

Attachment B

I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Working Group meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.

II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Peter Novak, and Carmen Fernandez. Five members were present constituting a quorum.

III. **Public Comment:**

Chairman Morris commented on an editorial in a local newspaper regarding allegations made towards the ethical conduct of RDA Board members. L. Morris feels that every member of the RDA Board maintains the highest level of ethics; the track record in that regard is excellent. In that editorial it mentioned that RDA Board member Harley Snyder failed to disclose his ownership in one acre of land near a site in which RDA funding was requested. The one acre plot was not apart of the project being funded by the RDA, disclosure or abstention was not required under the RDA's ethics rules. L. Morris stated that the RDA is going to review their ethics rules to evaluate if there is a need for greater clarity to prevent future misunderstandings. If H. Snyder was able to be present at today's meeting he would have made ownership of that one acre parcel as a matter of record for this meeting. H. Snyder was attending another meeting on the behalf of the RDA. L. Morris made public comment in H. Snyder's absence.

L. Morris stated that in an additional article it claims that Board member Carmen Fernandez failed to disclose her partial ownership of a house near the project and her failure to abstain from the final vote of the project. For clarification purposes, C. Fernandez was not present at the meeting nor did she participate in any way in the discussion and deliberation of that grant. The editorial did a disservice in inputting the integrity of Carmen Fernandez and Harley Snyder. L. Morris stated that these are citizens who devote countless hours of volunteer efforts to this community as members of the RDA Board without expectation of personal advantage, as of all other members of this Board. The editorial did a disservice to them and to the RDA.

IV. **Consent Agenda:** L. Martinez moved for approval of the consent agenda with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 5/18/10:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Consultant Services Report:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Executive Directors Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |

V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:** *None.*

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

VI. **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.

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

b. **Regional Bus Authority:**

Update: L. Martinez reported that the RDA is working with the RBA and GPTC on consolidation issues. The RDA has received a request from GPTC for financial support; a portion of the request was for debt services. The RDA has made it clear that they will not support debt services, but we will work with GPTC on a transitional plan with the RBA. In addition, the RDA's cut off date for any debt services is December, 2011. The RDA will be

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sending a letter to GPTC and ask for a formal response by July 9, 2010 for commitment to this plan of action.

- c. **Lakeshore Redevelopment:** B. Joiner reported on continued involvement in several initiatives along the shoreline as the RDA continues to move toward the long term vision of the Marquette Plan. The official groundbreaking for the Whiting shoreline project has occurred.

T. Rongers reported that the RDA is continuing to work with grantees on project progress and monitoring. K. Brown is working with the City of Gary to finalize the Phase II Grant Agreement and continued leadership in addressing issues as they relate to Cline Avenue and shoreline initiatives.

L. Martinez stated that the future is exciting for northwest Indiana. He encouraged members of the public to visit the Hammond lakes site to see the progress taking place.

- d. **Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:** L. Morris reported that the RDA is working in collaboration with the Gary Airport Board in a joint working group on the L&B Business Plan. This plan is the absolute bible to moving the Airport forward to enable it to reach its potential. The immediate issue is the selection of a Capitol Project Manager; a firm that has deep experience with railroad negotiations, relocation of rail lines and the runway extension. This needs to get done as expeditiously as possible. Five firms, with the help of L&B, have been identified. These firms, in joining together, have submitted two separate proposals.

L. Morris advanced for the consideration of the RDA Board approval in concept of the RDA's participation in the funding of the Capital Project Management Agreement as part of the overall commitment to the Gary/Chicago International Airport development based upon a written request that will be forthcoming from the Airport Authority Board. In addition, the arrangements are in compliance with FAA regulations so they qualify for the local match of FAA funding coming to the Airport, and that all aspects of the financial transactions are consistent with RDA policies and procedures. A specific dollar amount would then be determined subsequently and it would come back to the RDA Board for confirmation. If the Board is to support this recommendation it would allow the Airport Board to move a head seamlessly to get to that point.

B. Joiner offered a motion to approve L. Morris' recommendation with a second by C. Fernandez.

P. Novak asked if L. Morris' recommendation was consistent with the L&B Business Plan. L. Morris confirmed that it was.

Roll Call Vote on the Motion:

C. Fernandez:	Yes
P. Novak	Yes
B. Joiner	Yes
L. Morris	Yes
L. Martinez	Yes

All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** B. Hanna reported on the expansion of services of the Westlake Corridor. We would like information on a pragmatic approach to make sure we are measuring the possibility of federal funds and the possibility of bringing in new revenues in for the citizens of northwest Indiana, and the best approach in implementing those dollars. The RDA has asked to have this report by the end of the year.

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VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Public Comment:** R. Fletcher commented on concerns and frustrations regarding the RBA re: public comment and participation.
- b. **Other:** *None.*

VIII. New Business:

- a. **Public Comment:** *None*
- b. **Proposed 2010/2011 Board Meeting Calendar:** B. Hanna proposed a Board calendar that reflects monthly Working Group meetings, moving the RDA to quarterly Board meetings. This schedule allows us to be efficient with not only our time, but with those who attend our meetings and project partners. Special Board meetings may still be called.

B. Joiner moved for approval of the Board meeting calendar with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- c. **Implementation of L&B Business Plan:** See Project Status Review i.e. Expansion of the Gary/Chicago International Airport.
- d. **City of Hammond Exemption Request:** T. Rongers on behalf of D. Rosetti who has been in direct contact with the Hammond Port Authority reported that the exemption request is for utility work totaling \$194,580.66. This request is similar to the land acquisition request for exemption that the Board has already acknowledges that the grantee does not necessarily have control over who may be the recipient of the funds. In this instance, T. Rongers reported that they wouldn't have the direct ability to use MBE/WBE within that area. With NIPSCO and Comcast they would use in-house resources to complete some of the work.

B. Hanna stated that the City of Hammond in partnership with the Mayor and SEH are working diligently and committed to meeting the RDA's MBE/WBE requirements.

T. Rongers reported that D. Rosetti is in continued dialogue as it relates to compliance with the City of Hammond.

P. Novak moved approval of the City of Hammond's exemption request with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- e. **Other:** *None.*

IX. 2010/2011 Future Meeting Planning: The Planning Calendar will reflect the newly approved Board calendar.

- a. **Public Comment:** *None.*
- b. **August 24, 2010** TBA
- c. **September 21, 2010** TBA
- d. **October 19, 2010** TBA
- e. **Other:** *None.*

X. **General Public Comment:** *None.*

XI. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on July 15, 2010