

Board Meeting

Date and Time: October 20, 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 – Kayenne’s Bar and Grill
603 E. Landry Street
Opelousas, La. 70570

- ❖ Approval of September 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Monthly Financial Report
- ❖ Executive Director’s Report
 - Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.

- ❖ **Old Business:**
- ❖ South Park Project (Update)
 - Feasibility Study (Update)
 - Opelousas Historic District National Registry (Update)
 - ODDD Big Grant (Update)
 - TAP Grant - Landry Street (Update)

- ❖ **Board Members Comments**

- ❖ **Adjourn**

The following members were present in person: Chairwoman Lena Charles, Pat Fontenot, Sarah Branton, Don D’Avy, Ogden Pitre, Keith Broussard, Robert Hillard

The following members were absent:

The following SLED members were present: Teresa Reaves (SLED), Brittany Cretchain (SLED), Janece Riser (SLED)

Guests present in person: Herman Fuselier (St Landry Tourism), David Jarrell (Morgan Goudeau & Associates), Gretchen Erlingson (Opelousas Main Street), Reggie Dupre (Opelousas Main Street), Mr. Bobby Ardoin (St Landry Now), Stephen Woods (St Landry Parish Government), Chris Rideaux (City of Opelousas), Lisa Manuel (JS Dowling), Julian Frilot, Cilicia Savoy (St Landry Parish Government)

Guests present virtually:

Vice -Chairman Don D'Avy welcomed the board and guests, and opened the meeting at 9:02 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Vice-Charman Don D'Avy introduced Mr. Julian Frilot of Kayenne's Bar and Grill as the October Business of the Month and congratulated him. Ms. Sarah Branton informed the board that Kayenne's Bar and Grill is one of the 2023 BIG recipients and the first one to turn in their paperwork, receipts, and receive their funding. Kayenne's is in the old Frank's Po'Boys building.

Chairwoman Lena Charles informed the board that there was an item she'd like to add to the agenda. A motion was made by Ms Sarah Branton to add the Vine Street Project as the last item in old business and was seconded by Mr. Don D'Avy. Motion carried without objection.

Approval of September 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes: Ms. Sarah Branton informed that board that Mr. Lafleur's name was misspelled in one place and that there needed to be clarification to the Master Plan information on page 6. It was discussed and decided to remove Main Street from the Master Plan and leave it as Opelousas Master Plan. A motion was made to accept the September minutes as submitted with the necessary corrections by Ms. Sarah Branton and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Keith Broussard gave a report on financials. A motion was made by Don D'Avy to accept the financials as submitted. A second was made by Mr. Rob Hillard. Motion carried without objection. Ms. Lisa Manual was present to review the audit report by JS Dowling. She stated that the report was determined to be fair, which is the best review that can be given. Ms. Manual specifically reported no significant deficiencies and no material weaknesses related to the audit were noted. No instances of non-compliance related to the audit were noted. No management letter was issued. This was not a single audit. A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Branton to accept the audit as submitted and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion was carried without objection.

Executive Director's Report: Chairwoman Lena Charles gave a brief report regarding things going on in the area including a mention of the mural by Mr. Jerome Ford at the Hamilton Oak Tree and the progression of Chik Fil A as well as the opening of the Love's Travel Plaza. Chairwoman Charles mentioned that SLED is looking for commissioners to serve on the Parish Planning Commission Board and explained a little about the commission. Discussion Ensued.

Old Business:

South Park Project Update: Chairwoman Charles reported that the feasibility study is underway, and the company in charge of it, Synergy Sports Global has been contacted. A report

will be made at the November meeting. Chairwoman Charles gave a brief update on the bonding process and informed the board that the due date is November. Mr. Don D’Avy asked about the report received from Mr. Lafleur, and Chairwoman Charles reiterated that the bonding will be done next November of 2024. Mr. D’Avy then asked if that is going to hold up the facility being ready for the Fall 2024 Football Season and Chairwoman Charles answered that yes, it will but that Parks and Rec will be coordinating with the coaches about the need for them to find an alternative place to play. Mr. Rideaux confirmed the city has set up meetings with the school principals. Chairwoman Charles also informed the board that it was decided that the work on the football field will be done first to hopefully have it ready at some point during the season. Mr. Chris Rideaux reported that the coaches are going to try to start with away games first. Mr. Keith Broussard asked if this would mean relocating the team for the entire football season, and Chairwoman Charles said it’s possible, but they are going to do their best to get the football field finished first. She responded, “It may be inconvenient for the next season, but they will be happy going forward from there.”

Opelousas Historic District National Registry Update: Chairwoman Charles informed the board that the Historic Consultant, Ms. Kelly Calhoun, is moving forward with her work and research and will have a report in November.

BIG Grant Update: Ms. Sarah Branton informed the board that the deadline is December 31st and that Ms. Janece Riser sent all the recipients a reminder of the deadline. She hasn’t heard from any of them yet. Discussion ensued.

TAP Grant Update: Chairwoman Charles asked Ms. Janece Riser to report on the TAP grant and Mrs. Riser reported that the striping has been completed and that the contractor is working on the initial punch list from the inspector and the project should get the preliminary inspection from DOTD on Friday the 20th or Monday the 23rd. Mrs. Riser stated that she had asked a question about a crack in the sidewalk, and she wanted them to re-pour it, and was told DOTD would recommend the crack be filled with silicone to prohibit water from getting into it. Ms. Riser also advised the Briggs Brothers PMO has been out sick so there was no movement on the change orders suggested. Conversation ensued. Chairwoman Charles reported that the board had to apply for some additional funding to cover all the change orders. Mr. David Jarrell and was available to give a brief update. He said he envisions that the ODDD will be reimbursed by the DOTD because they (the DOTD) are the same amount under budget as the ODDD is over budget.

Chairwoman Charles gave a brief update regarding the contract initiated with M&M Associates, Purvis Morrison’s business, to do the initial application for the capital outlay year 2024-25 and the contract was signed last month, and they preceded to do the work. “We have signed all the necessary paperwork that he needs to be able to get all the information from the City of Opelousas, and the financials so he can properly put in that application,” stated Mrs. Charles. Chairwoman Charles reminded that board that Mr. Bill Rodier was going to speak with Mr. Nick Gautreaux about lobbying for the ODDD. Chairwoman Charles added that she happened to be at the SLED building when Mr. Gautreaux came to meet with Mr. Rodier, and she learned that he is

employed by CSLEDD to do work for them and that the ODDD could hire him separately to work for their projects if they choose.

Vine Street Project: Chairwoman Charles asked Mr. Don D’Avy to read a text received from Representative Dustin Miller, which was: “*DOTD has selected GEC as the environmental consultant for House Bill 011358 US 190 Vine Street Reconstruction. Contract is nearing completion. The environmental process is estimated to be complete by early 2025. Engineering will take approximately 2 years to complete and will start at the conclusion of the environmental process.*” Chairwoman Charles also informed that board that the project can start to occur earlier if Representative Miller is able to get it moved up faster. Chairwoman Charles gave a brief history of the work needed on Vine Street. The project is being funded under the DOTD umbrella and Representative Miller will keep us informed of the progress.

New Business:

Bruce Gaudin Letter: Chairwoman Lena Charles made the board aware of a complaint made to Attorney Bruce Gaudin and she explained that changes have been made going forward. Comments from the public will be allowed anytime there is an action item and then also at the end of the meeting there will be a time for Public Comments. Mr. Don D’Avy requested that on the agenda going forward any action items be clearly noted. Mrs. Janece Riser responded that we have already been doing that. Mr. Keith Broussard asked if any information passed out during the meeting needed to also be handed out to the public and Chairwoman Charles stated that she wasn’t sure what that portion of the letter to Mr. Gaudin was about. Chairwoman Charles asked Reporter Bobby Ardoin if it was, he that had made the complaint to Attorney Gaudin and Mr. Ardoin replied that yes, he did. Mr. Ardoin reminded the board that as a public entity handling public funds, they are required to share any documents that they pass out in a meeting with the public as the documents then become public record. Ms. Charles advised Mr. Ardoin that the board is aware that they are a public subdivision and are aware of their responsibilities as a public subdivision. She stated she was appreciative to him for sharing his concerns but there is a form used to request information. Conversation ensued.

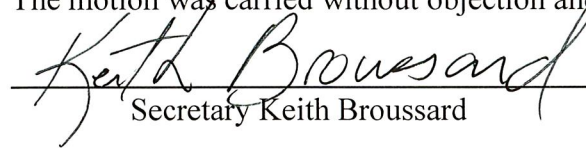
Main Street Presentation: Ms Gretchen Erlingson was present to give a presentation on the Main Street project. Ms. Erlingson responded that she didn’t really have a presentation but rather a request. The Opelousas Main Street wants to move forward with the project of getting the Opelousas Master Plan going forward by engaging the public as there are individuals that want to help. Main Street Opelousas wants to engage CPEX for two additional meetings to go through their previous plan, and dive deeper into it and put it onto an excel spreadsheet with goals listed per visibility and impact. Ms Erlingson is asking ODDD for help with funding to bring CPEX in to provide those two additional pieces of information. The first meeting would be a task force to build the criteria. The second meeting would be to bring the people together to use the criteria they set. Conversation ensued. The CPEX Invoice will be \$10,000. Main Street isn’t asking for a decision at this meeting but will come back in January to formally ask. Ms. Erlingson informed

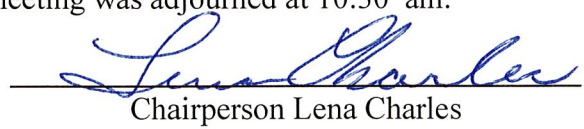
the board that they meet on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 PM and all are invited to attend.

Board Member Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Rob Hillard and seconded by Ms. Sarah Branton. The motion was carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles

