

Board Meeting

Date and Time: April 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**Meeting Place: 5367 I-49 S. Service Road
Opelousas, LA 70570**

AGENDA

- 1.) Welcome
- 2.) Pledge and Opening Prayer
- 3.) Roll Call
- 4.) ODDD Business Recognition Program – Mama’s Fried Chicken
Owner, Ryan Lagrange
337 W. Landry Street
Opelousas, La 70570
- 5.) Approval of March 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes
- 6.) Monthly Financial Report
- 7.) Executive Director’s Report
 - a. Monthly status report of activities for and effecting the ODDD.
- 8.) **Old Business:**
 - a. South Park Project
 - o Bonding Status (Update)
 - b. Vacant Structures Ordinance – Update
 - c. M&M Associates – Update
 - d. ODDD BIG Grant – Update
 - e. Love the Boot – Update
- 9.) **New Business:**
 - a. Election of Officers
 - b. Request from City of Opelousas
 - 1.) Opelousas Museum
 - 2.) Opelousas City Hall
- 10.) Board Member Comments
- 11.) Public Comments
- 12.) Adjourn

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

The following members were absent: None

The following members were present virtually:

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

Guests present in person: Mr. Ron Lagrange, Ms. Gretchen Erlingson (Opelousas Main Street), Ms. Melanie Lebouef (City of Opelousas Tourism, Mr. Herman Fuselier (St Landry Parish Tourism), Mr. Steven Dash, Mr. Chris Rideau (City of Opelousas), Mr. Anthony Daniel (City of Opelousas), Mr. Landon Boudreaux (SLEMCO)

Guests present virtually: Ms. Kelly Calhoun, Mr. Purvis Morrison

Chairwoman Lena Charles welcomed the board and guests, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and opened the meeting at 9:07 AM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ODDD Business Recognition Program: Chairwoman Charles announced the business of the month as Mama’s Fried Chicken and the Owner Mr. Ron Lagrange. Mr. Lagrange gave a brief history of the restaurant and his position.

Approval of March 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the March 22, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes as submitted by Mr. Don D’Avy. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Rob Hillard. The motion was carried without objection.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Keith Broussard went over the revenues and expenditures and gave a recap of the assets and CD accounts. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded Ogden Pitre to approve the financials as presented. The motion was carried without objection.

A motion was made by Mr. Don D’Avy to move Item C, M&M Associates, up to be the first item under Old Business. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. The motion was carried without objection.

Executive Director’s Report: Chairwoman Lena Charles asked Mr. Bill Rodier to give a brief report regarding “What A Burger” coming into the Billy’s Boudin lot. Mr. Rodier stated that there are some good conversations being had with some of the property owners in the downtown area. He also stated that there are some good investor conversations going on as well. He reiterated that any of the five catalyst projects get off the ground things will begin to move forward.

Old Business:

M&M Associates Capital Outlay- Update: Mr. Purvis Morrison was present to give an update on the Capital Outlay process. He stated that the new administration has not put any new projects into the budget at this time, but he is staying on top of it. Mr. Morrison referred the board members to the handout in the packet. He stated that everything that they are working on has been sitting there since last year. He mentioned that some amendments are supposed to come due on Monday, April 22 and he's hoping that we will get a million inside that amendment designated to the gym project. Mr. Morrison stated that as far as he knows there is still about a million in the ODDD funds to go towards this project. Mr. Anthony Daniel stated that out of that million the library was also included so the gym is probably targeted at less than a million. Mr. Morrison stated that he and Representative Miller met with the Appropriations Chair and stressed to her that they need to get this funding to get this project moving.

South Park Project Update: Chairwoman Charles stated that the last report from Eric Lefleur's Office was that everything was in place. She also stated that Mr. Lefleur's office reported that they will be going back out to the local banks before allowing the larger banks to take over the entire project.

Chairwoman Charles reported that Land Architecture is moving right along as well.

Vacant Structures Ordinance Update: Chairwoman Charles stated that that Mr. Lance Ned reported that the notices will be to go out this month to businesses that are not in compliance.

Ms. Kelly Calhoun was available to give an update on her work listing the historical properties. She stated that she is re-focused now on vacant buildings in the district and will begin attacking the survey reports and building lists of the vacant buildings. Ms. Melanie Lebouef stated that she can send her some lists she has of vacant buildings.

BIG Grant: Ms. Sarah Branton gave a report that there are 22 applicants this year for the BIG Grant. Ms. Branton stated that the committee will be meeting to score the applications and will choose the recipients soon.

