



- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, April 19, 2018 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Bill Joiner, Christopher Campbell, Milton Reed, Thomas Golab, Africa Tarver and Randy Palmateer. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** Ken Davidson observed that the RDA should make its documents available in Spanish to better serve Spanish-speaking residents of Lake County. He also noted that the April 19 meeting conflicted with a NIRPC board meeting.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** R. Palmateer motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
 1. **Minutes:** Board Meeting of February 8th, 2018
 2. **Contracts:** Ice Miller, Rail and TDD Projects
- V. **Actions on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force**
 - i. **City of East Chicago: Approval of Grant Request:** RDA COO Sherri Ziller reported to the Board that the grant is for the final installment phase for the City of East Chicago's Waterfront Revitalization Initiative project and is considered a continuation of ongoing progress. The grant is in the amount of \$8,545,000 to the City of East Chicago for projects related to Guthrie Street (\$6M) and the Fitzsimmons Retail project (\$2.545M). Following review by RDA staff and the fiscal task force, Ziller said it was recommended that the grant be approved.

R. Palmateer had a question about an assisted living facility in the area and was informed that it was in the footprint of the project but was not receiving any RDA funds.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the grant with a second by M. Reed and T. Golab. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
 - ii. **City of Hammond: Approval of Grant Request:** S. Ziller reported to the Board that the City of Hammond has entered into a construction funding agreement with INDOT to provide \$124,464 local funds towards a total \$622,318 contract to demolish and clear 27 properties acquired by the City of Hammond for New Chicago street construction that will provide direct access to land adjacent to the proposed Gateway commuter rail station, The land has been identified for transit oriented re-development purposes which is expected to provide a significant return on investment from the state and local tax revenue generated by the new economic activity. The City is requesting \$100,000 from the RDA for financial assistance towards the city's local match obligation. Following review by RDA staff and the fiscal task force, Ziller said it was recommended that the grant be approved.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the grant with a second by C. Campbell. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- VI. **Project Status Review:**
 - a. **Surface Transportation:**
 - i. **Update:** None



b. Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:

i. **Update:** *None*

c. Shoreline Redevelopment:

i. **Update:** *None*

d. RDA Operations:

i. **Update:**

- a) **Convention Center:** S. Ziller reported that phase I is almost complete and that the next phase includes site analysis, preliminary construction costs and operation analysis, economic impact cost and benefit analysis, and funding analysis. The study is on schedule and expected to be complete in May 2018.
- b) **CY 2017 Financial and Internal Control Audit:** S. Ziller reported that the results of the annual RDA internal audit would be available the following week.
- c) **Policy and Procedures/Employee Handbook Review:** S. Ziller reported that the RDA's policy and procedures/employee handbook is under review and that staff and Consultants are currently reviewing both documents.
- d) **Transit Development Districts:** S. Ziller reported that the RDA staff had worked with members of the TDD Steering Committee and have scheduled the next meeting for May 23.

VII. Unfinished Business:

i. **Update:** *None*

VIII. New Business:

i. **Update:** *None*

IX. 2018 Future Meeting Planning: The quarterly Board structure is reflected in the planning calendar.

X. General Public Comment: K. Davidson wanted more details about the Hammond grant. He also mentioned a food and beverage tax "which the RDA continues to push" and hoped we "enjoyed our bus trip on Friday" at taxpayer expense.

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

Respectfully submitted by David Wellman