

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Bill Joiner, Ed Glover, Peter Novak and Jeff Good. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** B. Joiner moved for approval of the consent agenda with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.
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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 20, 2011:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the W.G. Meeting of March 15, 2011:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Consultant Services Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Executive Director's Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |
| f. <u>Minority Compliance Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**
- a. **RDA Objectives and Workplan:** Adoption of the RDA Objectives and Workplan will occur at the subsequent Board meeting in May, 2011.
- b. **Whiting BIG, Grant Cash Flow:** B. Hanna reported that the RDA through partnership with the City of Whiting has secured a Boating Infrastructure Grant to help augment the Whiting shoreline project. The grant must be cash flowed up front, and the grant requires an initial cash flow of \$100,000. This is merely a cash flow so that they are able to access the funds. The funds will likely be replaced the same day. B. Hanna sought approval of front funding the grant, reimbursable immediately.
- L. Morris moved approval of the Boating Infrastructure Grant cash flow with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- c. **Ratification of:** B. Hanna sought ratification of the following contracts:
1. B&D 2011 Contract
 2. Carmen Group Contract
 3. MIX Design Contract
 4. Weaver Boos Contract
 5. URS Contract
- B. Joiner moved to approve ratification of contracts subject to legal review with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- d. **Renewal of:** B. Hanna sought renewal of the following contracts for a two year term, not to exceed current terms of contracts:
1. Policy Analytics Contract
 2. Karnerblue LLC Contract
 3. ODS Contract
 4. B&D Contract
 5. McMahan & Associates Contract

B. Joiner moved to approve renewal of contracts subject to legal review with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

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. B. Hanna reported that the RDA is working with Policy Analytics to update the strategic plan for the coming year.

a. **Public Comment:** Dean Button with SEH presented the RDA with an award for engineering excellence in the construction and design of the Wolflake Pavilion located in the City of Hammond.

L. Morris stated that the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects awarded the Marquette Park East in the City of Gary with the Presidents Award. The Portage Lakefront Park and Riverwalk also received high recognition at the event as well.

b. **Regional Bus Authority:** *No report.*

i. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*

c. **Shoreline Redevelopment:**

i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki commented on the Marquette Park East groundbreaking ceremony, and also on his experiences that lacked transparency regarding the operations and maintenance of the Marquette Park project in Gary.

ii. **Update:** K. Brown presented a brief summary of the Shoreline Development activities for the month of April, 2011. K. Brown discussed the following:

1. PES Grant
2. Marquette Plan Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund
3. City of Hammond, Phase I & II
4. City of Whiting, Boating Infrastructure Grant
5. City of East Chicago, Water Filtration Plant
6. City of Gary, Marquette Park
7. Town of Porter, Dunes Kankakee Trail
8. Marquette Advisory Council

d. **Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:** L. Morris stated that dirt will fly by the 4th of July. Construction activity at the Gary Chicago International Airport will begin before the 4th of July. Construction activity will include railroad relocation and runway extension. The Airport Authority Board and RDA Board have assembled a task force and continue to work in partnership.

S. Landry discussed components of the Gary Chicago International Airport grant application:

1. Safety regulations
2. Economic benefits
3. \$30 million request in two installments in 2011/2012
4. Overpass
5. Building of two railroad lines over existing Norfolk Southern lines
6. Total project cost is roughly \$153 million
7. Increase in job opportunities is approximately 1,000
8. Stressed the important of RDA partnership

- ii. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki commented on the South Bend Airports accessibility to current train lines. He stated that we need to make the Gary Airport work today, and current use of the Airport is non-existent.

B. Joiner moved to receive for review the Gary Chicago International Airport grant application with a second by J. Good. All were in favor and the Gary Airport grant application will be forwarded to the Gary Airport Working Group.

e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*
- ii. **Update:** H. Snyder reported that discussions between the RDA and NICTD are ongoing as the group continues to look at alternatives. A preliminary alternatives study of the expansion of the commuter rail line to Lowell has been completed, and the study was released at NICTD's most recent Board meeting. The findings of the study indicate that an initial line to the Munster/Dyer area would meet the federal guidelines for cost effectiveness and would be eligible to apply for Federal Funds. NICTD will begin meeting with steak holders to share the finding of the report and to discuss possible next steps. NICTD representatives will brief the RDA on progress made through these steak holder's meetings at our July board meeting.

f. **RDA Administrative:**

- i. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*
- ii. **Update:** B. Hanna reported that the staff, through the leadership of S. Ziller has been going from a paper to paperless filing system. In addition, the financial audit findings have been distributed to the Board for review, and are available to the public upon request. The performance audit is currently underway.

g. **Other:** *None.*

VII. **Unfinished Business:** *None*

- a. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*
- b. **Other:** *None.*

VIII. **New Business:**

- a. **Public Comment:** *No comment.*
- b. **MBE/WBE Report Review:** D. Rosetti with ODS and MBE/WBE Compliance Consultant to the RDA familiarized the new Board appointees with the design of the quarterly compliance report, calculations, and project status.
- c. **MBE/WBE Database:** D. Rosetti reported that the MBE/WBE Database gives grantees the opportunity to give local municipalities the option of utilizing their services. Organizations will be added on an ongoing basis.
- d. **Employment Data Pilot for RDA Funded Projects:** D. Rosetti reported that this data addresses job creation.

