

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, and Peter Novak. Four members were present. All action is subject to ratification when a quorum is present. The votes will be considered a recommendation to the full Board.
- III. **Public Comment:** *None.*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** P. Novak moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor of the consent agenda.
 - a. **Minutes of the Board Meeting of 1/26/10:** Pending Ratification
 - b. **Treasurer's Report – January, 2010:** Pending Ratification
 - c. **Consultant Services Report:** Pending Ratification
 - d. **Sources and Uses Report:** Pending Ratification
 - e. **Executive Directors Report:** Pending Ratification
 - f. **Chairman's Report:** Pending Ratification
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**
 - a. **Public Comment:** *None.*
 - b. **Policy Manual:** Action was deferred until next Board meeting when a quorum is present.
- VI. **Project Status Review:** The status of each of the Working Groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in the work plan review.
 - a. **Public Comment:**
 - b. **Regional Bus Authority:**
 - i. **RBA Application for Financial Support:** B. Hanna stated that the recommendation from the February 23rd Working Group meeting was to approve the RBA PACE/UPS application at \$60,000 per year for no longer than 2 years, subject to them first exploring the capital fund that currently exists and notify the RDA if successful. This is to fund the PACE bus route from Gary and East Chicago to the UPS facility in Hodgkin's that currently supports 100 jobs.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the request, with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor of the recommendation and it will be forwarded to the full Board for formal approval.
 - ii. **RDA Funding Statement:** B. Hanna stated that at the February 23rd Working Group meeting the RDA supported a recommendation to approve the following statement:

 "We serve as a gap fill for emergent situation in transit. The RDA was never intended to be the funder of transportation operations in perpetuity. Our goal is to work through the RBA and NICTD with our partners in transportation to build a consolidated transportation system that serves the vital needs of northwest Indiana and best positions the region for economic and social success. To that end, the RDA will not be in the position to fund transit operations beyond December, 2011. We stress the importance of maintaining focus on improving the collective system and identifying secure and efficient forms of long-term funding."

B. Joiner moved to approve the statement, with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor of the recommendation and it will be forwarded to the full Board for formal approval.

c. Lakeshore Redevelopment:

- i. Whiting Application for Financial Support:** B. Hanna stated that at the Working Group on February 23, 2010 the City of Whiting presented the grant application along with the loan request. Bill Hanna recommended approving the project not to exceed \$19.445 with the intent to make reductions where possible. B. Hanna also recommended administering the grant in a close-phased approach to provide more of an incentive to find leverage. Every 6 months, the applicant will provide in its update to the Board, an articulation of all efforts made to find new leverage. B. Hanna recommended to approve the full amount and have the RDA staff in partnership with the consultants at Policy Analytics enter into a process in order to develop a firm fiscal plan to come to the full Board at the next meeting.

B. Joiner moved to approve the City of Whiting grant application, with a second by L. Morris. All were in favor of the recommendation and it was approved and it will be forwarded to the full Board for formal approval.

- ii. Whiting Loan Request:** B. Hanna recommended the RDA Board approve an additional loan of \$2.2 million to cash flow the beginning of the project. The RDA will require a 2.66 percent return. The term of the loan should not exceed 5 years and the repayment source should be the city's Redevelopment Commission. B. Hanna asked that the RDA staff and consultants work on the strict terms of the loan and draw down phase plans for the awarded amount and make a final presentation of the fiscal plan at the next Board meeting.

P. Novak moved to approve the City of Whiting loan request, with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor of the recommendation and it will be forwarded to the full Board for formal approval.

- d. Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:** L. Morris reported that major efforts regarding the L&B Business Plan are moving along as planned and a working draft is expected in March, and a final draft available to the public is expected in April.

L. Morris reported that Chris Curry discussed the rail relocation of Canadian National Railway formally EJ&E. C. Curry discussed land acquisition and mitigation at the Working Group meeting. This initiative is moving forward.

- e. Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** *None.*

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. Public Comment:** *None.*

- b. MIC Job Search Update:** B. Hanna stated that the Marquette Implementation efforts focus on process improvements. The search committee and RDA Board have identified a candidate and are concluding negotiations. This has been a long inclusive process with an excellent response. The RDA will look forward to a public statement within in the next couple of weeks. This has been a joint effort of the RDA, DNR and NIRPC.

- c. Cline Avenue:** B. Hanna stated that the RDA is a co-conveyor along with NIRPC, the Forum and 21 additional stakeholders in discussions as they relate to Cline Avenue. The stakeholders are working with

the four mayors to help establish a single voice for enhancing structures in northwest Indiana while addressing current needs. The RDA's position has been made clear in several public forums.

Chris Murphy reported that the Cline Avenue Coalition is in the process of drafting a document for the communities to consider at INDOT's request. That document will be reviewed by the mayor's of the communities and presented to the coalition at their next meeting with intent to forward to INDOT by the end of February. It's been a very comprehensive discussion of the needs of the region and surrounding communities.

L. Morris speaking as Chairman of the RDA stated that the Cline Avenue situation has a potential impact on all four of the RDA's priority areas; the resolutions of the issues involved in Cline Avenue are of great importance to the RDA. It will have a profound effect on lakeshore redevelopment, highway access to the Gary Chicago International Airport, and the opportunity to look at GYY as a regional public transportation center.

d. **Other:** *None.*

VIII. New Business:

a. **Public Comment:** *None*

b. **Whiting Application:** See above, under Project Status Review.

c. **RBA Application:** See above, under Project Status Review.

d. **Other:** *None.*

IX. Other Business:

a. **Public Comment:** *None.*

b. **Other:** *None.*

X. Future Meeting Planning: Special Session will be held at 8:30 a.m. on March 2, 2010 to ratify meeting items from January 26, 2010 and February 23, 2010.

a. **3/23/2010:** Porter County; meeting may be deferred as Chairman will be unavailable to attend and take action.

b. **4/20/2010:** City of Hammond

XI. General Public Comment: *None.*

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on March 11, 2010