

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. with **John Clark** convening.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Bill Joiner, Howard Cohen, Lou Martinez, John Clark, Gus Olympidis and Carmen Fernandez were present. Harley Snyder was present via telephone. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** **John Clark** requested approval of minutes from the November 14, 2006 meeting. H. Cohen moved to accept the minutes with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the November 14 meeting minutes were approved.
- IV. **Report of Chair:** Chairman J. Clark thanked Valparaiso University and Dr. Alan Harre, president of the university, for allowing the RDA to convene the Board meeting at their facility.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** The RDA currently has \$39,913,958 deposited among three financial institutions in interest-bearing accounts. Total direct project expenses for November were \$83,178. Total professional expenses for November were \$30,880. The RDA spent \$14,274 in other expenses for November. A financial commitments spreadsheet has been added to the Treasurer's Report. It outlines project funding commitments by quarter. On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by L. Martinez, all were in favor and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
- VI. **Correspondence or Media:**
 - a. **NWI Times Articles:**

NWI Times correspondents wrote 3 article contained in tonight's packet. The articles were entitled "Commissioners May Ask RDA for Road Money", "RDA: Funding Roads Not Likely", and "Millions Sought to Build Shore". These articles are for the Board's perusal.
 - b. **Letter to Majestic Star Casino**

Tim Sanders wrote a letter to Steve Lemberg, Executive Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Majestic Star Casino on November 16, 2006. The letter explains the RDA Board's consideration of Mr. Lemberg's request for funding and the protocol to submit applications to the RDA. The RDA office is awaiting Majestic Star's application.
- VII. **Action/Discussion Items**
 - a. **Executive Director's Performance Review:**

L. Martinez, head of the Executive Director's Performance Review Committee, thanked all committee members for their work. The Executive Director's Performance Review is complete and was passed onto the RDA Board. On a motion for approval by L. Martinez and a second by H. Cohen, all were in favor and the performance review was approved.
 - b. **Gary/Chicago Airport Contract:**

The role of the RDA in this endeavor is to be the fiduciary of the Airport's earmarked \$20 million. Attorneys on both sides have been attempting to resolve this contract between the two parties involved. G. White from the Attorney General's office provided a recap of this negotiation. In October, the RDA Board approved a contract which Airport officials found unacceptable. The Airport wants to use this money to issue bonds, but felt the RDA was making it too difficult with all the strings attached. G. White met with Chairman J. Clark, public finance director for the Indiana Finance Authority Ryan Kitchell, attorneys for the Airport, T. Sanders, and other Attorney General representatives on Thursday, December 7, 2006 in an attempt to reach an agreement. R. Kitchell requested more information so he can examine any significant impediments.

There was a suggestion of multiple grant agreements for the Airport: one being for \$2.5 million and the other for bonding purposes. G. Olympidis along with the rest of the working group does not want the grant agreements cut in two. G. White rewrote the contract and circulated it to the Board. G. Olympidis offered a motion for the adoption of the \$20 million disbursement with no one seconding.

Discussion began about the difference between the two contracts. The first contract contained three "call back" revisions which would mean if something went awry, the RDA would get the money

back. The new contract omits such a revision with #3g, #5, and #11 to be removed. Even with adopting the new contract with the three revisions and some editorial changes, the RDA is still missing Ryan Kitchell's guidance. H. Snyder asked if we could have a preliminary action to fund the Airport's immediate needs, wait on R. Kitchell to look at it and have the contract approved at a later date. G. White does not recommend this because there is nothing in writing yet. Patrick Lyp, Airport attorney, would prefer an immediate agreement for the \$2.5 million and the contract would have been signed as is. Chris Curry, Director of the Airport, wants the contract to be structured in way to allow the Airport to bond. If this does not happen, the expansion of the runway will exceed beyond 2009 which is the expected deadline.

B. Joiner offered an amendment to G. Olympidis' motion to include signing the grant agreement for \$20 million and if Ryan Kitchell finds significant impediments, the RDA will revisit the contract. G. Olympidis accepted this amendment.

On a motion by G. Olympidis to approve the contract with #3g, #5, and #11 italicized revisions removed, make non-substantive editorial changes, and await R. Kitchell and IFA for possible further revisions, L. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with H. Cohen abstaining.

VIII. Project Planning Report:

a. Regional Bus Authority:

The RBA has completed their public hearings. Their consultant will present the plan to the RBA Board at their next scheduled Board meeting.

b. South Shore:

At the November 14, 2006 RDA Board meeting, \$17.5 million was approved for funding 14 new railcars.

Gerald Hanas indicated that NICTD has not exhausted all the funds from the previous General Assembly but bids for the cars would expire before the end of the next General Assembly.

On a motion by L. Martinez for NICTD and RDA lawyers to draft a grant agreement with the deadline of January 31, 2007, the motion was seconded by B. Joiner, all were in favor and the motion was approved. A final vote on the grant agreement is expected at the January meeting.

c. Gary/Chicago Airport:

Approximately \$130,000 has been or will be paid to the Airport for reimbursement of prepaid invoices. The reimbursements are for land acquisition and consulting fees.

d. Marquette Plan:

▪ ***South Shore Lakefront Redevelopment Plan - Gary/East Chicago Joint Application***

The RDA Gary/East Chicago Redevelopment Plan Working Group met on Dec. 4 to review the documents that have been submitted thus far. They felt confident about the progress made during that meeting. A letter is being drafted outlining specific questions/concerns about their plan. This letter will be forwarded to the appropriate Gary/East Chicago contact persons.

▪ ***Portage North Park Development***

A.J. Monroe will give a presentation to the National Park Service for the approval of building in Portage. The Environmental Impact Statement is proceeding on schedule.

e. NIRPC Application

John Swanson, Executive Director of NIRPC, delivered an update on the NIRPC Household Travel Survey request. The RDA is expected to grant their request at the January meeting.

IX. Executive Director's Report:

a. Strategic Plan Update:

Bill Sheldrake delivered the comprehensive strategic plan update. The report is near completion. It is expected the report will be finished by December 19, 2006 and hopefully delivered to the RDA Board soon after that. B. Sheldrake thanked the RDA Board as it was a privilege to work with them and other stakeholders.

b. Other Business

The next scheduled RDA Board meeting is on January 16, 2007 and may be held in Indianapolis. If this does not happen, the February meeting may be held in Indianapolis.

Harley Snyder is in support of all RDA business conducted tonight.

X. Public Comment: Rex Richards, Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce President, and the business community of Valparaiso fully supports rail transportation from their city to Chicago.

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

The next RDA Board meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2007. Time and location TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Shabaz.

December 15, 2006.