

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Howard Cohen, Carmen Fernandez and Gus Olympidis. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Special Order of Business:** President Mark Heckler of Valparaiso University welcomed the RDA, and commended the Board on significant work being done, and believes it's worth the challenge.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** H. Snyder reiterated the importance of H. Cohen's comments from the February 17, 2009 Board meeting that indicated in light of the funding difficulties of some, it is important that the RDA work closely with the constituent groups.

H. Snyder moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by H. Cohen. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 2/17/09:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of 2/17/2009:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Minutes of the Shoreline W.G. of 3/12/2009:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Minutes of the RBA W.G. of 3/12/2009:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Treasurer's Report – February, 2009:</u> | Approved |
| f. <u>Consultants Report:</u> | Approved |
| g. <u>Minority Compliance Report:</u> | Approved |
| h. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |

- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:** No action was taken.

VI. **Project Status Review:**

- a. **Work Plan Review:** The status of each of the working groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in this document.
- b. **Regional Bus Authority:** L. Martinez reported that the RBA Working Group met to discuss the transition plan for the RDA. L. Martinez moved to recommend the following:
 - i. Direct the RBA to engage Parsons Brinkerhoff (PB) to create the transition plan to position it to become the universal operator of public bus services, utilizing funding previously committed by the RDA to the RBA. The plan shall include criteria for decision-making and a timetable for completion.
 - ii. Work collaboratively with the RBA to establish a transition team to work with the consultants to create and implement the transition plan.
 - iii. Make future distributions by the RDA to the RBA contingent upon satisfactory completion of this process.

The motion was seconded by B. Joiner.

Roll call vote on the motion:

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| C. Fernandez | yes |
| H. Cohen | yes |
| B. Joiner | yes |
| L. Morris | yes |
| G. Olympidis | yes |

H. Snyder yes
 L. Martinez yes

All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

T. Brown stated that the RBA has approved a not to exceed amount of \$170,000 with PB to start immediately. L. Martinez stated that by April 15th the anticipated components of the Transition Plan will include the basic assumptions, value proposition, financial proforma, and the steps to implementation. By June 1st the Transition Plan will have been refined and ready for final review. By June 30th feedback will be obtained, revisions made as needed, and approval obtained. By July 1st implementation will begin.

c. **Lake Shore Redevelopment:** No report.

d. **Expansion of the Gary/Chicago Airport:** G. Olympidis reported that the SEH Report should be completed within the next 10 days. It is hopeful that this report will become a tool of fact finding that will expedite the development of the Gary Chicago International Airport. The Airport will have the opportunity to review the report before public release. The working group has not engaged in review of this report and will so before its release. The release of the document is not dependent upon the Airport's review; the review by the Gary Airport has been an extended courtesy, which is appropriate.

G. Olympidis stated that the SEH Report will be released to the Board for their review after the Gary Airport has had the opportunity to review it. The approval for its release will take place formally at a Special Board Session following the upcoming RDA Working Group meeting. The motion was seconded by H. Cohen.

Roll call vote on the motion:

C. Fernandez yes
 H. Cohen yes
 B. Joiner yes
 L. Morris yes
 G. Olympidis yes
 H. Snyder yes
 L. Martinez yes

All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** No report.

VII. Unfinished Business:

a. **Lakeshore Development: Town of Burns Harbor:** Cliff Fleming with the Town of Burns Harbor discussed project compliance, connectivity and the expectations of the Burns Harbor Project.

b. **MBE/WBE Compliance Manual:** Tammi Davis with Compliance Consultants stated that the manual is still a work in progress. The manual will be presented to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

c. **Status on Buy Indiana Compliance Manual:** D. Rosetti stated that a conference call to discuss the Buy-Indiana manual will take place on March 19, 2009. The group will have something to present at the next Board meeting. Dave Hollenbeck stated that at the state level it currently has two pending bills that effect Buy-Indiana, showing that it is a moving target and a work in progress.

- d. Marquette Vision Implementation Coordination:** L. Morris stated that it has been agreed that there is an expressed need for greater coordination between and among the various public and private entities involved with or impacting the implementation of shoreline improvement projects contemplated in the Marquette Vision. There was unanimous support suggesting that coordination was needed through six Marquette Summits, and through a democratic process of voting the group decided that the RDA should be the entity that takes on the responsibility of coordinator. It was the intentions of that group that the RDA works closely with the DNR and NIRPC going forward; however the RDA would take the lead role in providing the coordination. L. Morris presented the MOU for the Coordination of Marquette Vision Efforts and moved for approval of the following:
- i.** RDA should be the lead entity for Marquette Vision Implementation
 - ii.** RDA should select the **Marquette Implementation Coordinator** (MIC) with input and involvement from the current designated representatives of NIRPC and DNR
 - iii.** The MIC should be accountable to the RDA Board of Directors through the RDA Executive Director
 - iv.** A **Marquette Advisory Council**, comprised initially of not more than 15 members should be established with a requirement to meet at least quarterly in an open public session to assure ongoing public input, monitor progress, and advise on such matters as:
 - 1. Community and regional priorities
 - 2. Development standards
 - 3. Maintaining balance between public and private sector interests
 - 4. Environmental issues
 - 5. Policy development (recommendation only)
 - 6. Council membership size and composition
 - v.** Membership on the Marquette Advisory Council should include, but not necessarily be limited to the RDA, NIRPC, DNR, owners of key parcels of lakeshore property, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Northwest Indiana Forum, representatives of District 1 and 2 Congressional Representatives, the Shoreline Development Commission, the Marina Development Commission, Save the Dunes Council, and the Interfaith Federation.
 - vi.** The Council will elect its own chairperson at the first meeting of each calendar year.

The motion was seconded by G. Olympidis.

Role call vote on the motion:

C. Fernandez	yes
H. Cohen	yes
B. Joiner	yes
L. Morris	yes
G. Olympidis	yes
H. Snyder	yes
L. Martinez	yes

All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- e. Little Calumet River Basin Project Funding:** Bill Sheldrake reported that they have a draft letter but do not have all information requested from the Little Calumet River Basin Commission. The chairman of the commission has indicated that they will provide all the remainder of the information next week. This will be an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

VIII. New Business:

a. Solicitation of Proposals for Consulting Services DRAFT: L. Morris had indicated that the Solicitation of Proposals for General Consulting Services is for the renewal or replacement of the RDA's existing firm. L. Morris moved to authorize the request for the qualifications for consultant's services. So moved by B. Joiner with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved. A sub-committee will be formed for application review.

b. Applications Received:

i. Gary Lakefront East: Jim Nowacki, Greg Rising, George Rogue, Laurie Peterson, Chris Meyers, and Deputy Mayor Tousant of Gary spoke on behalf of the Gary Lakefront East project. Tina Rongers reported that the City of Gary is bringing forth the Gary Lakefront East application for Board consideration. This shoreline project, totaling \$28 million over will be a two phase project. Having reviewed this application, T. Rongers suggested accepting this application for review by the Shoreline Working Group. B. Joiner offered a motion to accept the application and forward to the Shoreline Working Group for further consideration. The motion was seconded by L. Martinez.

Role call vote on the motion:

C. Fernandez	yes
H. Cohen	yes
B. Joiner	yes
L. Morris	yes
G. Olympidis	yes
H. Snyder	yes
L. Martinez	yes

All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

c. Other: L. Martinez through a resolution acknowledged the hard work of Dennis Rittenmeyer retiring Chairman of the RBA Board. D. Rittenmeyer has been a good partner and ally to the RDA, and L. Martinez expressed his appreciation for his many years of service. The resolution was seconded by H. Snyder. All were in favor of the resolution and the resolution was approved.

IX. General Public Comment: Jim Nowacki and Laurie Peterson made additional comments to the Board in terms of policy and transparency. Deputy Mayor Tousant thanked the RDA for the acceptance and further review of the City of Gary's application for financial support.

X. Future Meeting Planning:

a. 4/21/2009: Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk site of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

b. 5/19/2009: Purdue University Calumet – the Center, Hammond

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on April 8, 2009