

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Bill Joiner, Leigh Morris, Gus Olympidis, Lou Martinez, Harley Snyder, and Howard Cohen. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Consent Agenda:**
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| a. <u>Minutes of the Meeting of 3/25/2008:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the Meeting of 4/11/2008:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Minutes of the Board Retreat of 4/29/2008:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Treasurer's Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Executive Directors Report:</u> | Approved |
| f. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |
- IV. **Action from Board:**
- a. **KIPP LEAD College Prep Request for Financial Support:** T. Sanders recommended that the Board not approve KIPP LEAD's request for funding as it does not fall under the RDA's mandate. L. Martinez moved to deny funding. With a second by H. Cohen all were in favor and the KIPP LEAD's request for funding was denied.
 H. Snyder recommended that when responding to projects being denied by the RDA Board, reference to the RDA's mandate should be made.
- b. **Family Life Center Request for Financial Support:** T. Sanders recommended that the Board not approve Family Life Center's request for funding as it does not fall under the RDA's mandate. B. Joiner moved to deny funding. With a second by H. Cohen all were in favor and the Family Life Center's request for funding was denied.
- c. **School City of East Chicago Concert Choir Request for Financial Support:** T. Sanders recommended that the Board not approve the School City of East Chicago Concert Choir's request for funding as it does not fall under the RDA's mandate. H. Cohen asked T. Sanders to develop a statement for the RDA website that clarifies what the RDA is mandated to fund, because the RDA has been given funds for a very specific purpose. B. Joiner moved to deny funding. With a second by H. Cohen all were in favor and the School City of East Chicago Concert Choir's request for funding was denied.
 T. Sanders suggested that he draft an official statement that clarifies what the RDA was set up to fund that can be approved by the Board at the next Board meeting.
- d. **Portage Lakefront Park Phase II Request for Funding:** The City of Portage requested additional funding in the amount of \$2.865 million from the RDA. This is the second phase of the Portage shoreline development. Policy Analytics, LLC and Skillman Corporation met to discuss Board issues pertaining to Portage Lakefront Park Phase II. In reference to the Marquette vision, Tina Rongers of Policy Analytics assured the Board that it aligns with the Marquette vision. The cost of the project was also a concern, and making sure that there are control measures. T. Rongers affirmed that the cost lines up, and Policy Analytics will receive monthly reports that they will be able to monitor, and then report to the Board. The final Board issue was minority compliance. The Portage project has not only demonstrated the ability to coordinate within the project area, but also link up to other aspects of shoreline development. B. Joiner offers a motion to fund Portage's request in the amount of \$2.865 million. With a second by H. Snyder. Roll call vote on the motion: H. Cohen yes, B. Joiner yes, L. Morris yes, H. Snyder yes, G. Olympidis yes, and L. Martinez yes. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- V. **Project Status Review:**
- a. **Regional Bus Authority:** no report.
- b. **Lake Shore Redevelopment:** B. Joiner recalls that at the previous Board meeting the Board had requested that Policy Analytics take a comprehensive look at the various shoreline proposals that have come to the RDA, which are in various stages of funding. Bill Shelldrake of Policy Analytics provided the Board with a summary of his findings. These findings can be found in a Draft Memorandum dated May 8, 2008.

There are five recommendations to the Board from Policy Analytics. B. Joiner moved to approve all five recommendations in order to move forward. With a second by H. Cohen all were in favor of the motion. H. Cohen asked if these recommendations would monitor activities of all four projects. T. Sanders affirmed that it will monitor all activities going forward.

