

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. CST on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Jeff Good and Peter Novak. Five members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** *None*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** H. Snyder moved for approval of the consent agenda with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.
  - a. **Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 20, 2012** **Approved**
  - b. **Consultant Services' Report:** **Approved**
  - c. **Performance Review Compensation:** **Approved**
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**
  - a. **Review of RDA Statute:**
    - i. **Chairmanship:** D. Hollenbeck reported that under the RDA statute the development board is composed of seven members with two members appointed by the Governor. The member appointed by the governor shall serve as the chair of the development board until January 2013. Each year thereafter, the chair shall be elected from among the members of the development board. The RDA's chairman has some unique powers and responsibilities where specific actions of the Board require the chairman's affirmative vote and participation. As of December 31, 2012 there is no longer linkage between the Governor's appointment and the chairmanship position of the RDA's governing body. As of the first meeting in calendar year 2013 it will be necessary for the RDA to pick from there members of a chairperson for the first time since the creation of the RDA. If the RDA chooses not to have the Governor's appointment as there chairman then the RDA will still have to deal with the fact that the Governor's appointment will maintain their unique powers and authorities under the enabling statute and the Board could elect the Governor's appointee chairperson.

L. Morris stated that he will continue to serve until a decision is made.
    - ii. **Telephonic Voting:** D. Hollenbeck reported that as of January 1, 2013 the General Assembly has amended an open meeting law to specifically allow governing bodies of a public agency, including the RDA, who is not physically present at a meeting to participate in a meeting by telephonic communication. All votes of the governing body during the telephonic meeting must be taken by roll call and each member is required to physically attend at least one meeting annually. Hollenbeck stated that the statute contains some rather stringent policy requirements and he would need some policy decisions that would require the Board to participate in.

D. Hollenbeck asked for recommendation from the Board to solicit Board members to help construct policy ideas to implement a telephonic meeting participation policy and once a draft is in place he will distribute it to the Board for final approval.

P. Novak and H. Snyder offered to assist D. Hollenbeck in the drafting of a telephonic meeting participation policy.

**VI. Working Group/Project Status Review:**

**a. Public Comment:** J. Nowacky voiced his concern regarding the telephonic policy and suggested that all RDA Board meetings should be video recorded and posted on the RDA website.

**b. Surface Transportation:**

**i. Update:** B. Hanna reported that a proposal had been sent out for a strategic business plan for surface transportation that gears NICTD and other transportation assets towards an economic development function and we will try to measure how corporation may work and how we can benefit our citizens by providing them easy and clear access to jobs in Chicago as an economic development initiative. This is something that will take into account all of the assets that are available and to have a consolidated plan for doing the best we can for community traffic into one of the largest job markets.

D. Wellman gave an update on the most recent NICTD meeting stating that essentially the meeting was a question and answer session discussing what was expected out of the report and dates have been set for proposals due for January 2013.

B.Hanna commented stating that he is pleased with the range of responses that the RDA has received and there is a great deal of experience on the list from a multitude of different sources.

**c. Shoreline Redevelopment:**

**i. Update:** B. Hanna reported that construction continues even though we have slowed down due to the change of season.

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

**i. Update:** B. Hanna reported that the working group continues to work very closely. Conversations have started about planning and land use around the airport. As far as the project is concerned it's on time and within budget. To add clarity on the recent articles regarding the airports financial situation we have gone through the extra steps to do an extensive analysis of the situation.

L. Morris commented on B. Hanna's report stating that the RDA Board has done its due diligence regarding the airport financing and we have spent, with the help of Policy Analytics, a great amount of time reviewing and making certain that we have the exact picture of the airport's financial situation and the various sources and uses of funding for this project and he is satisfied that this is in order and that we have a plan that will enable this project to be completed as B. Hanna has described.

e. **Economic Development:**

- i. **Update:** P. Novak reported that the working group continues to work with IEDC on the potential prospects for new employers here in NWI and will continue to support IEDC in there endeavor.

f. **RDA Administrative:**

- i. **Update:** *None*

VII. **Unfinished Business:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *None*
- ii. **Update:** *None*

VIII. **New Business:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *None*
- ii. **Update:** *None*

- IX. **2013 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

- X. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin