

- I. **Introduction and Instillation of New Board Members:** Jeff Good and Ed Glover were sworn into office by Attorney Hollenbeck following introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. EST on Thursday, January 20, 2011 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- III. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Ed Glover, and Jeff Good. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- IV. **Special Presentation: Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller:** Attorney General Zoeller discussed and submitted for record his comments regarding the City of East Chicago's casino revenue that is currently intended for economic development in the City. Attorney General Zoeller's goal is that through mediation an organization already known for its credibility, transparency, and professionalism will oversee, regulate and dispense the Cities casino revenue. The goal is to ensure that the revenue will be used for meaningful economic development projects that will truly benefit the citizens of East Chicago.

Attorney General Zoeller has asked that the RDA Board consider expressing a willingness to serve in this capacity if asked in the future.

- V. **Presentation: City of Hammond:** Mayor McDermott with the City of Hammond thanked the RDA, declaring how important the organization is to northwest Indiana. The Mayor discussed the following:
- a. Amphitheater
 - b. MBE/WBE Goals
 - c. The Robertsdale Little League Field Improvements
 - d. Hammond George Lake Bike Trail
 - e. Lake Michigan Bike Trail
 - f. City of Hammond Phase II
 - i. Land Acquisition
 - ii. Splash Pad
 - g. City of Hammond Phase III
 - i. Wolf Lake Bike Trail

B. Joiner applauded the City of Hammond and SEH for exceeding the MBE/WBE requirements.

H. Snyder thanked the Mayor for his enthusiasm and wishes the City of Hammond well.

L. Morris commended the partnership between the cities of Hammond and Whiting. This is a great example of communities working together for the benefit of northwest Indiana.

- VI. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*

- VII. **Consent Agenda:** L. Morris stated that the Chairman's Report has been constructed differently this month in an effort to display activity and accomplishments in CY 2010 along with a concise picture of the RDA's financial position. L. Martinez moved for approval of the consent agenda with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 10/19/2010:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Consultant Services Report:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Executive Director's Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Minority Compliance Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |

VIII. Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:

- a. Policy and Procedure Manual:** B. Hanna requested approval from the Board for the changes made to the Policy and Procedure Manual. The manual provides clarity through the adoption of policies that the RDA constructs throughout the year in an effort to reflect current practices. This is a staff and Board document.

H. Snyder moved for approval of the RDA Policy and Procedure Manual with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

- b. Employee Handbook:** B. Hanna reported that the RDA Employee Handbook has been updated and he requested approval of the changes made.

B. Joiner moved for approval of the Employee Handbook with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

- c. Election of Officers:**

B. Joiner moved to nominate H. Snyder Vice Chairman, with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

L. Martinez moved to nominate B. Joiner as Treasurer, with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

- d. Adoption of W.G. Chairmen and Members:** B. Hanna requested the adoption of the W.G. Chairmen and members per original circulation of Board document.

B. Joiner moved for the adoption of the W.G. Chairmen and members with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

The changes will be published to the RDA website.

- e. Adoption of 2011 RDA Objectives:** This sets forth a very specific wording of what the RDA hopes to accomplish in this coming year in the four priority areas, along with six administrative objectives as well.

B. Joiner moved for approval with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

- IX. Project Status Review:** The status of each of the Working Groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in the work plan review. B. Hanna reported that the RDA is working with Policy Analytics to update the strategic plan for the coming year.

- a. Public Comment:** *No comment.*

- b. Regional Bus Authority:**

- i. Presentation by Tim Brown:** T. Brown discussed the following:

1. Express Bus
2. Expanded Services
3. Increased Capital Investment
4. Demand Response Service

5. Performance Milestones
6. Fixed Routes
7. Regional Routes
8. Increased Ridership
9. Public Input Sessions
10. Heated Shelters

- c. **Shoreline Redevelopment Summary:** K. Brown stated that a summary of the shoreline projects are attached in the Board packet for review.

i. **Presentations by:**

1. **Town of Porter:**

M. Bolinger thanked the RDA for their investment in the Town of Porter. She stated that the current project is beneficial to not only the town, but to Porter County and northwest Indiana.

A.J. Monroe discussed and outlined year two and three. He reported that the Town of Porter is working diligently on this important initiative. They are currently working on getting the bridges over US 12 replaced by Memorial Day.

M. Reardon discussed the sub-area plan, and also Phase I and II.

L. Morris commended the Town's efforts.

2. **City of East Chicago:**

Mayor Copeland began by thanking the RDA, and discussed the following:

- a. Land Acquisition
- b. Progress of the Water Filtration Plant
- c. Potential Development
- d. Collaboration

John Artis with the City of East Chicago discussed the following:

- a. Neighboring Gateways
- b. Redevelopment
- c. Strategies for Gateways
- d. North Harbor Gateway Funds
- e. Land Acquisition
- f. Existing and Matching Dollars
- g. Overall Vision
- h. Main and Broadway Economic Development

3. **City of Whiting:**

Mayor Stahura thanked the RDA for the investment in the City of Whiting. He discussed connectivity and the residential and commercial investment's made in the City. He reemphasized the relationship between the City of Whiting and Hammond.

Chris Murphy with American Structure point discussed the activity taking place within the City of Whiting:

2010 Accomplishments:

- a. Infrastructure Improvements
- b. Sanitary Services
- c. Army Corp and Water Sewer Improvements
- d. Facilities Relocation
- e. Baseball Facilities

4. Shoreline Update: K. Brown reported on the following items:

- a. PES Grant, City of Valparaiso
- b. Marquette Plan, Brownfield Remediation
- c. Cline Avenue Project
- d. Challenge/Tiger II Debriefing for Next Series of Grants
- e. City of Gary

d. **Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:**

i. **Presentation by Steve Landry:** S. Landry discussed the following:

1. Program Layouts
2. Completed Projects
3. Accords
4. Project Schedule and Cash flow
5. Overall Funding
6. RDA Funding

e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder reported that discussions between the RDA and NICTD are ongoing as the group continues to look at alternatives.

f. **RDA Administrative:**

i. **Recommendation for Selection of Auditing Firm:** B. Hanna recommended the approval of Whittaker & Associates to conduct the RDA's financial audit.

L. Martinez moved for the approval of Whittaker & Associates, with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

g. **Other:** *None.*

X. **Unfinished Business:** *None*

a. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*

b. **Other:** *None.*

XI. **New Business:**

a. **Public Comment:** Greg Calpino with JJR reported that the City of Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk has earned the Gold Award for Leed for New Construction for green infrastructure, and presented the RDA with a framed copy of the award.

Kerry Keith with SEH reported that the City of Hammond has been awarded the Indiana Pavement Award and the GMPI Theater Merit Award.

*b. **Other:** None.*

XII. 2011 Future Meeting Planning: The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

*a. **Public Comment:** No comment.*

*b. **Working Group Meeting, February 15, 2011** Hammond Port Authority*

*c. **Working Group Meeting, March 15, 2011** Purdue Technology Center*

*d. **Other:** None.*

XIII. General Public Comment: *No comment.*

XIV. Adjournment: Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on February 8, 2011.