- c. **Expansion of the Gary/Chicago Airport:** G. Olympidis stated that the Airport Working Group met on April 11, 2008 to discuss the possibility of retaining outside consulting work for the purpose of providing further assistance to the Gary Chicago Airport while also meeting the RDA's stewardship responsibilities. The Working Group produced several recommendations. G. Olympidis moved that the RDA continue to investigate the possibilities of contracting with a consultant or consultants to assist the RDA in evaluating and supporting the Gary Chicago International Airport regarding the proposed customs and immigration facility, the cross wind runway, and accelerating the infrastructure build-out of the Airport. Of second priority, evaluating the options for marketing the Airport. With a second by B. Joiner all were in favor and the motion was approved. G. Olympidis asked Chris Curry, Airport Director, to comment on current airport activities and issues. He addressed railroad relocation, the customs and immigrations facility, and the build out of the Airport.
- d. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder met with L. Morris, T. Sanders, G. Hanas, J. Parsons, and B. Shel Drake on April 28, 2008 at the South Shore office for the purpose of examining rail expansion. They looked at alternatives gaining input from constituencies such as NIRPC and the Forum. They discussed moving this process along and building a case for the expansion of the service.

VI. Other Business:

- a. **Compliance Consultant Contract Update:** The RDA is awaiting the contract from Compliance Consultants. Minority compliance is expected to begin on July 1, 2008.
- b. **Investment Update:** T. Sanders made reference to a May 19, 2008 letter from Scannell Wealth Management. In that letter it stated that the RDA money has been placed into 60 day CD's at both Horizon and Chase banks. It was recommended that at Harris the money stay in a sweep account where it is currently earning the most competitive rate.
- c. **Work Plan/RDA Retreat Update:** The Work Plan is being updated as the RDA moves forward. T. Sanders stated that there is a Working Group meeting scheduled for June 12, 2008 and it is anticipated that there will be items that will require Working Group activity, and he hopes to meet that day. The RBA is going to hire an Executive Director and they will be meeting May 21, 2008 to approve their selection. The Little Calumet River Basin Project is moving forward and the RDA has made one payment to the Commission and continues to monitor their process. On the consent agenda there is a report that reflects the RDA Board Retreat. From the Board Retreat, items will be coming back to the Board with some specific conclusions, recommended actions, symmetric for measuring progress based upon the Board Retreat and that will include things that the Board itself will be committed to. In addition to the Executive Director's role along with the consultant's role.
- d. **Strategic Plan Update:** Policy Analytics is working on the RDA's Strategic Plan update. Currently, they have sent out letters of request to all the RDA's targeted investments. Policy Analytics has met with a number of cities, discussing with them their long range shoreline plans. In regards to financial aspects, Policy Analytics has met with the Congressman's office for the perspective federal funds available for match. Their target completion date is June 30, 2008.
- e. **Administrative Policy Manual:** Mark Schocke, a Fellow working for the RDA, created a draft policy and protocol handbook that catalogues the policies and protocols the Board has practiced and approved thus far. It also has several administrative guidelines in terms of document drafting and RFP's. H. Cohen suggested that for each of the sections, the date in which they were approved by the Board would be helpful. L. Morris indicated that this document will come to the Board at the next Board meeting for review and ratification or revision.
- f. **Working Group Protocol:** T. Sanders drafted a protocol for Working Groups. He outlined a protocol that would be included in the RDA manual that would make each meeting more efficient. L. Martinez questions item three, asking to remove 'and have Board approval'. G. Olympidis suggested that in item five it should read 'minutes will be recorded by RDA staff at all Working Group meetings and provided for review.' L. Martinez moved to adopt the Working Group protocol as amended. With a second by B.

Joiner all were in favor and the motion was approved. This protocol will be included in the administrative manual.

- g.* **RDA Organizational Chart:** It has been requested that the RDA have an organizational chart. Chairman Morris would like to have the Board of Directors above the Chairman in the organizational chart. Final ratification will take place at the next Board meeting.
- h.* **Other:** The Office of the Attorney General updated their agreement as the previous agreement has expired. Their hourly wage has gone up from \$57 to \$75 per hour. The agreement can be terminated by either party with written notice at any time. B. Joiner moves to adopt the new agreement. With a second by L. Martinez. G. Olympidis had three points of concern. The Attorney Generals Office is referred to as co-council, the Attorney Generals Office liaison with the RDA is the Executive Director not the Chairman, the Attorney General represents the Board and its members not just the Chairman. Gordon White will re-word those sections. B. Joiner accepted G. Olympidis' points as amendments to the motion. With a second by L. Martinez all were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

VII. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on 5/21/08