

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday August 21, 2012 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Ed Glover, and Jeff Good. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** *None*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** E. Glover 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 July 3, 2012</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the Working Group Meeting of July 3, 2012</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Consultant Service's Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>MBE/WBE Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Buy-IN Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |
- V. **Action on Recommendation from Working Groups:**
- a. **NICTD Business Plan:** L. Martinez reported that the group had met with the NICTD leadership and management team as well as the Board of Director's and had conversations about creating a business plan to help enhance NICTD operations.
- B.Hanna stated that the study will develop a business plan to help get residents to and from jobs in Chicago using the South Shore rail system. The cost will not be known until the working group decides on the plans scope. He also stated that the business plan will be a vision for what rail service should look like. Connecting people with jobs that already exist is one of the three legs of the economic development stool.
- B.Hanna motioned for recommendation to fund half of the study based upon the decision of the scope from the working group with a second by L. Morris. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- VI. **Project Status Review:**
- a. **Surface Transportation:**
- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki voiced his concern in regards to the plans to consolidate the Miller train stations. He urged the board that under no consideration should they accept or even consider closing the Miller station on the South Shore line.
 - ii. **Update:** *None*
- b. **Shoreline Redevelopment**
- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki addressed his concerns regarding the conditions at Marquette Park, stating that the City of Gary is unable to maintain the facility. He insisted that the RDA Board accept some of the responsibility for maintaining the park.
 - ii. **Update:** S. Ziller gave an update on the following Shoreline projects:

- a. Hammond Lakes Area: The City of Hammond continues to work diligently on the Hammond Lake Area projects and all scheduled activities are on time, within budget and scope. \$31,480,000 has been committed with \$21,019,699 expended and a balance of, \$10,460,301 remains.
- b. Whiting Lakefront: All scheduled activities are on time, within budget and scope. \$22,008,225 has been committed with \$3,653,963 expended and a balance of, \$18,354,262 remains.
- c. Gary East Marquette Park: The City of Gary continues to work diligently on the Marquette Park and all activities are on time, within budget and scope. Construction is approximately 60% complete as of the 2nd quarter of 2012. Substantial completion of all activities are scheduled for December 2012. \$28,190,000 has been committed with \$18,333,815 expended and a balance of \$9,856,185 remains.
- d. East Chicago Shoreline Gateway/Water Filtration Plant Demolition: All scheduled activities are on time, within budget and scope. \$5,880,000 has been committed with \$1,708,604 expended and a balance of \$4,171,396 remains.
- e. Town of Porter Gateway to the Dunes: All activities are on time, within budget and scope. \$5,731,500 has been committed with \$1,910,904 expended and a balance of \$3,820,596 remains.

Mayor Joe Stahura with the City of Whiting expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for the grant that has enabled projects to get started. The RDA grant provided the City with a tremendous advantage for the success of their bond issue. Above all, it facilitated the relocation of several sport facilities which then allowed the BP refinery to invest over \$12 million dollars in a new office building. The grant also allowed for the City to open up several acres of additional property that is adjacent to the new property for future buildings. The sports facilities are attracting thousands of people into the community and it all could not have happened without the help of the RDA. Mayor Stahura also talked about the future opportunities for the City.

H. Snyder congratulated Mayor Stahura on his leadership and achievements.

c. Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:

- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki voiced his concern in regards to the TIFF district stating that the money that goes into the TIFF district should be used for improving the Black Oak community. He hopes that the RDA would use their influences to help rectify the situation and use the money in the community where it needs it the most.
- ii. **Update:** B. Hanna reported that work is going forward in a way that we can anticipate that the Airport will meet the December 2013 deadline. The RDA continues to work with the Airport Board and the City of Gary on issues related to the implementation of the strategic business plan. The city is also working diligently on marketing Allegiant Airlines. It is related to the success at the Airport and is generating local traffic through the use of those plans.

d. Economic Development:

- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki stated that the projects in Gary are a waste of time and money because the City cannot maintain them. He stated that the city needs sidewalks, streets and infrastructure, things that create a livable city. He urged the Board to put the money on the streets and turn the city around.

- ii. **Update:** B.Hanna reported that since the RDA has established the Economic Development working group it will address the 5th category of the statute. Our job is to create something new that is a catalyst to promote economic development. The working group wanted to make sure that the current investments are maximized to their greatest potential, and that we are also involved in creating jobs. The group will be meeting to discuss how they treat the topics going forward in phase 2 of the shoreline transit issues and job creation.

e. **RDA Administrative:**

- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki stated that there is no benefit outside of the construction jobs at Marquette Park. Money is being wasted and the city needs a hand up, not a hand down.
- ii. **Update:** B. Hanna stated that the RDA's annual report is now available for the public to view for fiscal year 2011. The RDA also has their first quarterly newsletter available and asked that if anyone would like to be added to the distribution list to give their email address to the RDA's communication manager, David Wellman.

VII. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki stated that the City of Gary is facing a financial collapse and the investments that the RDA is making without the consideration of the cities financial position is jeopardizing all of the investments being made.
 - i. **Town of Pines, Grant Request:** *Deferred.*
 - ii. **Other:** *None*

VIII. **New Business:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *None*
- ii. **Other:** L. Morris reported that the RDA has been requested to join with Purdue University and the Forum in providing funding for an implementation of the recommendations that have been brought forth in the recent organization for economic co-cooperation and development tri-state territorial review. It will look at 7 counties in northwest Indiana, the Chicago land area and the 7 counties of South East Wisconsin. OEDC is an international organization for economic co-cooperation and development that promotes policies to improve the well-being of people around the world. This is their first review in the United States. The request that is being taken upon the Board is to do a one-third funding of a \$50,000 allocation from Indiana. One-third will also be coming from Purdue University, Purdue University Calumet, and one-third coming from the private sector. Mark Maassel with the Forum will be in the lead to work on that funding and those three together will make up the \$50,000 from Indiana; similar efforts are underway in Wisconsin.

L. Morris recommended approving an allocation of \$16,667 for the OEDC initiative.

B.Joiner motioned to approve the request with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

IX. **2012 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly working groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

- a. **RDA Working Group Meeting, September 18, 2012**

TBA

b. RDA Working Group Meeting, October 16, 2012

TBA

General Public Comment: R. Leonard addressed his concerns in regards to the Marquette National Park stating that signage has fallen down and some are in need of repairs. He also indicated that there are no indications that people are going through a National Park. He asked the Board for their assistance in improving the park and the City of Gary.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin