

**Board Meeting
December 19, 2023**

**St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District
Business Resource Center
5367 I-49 S. Service Road
Opelousas, LA 70570**

Agenda

- I. WELCOME..... Chairman, Donald Dejean
- II. PLEDGE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- V. ADOPTION OF THE NOVEMBER 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES -
Action
- VI. FINANCIALS, NOVEMBER 2023.....Treasurer Seth Robin -
Action
- VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Opelousas Downtown Development Board September Mtg (Notes)
 - b. Central St Landry Economic Development Board October (Notes)
 - c. SLED Executive Committee Notes
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. LBIA Grant – Update
 - b. Executive Committee At-Large Appointment
 - c. Board Member Resignation
- IX. 2023 SLED PRIORITY PROGRESS TRACKER
- X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
- XI. ADJOURN

Voting Members Present: Don Dejean, Andy Dakin, Susan Vigeo, Kevin Doucet, Seth Robin, Chelsey Sharplin, Dr. John Hamlin PHD, Erika Milton, Juan Joseph, Sharon Ortego, Toni Effinger, Candace Pappilion

Voting Members Absent: Roma Stewart, Lena Charles, Daniel Lyons, Kevin Fuselier

Voting Members Present Virtually: None

Non-Voting Members Present in Person: Bill Rodier, Janece Riser, Teresa Reaves, Brittany Cretchain

Guests: Brandy Ledet (LED), Herman Fuselier (St Landry Parish Tourism), Cilicia Savoy (St Landry Parish Government), Jessica Speyer (St Landry Parish Government) Zach Hager (Entergy Economic Development), Katie Roy, Adam Doucet, Loren Carrier, April Sharp, Chad Norman, Alicia Mire, Sheila Thibodeaux, Shelly Judice, Thurman Johnson

Chairman Don Dejean welcomed the board and guests to the meeting and thanked them for their time, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and opened the meeting at 9:15 AM.

Public Comments: None

Adoption of the November 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the November 2023 minutes as submitted by Mr. Andy Dakin and seconded by Ms. Erica Milton. Motion carried without objection.

November 2023 Financial Report: Mr. Seth Robin provided an overview of the November 2023 financials. Mr. Robin discussed the income and expenses. Mr. Bill Rodier gave a brief overview of the financials, and how they are set up, for the new board members and he let them know that there will be a new member board training that will include the financials in February. A motion was made by Ms. Candace Pappillon and a second to the motion was from Ms. Erika Milton. The motion was carried without objection.

Committee Reports:

Opelousas Downtown Development: Mr. Bill Rodier gave some highlights of the work going on with the ODDD. The ODDD board meeting notes were in the packet for the SLED Board Members so that they can be informed of the projects going on in downtown Opelousas.

Central St Landry Economic Development: Mr. Bill Rodier gave a high-level summary of the projects going on with the CSLEDD board. The CSLEDD Board Meeting minutes as notes were included in the SLED Board Meeting Packet to keep them updated with the projects going on in the Central district.

SLED Executive Committee Meeting: There was no Executive Committee meeting for December.

New Business:

LBIA Grant Update: Ms. Janece Riser gave an update regarding the LBIA Grant. She stated that SLED was awarded the \$25,000 grant. Ms. Riser reported that the grant this year is being used for security cameras and security pads at each point of entry. Mr. Bill Rodier stated that the grant was a lengthy process that was undertaken by Ms. Riser and gave her accolades. He also reminded the board that the grant has a 20% match from SLED.

Executive Committee At-Large Appointment: Mr. Bill Rodier gave an overview of the Executive Committee, their meeting times and a little about their responsibilities. Mr. Dejean asked if any of the board members have nominees for the committee. Mr. Andy Dakin nominated Ms. Candace Pappillon and gave additional insight on the Executive Committee. Ms Erika Milton nominated

Ms. Sharon Ortego and Mr. Andy Dakin nominated Dr. John Hamlin. Mr. Dejean stated that when the board meets in January there will be a vote and an appointment to the Executive Committee for the three at-large positions and stated that the three current at large members, Toni Effinger, and Lena Charles will be rolling off as well as Don Reber, who resigned from the board last month due to residency changes to Lafayette Parish.

Board Member Resignation: Mr. Don Dejean stated that there was a resignation letter received from Mr. Ken Simeral effective today. Mr. Rodier stated that there are three applicants for the position so far and the board members have been provided the applications to take home and look over at their leisure. Mr. Rodier also noted that per the requirements of the bylaws the Parish Council will be notified within 15 days of their ability to provide a nomination to the SLED board to fill this interim vacancy. Mr. Dejean informed the board that they will be asked to appoint someone at the January meeting. No action was taken by the board.

2023 SLED Priority Progress Tracker: Mr. Bill Rodier gave an update of the priorities and went over the various categories and the progress that the SLED Team has made in the many areas included in the SLED Priority of Work. Mr. Rodier gave a high-level overview of each of the various categories including Human Resources, the Business Center, Tenants, Board Compliance, Internal Controls, Website Redesign, Marketing, Newsletters, social media, Communications / Content Articles, Technology, Sales Force, Podcast Studio, Business Center Security, Project Software, Project Files (Dropbox and Sales Force), Building SLED Staff Capacity, and Leadership Management. Mr. Rodier also gave an overview of the ASSET Baset Priorities: Host Area Input Forums, Build Capacity with Mayors, Growth Evaluation for SLP Airport, I-49 Midway Corridor Project, Growth Potential for the Port of Krotz Springs, State Certified Site Program, Parish Equine Designation Growth, Facilitate Downtown Catalyst Development Program, Facilitate Internet Capacity Partnership, Market Intelligence, Core Economic Development Priorities: BERG, Business Expansion/ Retention, Small Business Support and Business Recruitment. Mr. Rodier asked if there were questions and at this time there were none. No action was taken by the board on this agenda item.

Board Member Comments: None

Adjourn: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Seth Robin and seconded by Ms. Candace Pappilion without objection. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 pm.

SECRETARY:



Erika Milton

CHAIRMAN:



Don Dejean