular scheduled meeting on May 20, 2022, 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.

Chairwoman Lena Charles opened the regular board meeting at 9:06 AM.

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

The following members were present virtually: None

The following members were absent: Keith Broussard, Ogden Pitre

The following SLED members were present: Bill Rodier, Teresa Reaves, and Janece Riser

Guests present in person were Herman Fuselier (St. Landry Parish Tourism), Mr. Woods (City of Opelousas), Mr. Robbie Sebastian (Dupre Sebastian Fine Jewelry)

Guests present virtually: None

It was determined that a quorum was present and Chairwoman Lean Charles opened the meeting at 9:06 am.

Approval of March 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the March 25, 2022 meeting minutes was made by Sarah Branton and seconded by Don D'avy. Motion carried without objection.

ODDD Business of the Month Recognition 2022: On behalf of the board, Chairwoman Lena Charles recognized “**Dupre Sebastian Fine Jewelry**” that is located at, **822 South Main**, Opelousas, LA as the April recipient for ODDD’s Business of the month program. Mr. Robbie Sebastian, Owner, was present to accept the award.

Financial Report: Bill Rodier gave the financial report in the absence of Keith Broussard. Bill suggested that ODDD get a detailed ledger report from their accountant giving positive reasons for doing that. Lena Charles gave some updates about the TAP grant. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Don D'avy. Motion carried without objection.

Executive Director’s Report: Bill Rodier gave an update on the South Park project and reminded the board that interest on bonds are increasing. He reported about Retail Strategies’ marketing analysis of the downtown area. He also reported on projects going that are beginning to move forward and the challenges going on with infrastructure. He encouraged the ODDD to be involved.

New Business

The Big Grant 2022: The 2022 round of Big grants have been announced with a June 1, 2022, deadline. Sarah Branton reported that many businesses have shown interest. She expects to see many applicants however there are no active applications at this time.

Master Plan Review of Opelousas (Vacant structures and Maintenance Codes, CPEX, (GOAL 2022 #3): Bill Rodier gave a report on the circumstances getting the new businesses in the downtown. He explained the proposal from CPEX. Bill reported that he and Chairman Charles met with the CPEX team and reported that they (CPEX) will be coming to the board with a proposal soon. Bill expressed the need for an expert in this field and that he expects something from them at the next board meeting. Chairman Charles asked for a motion. A motion was made to engage CPEX to present a proposal to be reviewed by the City of Opelousas by Sarah Branton and Seconded by Rob Hilliard. The motion was carried without objection.

Update on Billy's and Proposed Chick-fil-A Infrastructure: Bill Rodier reported that an engineer from Chick-fil-A came to check on the infrastructure of the proposed property. He also explained that he had a meeting with city officials together with Chick-fil-A to discuss what must happen to make this deal work which includes the specific need of water and sewer to Chick-Fil-A. He explained a potential plan that would bring water and sewer for Chick-fil-A as well as future businesses. There will also need to be a solution for drainage. In addition, traffic will impact the area greatly and will require an additional turn lane. Bill also reported on Billy's Boudin's new location they are interested in building on and included that there has been interest from other businesses also considering moving into the area.

Old Business:

ODDD Responses to SLED Board on CEA. Chairwoman Charles reported they are still working on the CEA and expects something soon.

The Walking Ladies Update for Phase II of permanent lighting: Chairwoman Charles reported that due to inflations Cynthia Lormand is still new getting quotes to continue the project.

City of Opelousas and ODDD projects, TAP grant scheduled for bid by June 8, 2022: Chairman Lena Charles informed the board that she received a call from David Jarrell and that they ensured her that they will make that bid date happen.

Grant submitted to Keep Louisiana Beautiful for Keep Opelousas Clean Project on April 21, 2022: Chairman Charles informed the board that the grant will be submitted today and publicly thanked Melanie LeBouef and Janece Riser for their collaboration and effort in getting this grant done.

New Life Center RFP Review Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2022, at 1 PM: Bill Rodier explained that there were only two proposals received. There are seven members on the committee that will meet and go through the process of considering the proposals.

❖ **Small Business Summit, schedule April 27, 2022. ODDD Branding and Promotional Materials:** Chairman Lena Charles reported about the summit and advised the board of the date and time and invited and encouraged them to attend. **Board Member Comments**

- An active discussion ensued regarding upcoming projects, the issues surrounding the proposed Chik-fil-A property, and that the board wants to do everything they can to help make that happen.

❖ **Public Comments:**

- Herman Fuselier from Acadiana Tourism gave a report of the high number of tourists to our area motels recently and that they had sold out of rooms over Mardi Gras. He also reported that the annual Cycle Zydeco Festival event is this week and weekend, April 20 thru April 24. The four-day event draws cyclists on a ride through Acadiana where they eat, drink, listen to music and ride their bicycle's experiencing Acadiana.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, May 20, 2022, at 9:00 am at the SLED building.

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 10:41 am.


Secretary


Chairperson

