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- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. with **John Clark** convening.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Lou Martinez, Harley Snyder, Howard Cohen, John Clark, Bill Joiner, Carmen Fernandez, and Gus Olympidis were present. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** **John Clark** requested approval of minutes from the July 11, 2006 meeting. On a request by Howard Cohen to amend the minutes, a motion was offered by Bill Joiner and a second by Howard Cohen, all were in favor and the minutes of July 11, 2006 were approved.
- IV. **Report of Chair:** The Gary/Chicago International Airport delivered a briefing to the Regional Development Authority prior to the Board meeting. The Gary/Chicago International Airport has submitted an application for financial support.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** The RDA currently has \$12,846,374 deposited among three financial institutions in interest-bearing accounts. Total expenses for the month of July were \$28,073.
- VI. **Discussion:**
- a. **Investment Policy:**  
The investment policy is still in the review process. There has been a working group meeting and some changes have been made to the document provided at tonight's meeting. Another change to the document was voiced. The Board will review this policy and pass any/all comments along to T. Sanders. All RDA funds will be regarded as public funds.
- b. **Employee Handbook:**  
The RDA Employee Handbook was provided to all board members. After review, board members will contact T. Sanders with suggestions. The handbook may reach approval at the next RDA Board meeting.
- VII. **Status of RFP: Action Item**  
The Request for Proposal to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive economic development plan for Lake and Porter counties of Indiana was voted on with a motion for approval offered by H. Snyder and a second by Howard Cohen. All were in favor and the document was approved.
- VIII. **Project Planning Report:**
- a. **Regional Bus Authority:**  
The RBA has hired a consultant team led by TranSystem Corporation with assistance from Bernardin Lochueller, McCormick Group, AECOM Consult, MKC Associates and Winning Communities. Together, they will assist in developing a plan for the funding and organizational requirements of transit services in NW Indiana. Stakeholder interviews will be held with key decision leaders in the region. A Strategic and Operations Plan should be completed by the end of 2006. There will be an RBA board meeting tomorrow and may finalize the ethics report.
- b. **South Shore:**  
NICTD is requesting Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds in the amount of five million dollars. This money will be used partly to finance the purchase of twelve new rail cars for the South Shore Line commuter service. NICTD had originally asked INDOT for \$31.2 million in state CMAQ funding and the RDA for the \$7.8 million in local match. INDOT informed NICTD that their funding is limited and advised them to seek a CMAQ commitment from NIRPC. A letter from G. Hanas was submitted to John Swanson.
- c. **Gary/Chicago Airport:**  
The Gary/Chicago airport has submitted an application for funding from the RDA. With a motion offered by B. Joiner and a second by L. Martinez, all were in favor and the Gary/Chicago Airport application was accepted. A working group consisting of G. Olympidis (Chairman), B. Joiner, H. Snyder, and L. Martinez was formed.

d. Marquette Plan:

The contract for the City of Portage Lakefront plan was presented to the board for approval. With a motion from H. Snyder and a second from B. Joiner, all were in favor and the contract was approved.

IX. Executive Director's Report:

a. Change of next Board Meeting Date:

The next RDA Board meeting will be held on September 19, 2006. The location and time will be determined at a later date.

b. Other Business

On Sunday, November 5, 2006 there will be a tour around Gary, Indiana to see how redevelopment is changing the face of this city. The time is 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

X. Public Comment:

The Calumet Press requested a copy of the Gary/Chicago Airport request for funding binder.

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

The next RDA Board meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2006. Time and location TBA.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Shabaz.  
August 18, 2006.