Love the Boot Update: Ms. Brittany Cretchain stated that the Love the Boot initiative is being held from April 20th to the 28th. She stated that the link has been sent out to allow people to sign up to pick up trash. Mr. Don D'Avy asked if the program could be expanded, and Ms. Riser answered that it will be passed back to the City of Opelousas next year. Mr. Bill Rodier suggested that next year the city should connect with Solid Waste and Richard Lebouef to get him involved in the project.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Chairwoman Lena Charles passed the floor over to Mr. Bill Rodier who opened the floor for Officer nominations to the Opelousas Downtown Development District. The motions went as follows:

- Secretary/Treasurer – A motion was made to nominate and appoint Ralph Keith Broussard for the secretary/treasurer position by Mr. Pat Fontenot and seconded by Mr. Rob Hillard. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, a motion to close the nominations was made by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre. Motion carried without objection. A motion was made by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre to approve the nomination of Mr. Keith Broussard to the Secretary/Treasurer position. The motion was carried without objection.
- Vice Chairperson - A motion was made to nominate and appoint Don D’Avy for the Vice Chairman position by Mr. Ogden Pitre and seconded by Mr. Rob Hillard. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, a motion to close the nominations was made by Ms. Sarah Branton and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Motion carried without objection. A motion was made by Mr. Rob Hillard and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre to approve the nomination of Mr. Don D’Avy to the Vice-Chair Position. The motion was carried without objection.
- Chairwoman - A motion was made to nominate and appoint Ms. Lena Charles for the Chairwoman position by Mr. Rob Hillard and seconded by Mr. Pat Fontenot. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, a motion to close the nominations was made by Ms. Sarah Branton and seconded by Ogden Pitre. The motion was carried without objection. A motion was made by Mr. Don D’Avy and seconded by Mr. Ogden Pitre to approve the nomination of Ms. Lena Charles to the Chairwoman position. The motion was carried without objection.

Request from City of Opelousas: Chairwoman Charles stated that Mayor Julius Alsandor has requested funding for the Opelousas Museum to purchase a new AC unit to replace their aged units that are not working well enough to protect the exhibits. Chairwoman Charles stated that there are two quotes in the packet and another quote came in this morning from Mr. Don D’Avy. Mr. D’Avy stated that none of the quotes were comparable with each other. Mr. D’Avy stated that he feels that the City of Opelousas needs to obtain new quotes and to go by the public bid law. Mr. D’Avy stated there are proposals that range from \$37,000 up to \$75,000. Both Mr. D’Avy and Chairwoman Charles stated that there should be a subcommittee in place to go over quotes and requests when they come in. Mr. Anthony Daniel stated that he will make sure that new quotes come in based on the “scope of work”. The board decided that this item is to be referred to the city for clarification.

Chairwoman Charles stated that the next item request from the City of Opelousas is concerning the Opelousas City Hall renovations. Chairwoman Charles stated that the letter from the city is in the packet but there are no copies of the quotes. She stated that without a list of the scope of work and the quotes they cannot make an informed decision. Mr. Anthony Daniel stated that The City of Opelousas has hired an architecture firm to put together the scope of work and he will have those quotes sent over. The board made the decision to refer this back to the city to obtain more information.

Board Member Comments: Chairwoman Charles thanked the board members that attended the Love Fest and said that everyone had a wonderful time. It was very well attended with over 80 booths.

Ms. Sarah Branton stated that she wanted to bring up the Main Street light project again and relayed that there would be café lights that hang across the streets. The electrical portion of the lighting project is \$3,085.00 for the electrical. She requested that it be added to next month's agenda. Ms. Branton stated that Louisiana Mainstreet gave Opelousas kudos on the vacant building's ordinance.

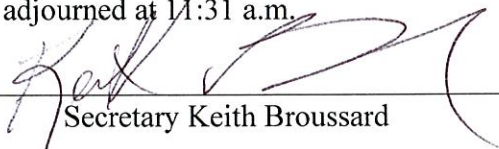
Mr. Don D'Avy stated that he is working with David Jarrell on the railings project along the sidewalks on Landry Street.

Chairwoman Charles stated that she thinks Brittany Cretchain is doing a great job with the social media and newsletters.

Mr. Bill Rodier stated that within the next few months the lights along the interstate will be taken down and noted that the city of Opelousas could have them and repurpose them if they so choose to do so. Mr. Rodier noted that the city would need to identify a place to have them stored once they are taken down and disassembled. Mr. Anthony Daniel said he thinks they have plenty of places they could use them and Mr. Don D'Avy said that with the number of people that ride bikes in the evenings or walk, extra lighting is needed all over town.

Public Comments: Mr. Herman Fuselier reported that there is a Zydeco Fest on Mother's Day Weekend being held in San Diego and it will be well represented by St. Landry Parish.

Adjourn: With no further business to bring before the board, a motion was made to adjourn Pat Fontenot and seconded by Rob Hillard. The motion was carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.


Secretary Keith Broussard


Chairperson Lena Charles