J. Good felt strongly about this report, and will be looking at it closely.

B. Joiner requested time for review, and will filter comments back through B. Hanna.

- e. **City of Whiting Exemption Request:** B. Hanna reported that the City of Whiting would like the RDA Board to consider an exemption of \$200,000 against the project amount to reflect the usage of RDA funds as a match to the Corp of Engineers funds used to construct the park infrastructure supplying utilities to the Lakefront Park. Since the match requirement was based solely on the amount of the Corp bid, the total project should be adjusted downward by the match amount, treated similar to that of the acquisition of land granted on earlier projects.

B. Joiner offered a motion to approve the exemption request with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- f. **Adoption of Buy-Indiana Policy:** B. Hanna stated that the RDA would like to continue to encourage the hiring of northwest Indiana firms particularly those in Lake and Porter counties. We have added a proposed addition to the Buy-Indiana Policy where the grantee must submit a Buy Indiana/Northwest Indiana Participation plan within 30 days of grant approval. We want to make sure the grantee is making every reasonable effort.

B. Hanna raised the issue of local preference ordinances. Some municipalities have implemented or have considered implementing local preferences that give a fiscal advantage to those within the confines of their municipal districts. B. Hanna recommended RDA dollars be exempt from such local preferences. The thought is that hiring should occur between the two county areas in regards to RDA dollars, while supporting regional opportunities. He recommended the adoption of the following:

“RDA Funded projects shall be exempt from grantee local preference requirements that provide a fiscal advantage to bidders within a particular municipality, as well as, local hiring requirements within a particular municipality. The grantee shall report on efforts to hire and actually use Lake and Porter County-based companies as well as the number of Lake and Porter County residents used on RDA funded projects.”

B. Hanna recommended making this a stand alone policy titled Buy Northwest Indiana. He would like the Board to adopt this policy effective today with review by legal council before put into final form.

P. Novak moved approval of recommendation with a second by J. Good.

B. Hanna by way of clarification stated that any bids being solicited currently will not be subject to this policy. Prospectively from here, anything put out for public solicitation would be effective today with respect to anything heading toward the public in the future. The reasoning behind this is in fairness to those who have bid in good faith under the current construction of the local ordinances. More specifically it would affect one contract in a negative way, and would slow one project down.

The meeting recessed to consult with legal council.

B. Hanna stated that its intent was to have it affect anything put out for public solicitation from this day forward.

The maker of the motion was comfortable with B. Hanna's intent.

Roll Call Vote on the Motion:

Ed Glover Yes

Jeff Good Yes
Bill Joiner No
Leigh Morris Yes
Harley Snyder Yes
Pete Novak Yes

Five members were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- g. Gary Airport Grant Application:** Refer to “Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport” under Project Status Review.
- h. Town of Porter Grant Application:** B. Hanna stated that this application is the next phase of the Town of Porter project. He recommended acceptance by the Board today for review.

Town Council Member Trevin Fowler thanked the RDA for their commitment and support.

AJ Monroe discussed the initial application of \$1.86 million from the RDA for Phase I. The most recent application requested the remainder in the amount of \$17.597 million. The Town of Porter has requested immediate funding of Phase II in the amount of \$3.915 million.

B. Joiner moved to receive the Town of Porter grant application for review by the Shoreline Working Group with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- i. Other:** *None.*

IX. 2011/2012 Future Meeting Planning: The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

- a. Public Comment:** J. Nowacki commented on the Town of Porter application and made comparisons between the City of Gary Marquette Park project, and the Town of Porter project. He commented on the zero leverage on the Marquette Park project. He stated that the RDA needs to look at current projects that look to leverage dollars instead of pouring money into a stagnant and isolated project.

C. Meyers with the City of Gary commented on the Gary Marquette Park, and stated that the City has been seeking leverage aggressively. The project has secured a \$10,000 grant from the Indiana Landmarks to bring a new patina to the Father Marquette Statue.

- b. Working Group and Board Meeting May 17, 2011** *TBA*

- c. Working Group Meeting, June 21, 2011** *TBA*

- d. Other:** *None.*

X. General Public Comment: *No comment.*

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on May 2, 2011