

Board Meeting

Date and Time: February 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road,
Opelousas, LA 70570

AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Pledge and Opening Prayer
- ❖ Roll Call
- ❖ ODDD Business Recognition Program – Reign’s Kreation’s Balloons and More
Owner, Ronkeisha Lafleur
219 E. Landry
Opelousas, La 70570
- ❖ Approval of January 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ Executive Director’s Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
 - New Businesses Updates
- ❖ **New Business**
 - Discussion on Diversity Policy
 - Priorities and Goals 2023
 - The Student Art Expo (Action)
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - BIG Grant Update
 - TAP Grant - Landry Street, Status Report
 - Keep Opelousas Beautiful Grant
 - Courthouse Phase II Lighting
 - Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements
 - Water/Wastewater Improvement – Professional Service – Morgan Goudeau (update)
 - Additional Turning Lane
 - South Park Master Plan Update
 - Consultant’s Report
 - ODDD Taxing District, TIF to add additional businesses on Creswell.
 - City of Opelousas Ordinance
 - Overview with Mayor and City Council
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖ **Adjourn**

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles Ogden Pitre, Sarah Branton, Pat Fontenot, Keith Broussard, Rob Hillard

The following members were present virtually: Don D'Avy

The following members were absent: None.

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

Guests present in person were Mr. Cody Lanclos, Mr. Donald Dejean, Chairman of the SLED Board, Mr. Herman Fuselier of St. Landry Tourism, Melanie Lebouef of City of Opelousas Tourism, Mayor Julius Alsandor of City of Opelousas, Mr. Anthony Daniel of City of Opelousas, Alderwoman Delita Broussard of Opelousas City Council, Ronkeisha Lafleur, Mr. Chris Rideau of City of Opelousas and Mr. Bluit from the City of Opelousas.

Chairwoman Charles welcomed the board and opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

It was determined a quorum was present.

ODDD Small Business of the Month Recognition 2022: Chairwoman Lena Charles introduced Ms. Ronkeisha Lafleur. Ms. Lafleur owns Reign's Kreation's Balloons and More at 219 E. Landry St. in downtown Opelousas. Ms. Lafleur opened her business almost a year ago and will soon be adding monogramming.

Approval of January 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the January 20, 2023, minutes as submitted by Sarah Branton and seconded by Rob Hillard. Motion carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Keith Broussard gave a report on the financials and gave a brief overview of the expenses and income. It was a straightforward month. Mr. Pat Fontenot made a motion to accept the January Financials and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a report that the actual numbers came in on the cost of the Wallior turn lane project. It will cost \$202,223.18 which is much less than expected and less than we had budgeted for. Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the guests that arrived from the City of Opelousas as well as Alderwoman Broussard. Mr. Rodier announced that there is a grant available called the RAISE grant that could help the projects on Vine Street. The RAISE Grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) is a discretionary grant program that helps communities build transportation projects that have significant local or regional impact and improve safety and equity. Mr. Rodier also gave a brief overview of all the projects going on in the downtown area as well as the parish. Conversation and questions ensued.

New Business:

Discussion of diversity Policy: Ms. Lena Charles opened the floor to conversation about a potential diversity policy stating that we want to be able to encourage people of minorities to apply for the jobs that come with the projects that we pay for. Mr. Keith Broussard spoke about a plan to promote diversity in the Downtown Development District. Mr. Ogden Pitre discussed how to bring a way to share the wealth that comes with these projects to more people in minority homes asking how many minority contractors are involved in bidding on the projects and how do we best encourage them to participate? Mr. Pitre announced that everyone should be at the table when money is being spent. Discussion and conversation ensued. A motion was made to find a consultant to help build the policy by Mr. Keith Broussard and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

ODDD Goals and Objectives for 2023: Chairwoman Charles reported on the ongoing goals and objectives for 2023 and explained where the ODDD is at on each one. Conversation and questions ensued.

The Student Art Expo: Chairwoman Charles reported that the Art Expo is scheduled for March 4th. Ms. Melanie Lebouef gave a short presentation about the Art Expo. There will be twenty schools involved, including ten school bands, and numerous art projects and choral groups. Mr. Bill Rodier reported that he went on a walk through with Acadiana Center for the Arts and added a lot to the discussion. Mr. Pat Fontenot made a motion to spend up to \$8,000 from the marketing budget towards promoting the event. Seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

Old Business

BIG Grant-Update: Ms. Sarah Branton gave a final report about the end of the 2022 grant cycle and then reported that the 2023 BIG cycle opens April 1st through May 1st. Recipients will be announced June 1st. Melanie Lebouef added to the report and explained the process for the benefit of the visitors in the room.

TAP Grant-Landry Street Status Report Chairwoman Charles gave a report on the TAP grant and announced that the paperwork has been signed and the project will start within 45 days. It will take four months to complete. Mayor Alsandor gave thanks to Chairwoman Charles and the board for the hard work that they have done on this project. Melanie Lebouef added that there are now two TAP Grant programs, and one is for municipalities under 50,000 people. Conversation ensued. The new sidewalks will be between Landry Street to Market and Court Street.

Keep Opelousas Beautiful Grant: Ms. Janece Riser gave an update on the art project that will be completed with the grant funds using recycled materials. She and Melanie Lebouef will be meeting with the artist next week.

Courthouse Phase II Lighting: Chairwoman Charles reported that thankfully most of the lighting was not being held in the warehouse that burned down. We are just waiting for the delivery of the rest of the lighting materials and so they can be installed.

Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements

Water/Wastewater Improvement: Mr. Bill Rodier reported that the invoice came in for the project at \$187,000.00 plus an additional \$18,000.00 for the engineering services. Chairwoman Charles reported that the invoice was much lower than anticipated to be between \$200,000.00 and \$500,000.00.

Additional Turning Lane: Bill Rodier reported that the quote for the project came in at \$202,333.00. That is much lower than we had first thought. It was explained that the check for payment will be made from the ODDD to the City of Opelousas and then the City of Opelousas pays the DOTD. It was discussed that there may be a CEA in place for this project. If not, the board gives permission to proceed with contacting their attorney, Bruce Gaudin.

South Park Master Plan Update

Consultant's Report: Chairwoman Charles updated the group about where things stand with the South Park project and then introduced EB Brooks. Ms. Brooks gave a report on what is required for phase one of the South Park project. She reported that she received the financial report this week and she is currently going over the CEA language. Mayor Alsandor commented that the track and field portion of the project needs to happen immediately. Conversation and questions ensued. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot to move the commitment of up to one million from phase II to phase I depending on how Monday's meeting goes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rob Hillard. Motion carried without objection. Chairwoman Charles also mentioned that we need to get a Letter of Intent for the \$500,000.00 from the St. Landry Parish Government towards the project as well.

ODDD Taxing District, TIF to add additional businesses on Creswell Update: Chairwoman Charles described which section of Creswell Ave is that the ODDD wants to add to their taxing district. She explained that she envisioned a TIF within a TIF and reported that she has met with CSLEDD but has no real update yet. Conversation ensued. She asked that the taxes from this TIF would go to a designated account for the upkeep of South Park. Mr. Bill Rodier added that he was unsure if that will work unless an additional district was set up. Conversation ensued. Mayor Alsandor addressed the board and stated that he was appreciative of the potential TIF and mentioned that he was thankful for the ODDD, SLED, and the SLED Staff.

City of Opelousas Ordinance

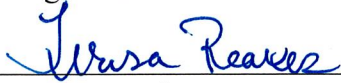
Overview with Mayor and Council: Chairwoman Charles gave a report regarding all the drafts, meetings and processes it took to put the ordinance together. Mayor Julius Alsandor said publicly that he is supportive of the ODDD Board, and the work done by Chairwoman Lena

Charles. It was discussed that some revisions may need to be done, but it will be presented again. Mr. Pat Fontenot passionately reported that the ordinance would have helped keep some businesses in place if it had been set in place years ago, and he explained how important it is for the revitalization of the City of Opelousas going forward. Mr. Ogden Pitre reported that the Ordinance was prepared by a consultant, not by the ODDD. The ODDD was tasked to put it together. Conversation ensued.

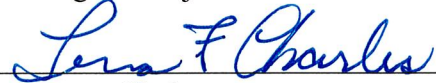
Board Member Comments:

Public Comments: Mr. Cody Lancelos stated that he is in favor of the Vacant building ordinance but has some issues with some of the fees and requirements. Discussion ensued.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Robert Hillard and seconded by by Mr. Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection and meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.



Secretary



Chairperson

