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- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with **John Clark** convening.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Ned Ruff, Bill Joiner, Harley Snyder, John Clark, Howard Cohen, Lou Martinez were present, and Gus Olympidis was present via conference call. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** **John Clark** requested approval of minutes from the previous meeting. On a motion by Harley Snyder and a second by Bill Joiner, all were in favor and the minutes of April 11, 2006 were approved.
- IV. **Report of Chair:** Chairman John Clark reported on the impact that the three lawsuits against Major Moves will have on future funding for the RDA. Currently, there is no money for the state from Major Moves until after July 1<sup>st</sup> and the contract is signed. After the signing, the RDA will get \$40 million, \$20 million earmarked for the Gary/Chicago Airport, and the balance being used for regional development in NWI. Until this lawsuit is resolved, the RDA will not be able to fund certain projects. If this is not resolved, the lawsuits could set the RDA back substantially.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** **Howard Cohen** gave the Treasurer's Report. The RDA currently has \$9,499,028.18 in the bank invested in a variety of interest-bearing accounts. Monthly expenses for April were \$12,921.62. On a motion by Bill Joiner and a second by Ned Ruff, all were in favor and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
- VI. **Working Group Report:**
- a. **Request Review Protocol:**  
The Request Review Protocol document was accepted. Dave Hollenbeck and Gordon White (ATG) created the Exhibit B document. The Attorney General's office will sign off on future agreements for formal legality. When funds are subject to audit, it is customary to have the Attorney General's office involved. This document outlines the scope of tasks to be performed by the RBA, NIRPC, and RDA and additional compliance requirements. A 10-minute recess was called to review the Exhibit B document more thoroughly. On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by N. Ruff, all were in favor and the Exhibit B document was approved for acceptance. This document is not to be used as a template for future contracts. The length of the study was extended to 12 months.
- b. **Marketing and Image Development:**  
H. Cohen: A first draft of the brochure has been developed and it very concisely explains what the RDA is. The brochure is meant as a talking piece. There were subsequent suggestions about how to better enhance the brochure. B. Joiner wants the brochure to include social equity and/or regional equity and fairness. On a motion by H. Cohen for approval and second by L. Martinez, all were in favor and the brochure was approved.
- c. **Accounting:**  
B. Joiner: Joe Krnich & Associates was chosen as the auditing organization. The cost of services is not to exceed \$7230 per year. Terry McMahon & Co. was chosen to perform accounting functions not associated with the annual audit. The cost of services is not to exceed \$9900 per year. The factors considered by the working group included size of the firm, experience in similar work, opportunities to meet with the RDA Board and staff, presence in the community, and cost of services. The Accounting Working Group thanks all the responders to the RFP. On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by Lou Martinez, all were in favor and the two accounting firms were approved.
- VII. **Planning:**
- a. **Accelerate Indiana Plan:**  
This plan was presented for the Board members for view. This is the state government plan to move Indiana forward. Economic development agencies are beginning to accept this as their own. Board members will look this over for opportunities.
- b. **Bill Sheldrake:**

He is doing NIRPC's economic development plan. T. Sanders wants Mr. Sheldrake or someone with his knowledge and skills to develop the RDA plan expeditiously. The 2040 plan is also to be reviewed by the Board members. This is another plan that we may want to engage in. The cost and time frame of this plan are too much, but something similar to this plan might be beneficial to the RDA. T. Sanders will provide educational CD's to members as soon as they become available.

c. **Indianapolis Meetings:**

T. Sanders has had contact with Chuck Schalliol about economic development.

d. **Phase I Planning Document:**

This narrows the focus wonderfully. In the short run, this needs to outline what is in our legislation. Planning Work Group will meet to develop an RFQ.

VIII. **Project Planning Report:**

a. **Regional Bus Authority Request:**

The RDA presented Dennis Rittenmeyer, head of the RBA, with a check in the amount of \$125,000 to help fund a study.

b. **South Shore:**

The RDA is working with South Shore staff to calculate economic data for their request. They have asked the RDA for \$7.8 million divided into 4 installments. This will allow them to purchase more train cars. Something in writing will be presented by the next meeting. A Working Group was formed consisting of Harley Snyder (Chair), Howard Cohen, Bill Joiner, and Ned Ruff.

c. **Gary/Chicago Airport:**

There have been several conversations between the RDA and airport staff. There is \$20 million earmarked for this plan. Ten million will be for land acquisition and will most likely need funds by this summer. They have not submitted the required request as of yet but have intentions of submittal in the near future.

d. **Marquette Plan:**

There have been conversations with Mayor Stahura of Whiting. They are not in need of financial assistance from the RDA. They are working closely with BP. Mayor Olson will be requesting assistance from the RDA for a North End Development Plan. It is anticipated that a formal request will be submitted on or before the next RDA meeting.

IX. **Executive Director's Report:**

a. **Ethics Report:**

Most Board members have completed the required ethics training. It was urged that all have it completed by the next meeting.

X. **Public Comments:**

Mr. McKnight expressed concern about the Gary Urban Enterprise Association.

XI. **Adjournment:** On a motion by **John Clark** and a second by **Bill Joiner**, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

The next RDA Board meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2006. Time and location TBA.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Shabaz.  
May 10, 2006.