

Board Meeting

Date and Time: April 21, 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 – Page 50 Marketing & Media – Stuart Amidon
106 E. Landry Street
Opelousas, La 70570
- ❖ Approval of March 24, 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**
 - USDA Informational Meeting for Businesses and Residences
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - City of Opelousas Ordinance (Update)
 - South Park Master Plan (Update)
 - Consultant's Report
 - Land Architecture
 - TAP Grant - Landry Street (Update)
 - Keep Opelousas Beautiful Grant (Update)
 - Love the Boot
 - Workshop
 - Courthouse Phase II Lighting (Update)
 - Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements
 - Additional Turning Lane (Update)
 - ODDD District Expansion
- ❖ **Board Members Comments**
- ❖
- ❖ **Adjourn**

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Ogden Pitre, Sarah Branton, Pat Fontenot, Keith Broussard, Don D'avy

The following members were absent: None

The following SLED members were present: Janece Riser

Guests present in person: Jim Lastrapes (Lastrapes Nursery), Stuart Amidon (Page 50 Marketing and Media), LaTonya Morrison-Frank (SU Ag Center)

Guests present virtually: EB Brooks

Chairwoman Charles welcomed the board and opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

It was determined a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Lena Charles introduced Mr. Stuart Amidon. Mr. Amidon owns Page 50 Marketing & Media in downtown Opelousas. Mr. Amidon opened his business in 2018 ago and strives to continues to bring magic to St. Landry Parish.

Approval of March 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the March 24, 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. Noting nothing out of the norm this month. Mr. Broussard had a question about the upcoming payment for the Wallior Street Turn Lane. Chairwoman Charles explained the process of this project. Mr. Riser added that the requested payment is being paid to DOTD to put in an escrow and is not paid to the contractor in advance.

Mr. Broussard explained the budgeting process and requested the board members submit their requests for project during this month. The budget begins in July and he would like to prepare the budget in a timely manner. A discussion on budgeting and ODDD policy on upcoming projects ensued. Mr. Don Davy made a motion to accept the March Financials and seconded by Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Executive Director's Report: Bill Rodier was unable to attend the meeting due to the Business Summit. Mrs. Lena Charles gave an update on the Businesses that she was aware of.

New Business:

USDA Informational Meeting for Businesses and Residences: Chairwoman Charles introduced the topic of an Information Meeting regarding opportunities for Business and Residences. She also spoke about Chase Bank's Financial Literacy Programs. The board decided to look at a June date and also engaging Maven Consulting in coordinating the event. A motion to make a move

on hosting the community event and to engage Tracy Antee in preparation. The motion was made by Ms. Sarah Branton and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Old Business

City of Opelousas Ordinance Update: Chairwoman Charles congratulated the board for getting the Vacant Building Ordinance on April 11th. She thanked the board for helping to get out the proper information out regarding the ordinance. A discussion ensued.

South Park Master Plan Update: Chairwoman Charles introduced EB Brooks. EB Brooks gave an update on the project giving an overview of some points of the CEA. Mrs. Charles discussed the financial situation of the City of Opelousas, Parish, and getting letters of commitment. Discussion ensued. Latonya Morrison-Frank informed the board of programs that are available for these projects.

Land Architecture: Mrs. Charles introduced to the board the outstanding invoices from Land Architecture. A lengthy discussion ensued. The board requested the supporting documents from Land Architecture and also to have Michael Cullen to appear before the board for a discussion.

TAP Grant – Landry Street Update: Mrs. Charles reported on the Sidewalks Project stating that there was a pre-construction meeting were some minor/major points with aesthetics. The project contactor, Briggs Construction, agreed on the notice to proceed date of June 5th to give the downtown businesses fair notice.

The BIG Grant: Mrs. Sarah Branton gave the updated final report on the 2022 BIG Grant. The completed projects totaled \$ 81,196.33. Amount paid out by ODDD \$15,740.50. The 2023 Grant session opened April 1, 2023. Reminding the board that the original grants were \$5,000 and the board agreed to increase the amount to \$10,000.00. She is reserving the right to recall the remaining balance from the 2022 cycle that was not used from the projects that were pulled from the program. Motion to accept the final report as presented by Sarah Branton was made by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

Keep Opelousas Beautiful Grant: Janece Riser gave a report on the Healthy Communities Grant and the Love the Boot initiative. She explained that the two programs are in line with the ODDD 2023 Goals and Objective of Clean Opelousas Campaign. The campaigns are running concurrently and will end around the same time.

Workshop: In accordance with the grant, ODDD contracted the artist Michelle Fontenot, to host a workshop this Saturday at 10am and again Sunday at 1pm at Hope for Opelousas.

Love the Boot: This week was designated Love the Boot Week by the state of Louisiana. So instead of choosing one specific day we decided to give it an entire week to allow the Community to participate.

Courthouse Phase II Lighting Update: The lighting project work has started. We'll get an update shortly.

Wallior Area Infrastructure Improvements: Chairwoman Charles explained that an action is needed for the Infrastructure Improvements. Last month the board was advised that the fire hydrant and manhole was placed in the wrong place. The project initially came in underbudget and Mr. Jarrell with Morgan and Goudeau is confident that the changes will come in within the current budget. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Sarah Branton to approve the changes up to \$15,000.00 in accordance with the original budget. Motion was seconded by Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection.

Additional Turning Lane: Chairwoman Charles advised the construction on the turn lane has begun. She will have another update at the next board meeting.

ODDD District Expansion: Chairwoman Charles advised the board that she received a list of taxable businesses from Bill Rodier. The next step is evaluating the list.

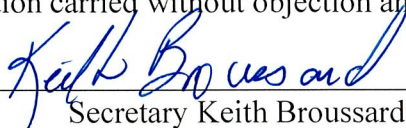
Board Member Comments:

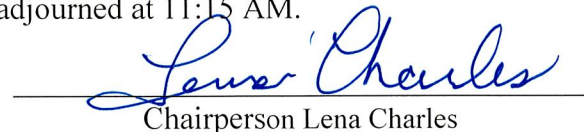
Mr. Broussard asked for SLED to advise ODDD of how the new hire will effect ODDD with reaching their goals. He wants SLED to advise ODDD at the beginning of each year of how their goals align with ODDD goals and their intentions to help ODDD reach their goals so the board will have something to evaluate SLED's performance.

Public Comments:

Mrs. Morrison Frank was introduced and discussed the program the SU Ag Center recently offered to the residents in the LeBeau Area.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Pat Fontenot and seconded by Don D'Avy. Motion carried without objection and meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles