

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday July 3, 2012 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Ed Glover, Jeff Good, and Peter Novak. Seven 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.

- a. **Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 17, 2012:** **Approved**
- b. **Consultant Service's Report:** **Approved**
- c. **Contract Ratification:** **Approved**
- *L&B*
 - *American Structure Point*
 - *EPA Retooling*
 - *B&D*
 - *South Shore Grants Center*
 - *CIVS Movie- Purdue Calumet*
 - *Recruiting Services*

- V. **Action on Recommendation from Working Groups:** B. Hanna restated the motion from the working group meeting to authorize the use of \$100,000 to act as the local match to bring an additional \$400,000 in support of the continuation of para-transit services throughout Lake County as provided by Triple A contingent upon legal review and identified as the bank of last resort.

H. Snyder stated that if another source of funding is found then the RDA's money will not be forthcoming. The RDA will only work as a bank of last resort.

J. Swanson reported that NIRPC has been working on identifying a solution to provide services to the population in which are in need of these services as a result of the shutdown of the RBA. An emergency request for \$400,000 is needed to sustain those services that were once served by the RBA.

L. Morris stated that the at-risk population has been placed in a position that is being held rancid by those who should have provided funding for on-going transportation services, but have failed to do so. The action that the RDA is being asked to take today protects that group to the best of our ability from losing an essential service. He commended J. Swanson and his organization for the leadership they took to help bring about at least a short-term solution. His only concern is that it doesn't relieve the pressure of those who should be addressing permanent funding for public transportation.

J. Swanson added that the issue is a lack of funds and that the request is only short-term to help bridge the continuation of those services.

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

- VI. **Project Status Review:**

- a. **Surface Transportation:**

- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki addressed his concern in regards to para-transit services stating that those services are being held hostage. He made the observation that the hostage being taken was being made with the encouragement of the RDA. The RDA threw money at an ill-conceived project. He hopes that this is a lesson taken by the RDA Board.

L. Morris reiterated the importance of surface transportation entering a new era in northwest Indiana. He stated that what we hoped for has not come through so we are going to start with a new approach, which is going to be looking not only at bus services, but the role of our commuter train service in northwest Indiana today. What are the plans that we should put in place, the strategy we need to be following to gain the greatest potential advantage from these transportation assets and to fill the void for those people in this region not only for today but going forward. Providing surface transportation services is not the responsibility of the RDA, but we need to be at the table to make it happen. Those that are responsible and accountable for providing permanent sources of funding must step up to the table as well.

R. Fletcher commented that the RBA was not going to work. He further stated that good money was being thrown after bad and now that the experiment has failed what's next? After all of the bills are paid there will be roughly \$400,000 left and hopefully the RBA's attorney can help transfer that money to GPTC moving forward.

H. Snyder stated that it is reasonable for people to have their differences of opinion, but what is unreasonable and unconscionable is when we start to attack persons who have right or wrong, done the best that they could to try and correct/prove and otherwise solve this once and for all. When we begin criticizing others we need to look at ourselves and we need to say to ourselves, where did I fall short? So far all the critics of the RBA need to look into themselves and say what did I do wrong, where did I fail in my efforts to communicate with the persons who were in their judgment doing the best that they could. We need to stop publicly ostracizing those who have tried to do their very best because it's not appropriate. Let's understand that it's not up to the legislature or the State of Indiana to correct a local problem. It is up to the local officials to be responsible, to take the responsibility, to do the job that they were elected for and that is to serve the public. Every person in Lake County deserves much better than what they have been afforded public transportation.

- ii. **Update:** *None*

b. **Shoreline Redevelopment**

- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki addressed his concern stating that the conditions at Marquette Park are not acceptable and the entire park is torn up for the various projects. He stated that it is turning what is a showpiece of the lakeshore into a mud hole.
- ii. **Update:** B. Joiner offered a motion to forward the Town of Pines application to the RDA staff for final evaluation and analysis. With a second by L. Martinez all were in favor and the motion was approved.

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

- i. **Public Comment:** *None*
- ii. **Update:** L. Morris reported that we are on trajectory to deliver on the slogan, "more planes will be seen by 2013" for the completion of the runway expansion project.

d. Economic Development:

i. Public Comment: *None*

ii. Update: P. Novak reported that they are working on policies and procedures in terms of how the RDA participates in economic development.

e. RDA Administrative:

i. Public Comment: *None*

ii. Update: *None*

VII. Unfinished Business:

a. Public Comment: *None*

i. MBE/WBE Update: S. McGuire reported that because the RDA Board meeting was scheduled in the beginning of the month, the MBE/WBE reports are not available. This is because the grantee reports do not come in until July 5th. S. McGuire reported that there are no concerns at this point and everything remains green. S. McGuire also asked that the Board make a slight change in the reports and how ODS brings that information from the grantees. ODS requested the continuance of reporting three months of data at a time, reporting one month behind in each report. This will allow the grantees more time to finish the data and to make sure information is accurate.

E. Glover stressed the importance that we have greens lights meaning that there are no concerns.

ii. Other: *None*

VIII. New Business:

i. Public Comment: *None*

ii. Other: *None*

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, August 21, 2012 *TBA*

b. RDA Working Group Meeting, September 18, 2012 *TBA*

X. General Public Comment: J. Nowacki stated that the policy on public comment is not clear because the sign in sheet says optional but the Board still asks if anyone has any comments during each working group so sometimes the public is confused. He also addressed his concern about Marquette Park stating that it has been totally neglected and it now sits like a, 'dead carpet', of sod that is useless and now needs to be replaced and is overall not pleased with the project.

L. Morris stated that there have been wonderful things that have been done in Marquette Park and there is great beauty and progress being done; it is a construction project underway and it's not completed yet so let's try and be fair on the comments being made. As far as the public comment misunderstanding it clearly states

in the rules that you sign up for the agenda item you would like to address, and it also states that the Board discourages duplication and repetition of comments.

B. Joiner offered a motion to have the RDA staff remove on the sign in sheet 'optional' with a second by L. Morris. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin