

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Carmen Fernandez, Howard Cohen, Bill Joiner, Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, and Gus Olympidis. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Consent Agenda:** So moved by B. Joiner with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.
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| a. <b><u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 5/20/2008:</u></b> | <b>Approved</b> |
| b. <b><u>Minutes of the W.G. Meeting of 5/20/2008:</u></b>  | <b>Approved</b> |
| c. <b><u>Minutes of the W.G. Meeting of 6/12/2008:</u></b>  | <b>Approved</b> |
| d. <b><u>Treasurer's Report:</u></b>                        | <b>Approved</b> |
| e. <b><u>Executive Directors Report:</u></b>                | <b>Approved</b> |
| f. <b><u>Chairman's Report:</u></b>                         | <b>Approved</b> |
| g. <b><u>RDA Policy on Banking and Accounting:</u></b>      | <b>Approved</b> |
- IV. **Action from Board:**
- a. **Organization Chart:** L. Morris stated that the intent of the Board was that the legal counsels reporting arrangement would be to the Board, the arrangement would then shift upwards on the original organization chart. B. Joiner moved to adopt the organization chart as stated with regards to L. Morris' amendment with a second by L. Martinez. L. Martinez requested to add the RDA's financial advisor to the organization chart, the reporting arrangement would be to the Executive Director. All were in favor of the organization chart as corrected.
- b. **Valparaiso Bus Change Order Application:** T. Sanders stated that the City of Valparaiso at the June 12, 2008 Working Group meeting applied to the RDA for a change in their most recent application that would allow for the purchasing of property in Valparaiso. This change order would also include the local match for the busses. This change order request would be \$238,000 less than the initial request that has already been granted to the City of Valparaiso by the RDA Board. This request was approved by the Working Group and sent to the full Board for approval. B. Joiner moved to approve the City of Valparaiso's request with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.
- c. **Website Funding Statement:** The Board was provided a paragraph that would be posted on the website that would allow future applicants to know ahead of time that the Board maintains focused on the RDA's mandate, and that this is a policy of the Board. T. Sanders offered a statement for approval. L. Morris did not believe the Board had intended this to be the policy, so he offered applying the words 'at this time' to the end of the first sentence. B. Joiner felt that the Board could not change or close the door on the fifth item, 'any other economic development'. L. Morris requested that T. Sanders go back and revise this document to be a more direct statement, quoting the statute, and to include fundraisers and donations in its context. No action was taken. This item will be brought back to the next Board meeting on July 22, 2008.
- V. **Project Status Review:**
- a. **Regional Bus Authority:** T. Sanders reported that the RBA continues to search for an Executive Director. Also, the recent action of the RDA Board dealing with the City of Valparaiso continues the work of the RBA and regional growth. Finally, the first distribution was made to the RBA regarding the approved \$6.5 million original grant on June 17, 2008.
- b. **Lake Shore Redevelopment:** B. Joiner referenced where he felt the water filtration plant is at in East Chicago.
- L. Morris reported that there are many different groups, boards, commissions and organizations that have significant interest or responsibility in terms of lakeshore redevelopment. The RDA and its facilitation role will convene a leadership summit to make sure there is clarity of the roles and the inter-relationships among them. It is important that as the RDA moves forward, we are moving forward in an informed way. The Board will be kept informed.

- c. **Expansion of the Gary/Chicago Airport:** G. Olympidis reported that positive movements in negotiations between the rail line and the Airport may result in the building of a bridge; the cost is within \$18 to \$20 million more than originally anticipated. In addition, the search for an Airport advisor has been narrowed down to two candidates and the Airport has been asked to work with the RDA on finding a candidate.
- d. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder reported that the south shore cars are under construction and will be delivered sometime this fall.

**VI. Other Business:**

- a. **Strategic Plan Update:** Bill Sheldrake reported that Policy Analytics is going out and talking to various targeted investments. They will be providing the Board with a brief change in the Financial Comprehensive Strategic Plan showing the commitments and the dollars going to each targeted investments. The projected date for presentation to the Board would be at the next Board meeting of July 22, 2008.
- b. **Policy Manual:** Mark Schocke reported that the suggested changes have been added to the document that had been agreed upon at the previous Board meeting. London Wittes report suggested that the RDA have additional policies and we will have policies created for future Board approval. The manual will be ready for Board approval at the next Board meeting.
- c. **Ethics Training:** T. Sanders reported that Sherri Shabaz will be in Indianapolis on June 26, 2008 and she will be briefed on the ethics training policy. All RDA Board members will be able to take the ethics training online after Thursday, June 26, 2008. This must be completed bi-annually.
- d. **Compliance Consultant Update:** Desila Rosetti reported that they have received the contract back from Tammi Davis. They believe they have a solid process in place. L. Martinez suggested adding compliance consultant to the organization chart reporting to T. Sanders. B. Joiner asked Policy Analytics if they have had discussions with the South Shore in terms of as those cars come back, are there possible job opportunities for MBE/WBE businesses. B. Sheldrake reported that NICTD has stringent MBE/WBE requirements they must comply with and he stated that they are in compliance. B. Joiner requested an acquisition of these cars from the consultants. The Board will be updated quarterly on the compliance of the projects. They will begin monitoring on July 1, 2008 and the Board can expect the first report between October and November.
- e. **Airport Consultant Advisor Update:** B. Sheldrake reported that they have interviewed and worked on looking at two advisory firms, PB and SEH. L. Morris deferred the final decision until all the communications with the Airport have been completed.
- f. **Employee Handbook:** T. Sanders reported that several months ago the RDA created an employee handbook and have adopted the state ethics requirements. T. Sanders asked Desila Rosetti to update the original handbook. That handbook will be available to the Board at the July Board meeting.
- g. **Other:** T. Sanders reported that he had a conversation with Joe Krnich and he agreed on the price of \$10,000. The next Board meeting will be on July 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting location is TBA.

**VII. Public Comment:** No comment.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on 6/18/08