

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Gus Olympidis and Howard Cohen. Six members were present constituting a quorum. Carmen Fernandez arrived following action from the Board.
- III. **Consent Agenda:** Included in the consent agenda at the next Board meeting will be the monthly MBE/WBE report and also a report by Policy Analytics, LLC. 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. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 7/22/2008:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the W.G. Meeting of 8/14/2008:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Treasurer's Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>Executive Directors Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Approved |
| f. <u>RDA Website Funding Statement:</u> | Approved |
- IV. **Action from Board:**
- a. **Burns Harbor Application for Financial Support:** T. Sanders reported that the Town of Burns Harbor has requested funding from the RDA for a number of items. This request from the town is in the amount of \$100,000 and involves planning for the town center and a bike path. T. Sanders urged the Board to accept the application and refer it to the Shoreline Working Group. So moved by H. Snyder with a second by H. Cohen. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- b. **Portage Lakefront Park Phase II Grant:** T. Sanders reported that the City of Portage has asked the RDA to utilize portion of the contingency fund for furniture and signage for the lakefront riverwalk in the amount of \$58,895.41. Because this was outside of the scope of the initial proposal the Mayor requested permission for its use. H. Snyder moved to allow for the City of Portage to use the contingency fund in the amount of \$58,895.41 for signage and pavilion furniture with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.
- V. **Project Status Review:**
- a. **Regional Bus Authority:** T. Sanders reported that the RBA is continuing their work. They have signed a contract with GPTC and they have also been in some discussions with the City of Hammond to talk about their bus line. The City of East Chicago may also consider working with the RBA. T. Brown of the RBA reported that the agreement with GPTC is scheduled for a mid-September start, and will also include the expansion of the three regional routes established by GPTC. The primary focus is to expand the bus service by decreasing the amount of times between buses between the various stops. The RBA is working directly with the staff of GPTC in coordinating all the service changes. A dry run of these services it to occur around September 8, 2008 and the kick off around September 15, 2008. The RBA is also looking at two sites for an express bus route from Lake County to Chicago. T. Brown also reported that they have not had discussions with the City of East Chicago as of yet, but will be glad to entertain such a meeting.
- b. **Lake Shore Redevelopment:** B. Joiner reported that he had the opportunity to meet with Bill Sheldrake and Tina Rongers of Policy Analytics concerning some logistical coordination issues in terms of communication. B. Joiner offered some suggestions on how to address those concerns and asked B. Sheldrake to comment on where that process is at. B. Sheldrake reported that on the Lakefront Revitalization contract, B. Sheldrake noticed a couple of items that need to be addressed. One concern was with some of the deadlines being pushed backed, but also not regularly meeting with the stakeholders and the Cities to make sure coordination is taking place. One meeting occurred in July, 2008 and there is another meeting scheduled for mid September. T. Sanders reported that the City of Gary with me submitting an application to the RDA to help fund Marquette Park. Chris Meyers stated that an RFP has been posted for the due-diligence activities of the Marquette Park. The scope of this project is to open up public access from County Line Road to Lake Street. T. Sanders reported that the RDA is meeting with

shoreline Stakeholders to ensure everyone is heard, that everyone understands what the Marquette Vision is about, and to help move this process forward.

- c. **Expansion of the Gary/Chicago Airport:** T. Sanders reported that he met with Chris Curry. C. Curry is working with SEH and responding to strategic questions posed by the RDA. He was also encouraged to pursue the preliminary MOU for railroad relocation and the addendum to the Airports Master Plan. SEH reported that the Gary Chicago International Airport has been very responsive to their requests for information.
- d. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** H. Snyder reported that there are continued efforts on coordination between the RBA and NICTD. The goal is for an integrated and coordinated system of public transportation in northwest Indiana. The Legislative Study Committee is preparing their agenda, and the RDA will participate in those meetings.

VI. Other Business:

- a. **Strategic Plan Update:** B. Sheldrake reported that Policy Analytics is working on changes and updates to the RDA's Strategic Plan. They are having discussions with Board members, and grantees. The final copy of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board once that process has been completed.
- b. **Financial Audit:** T. Sanders reported that the financial audit is not complete. Joe Krnich would like to meet with the Board once complete. H. Snyder suggested that the Investment Working Group convene a meeting to discuss the financial audit with J. Krnich. B. Joiner, Chair of the Investment Working Group, agreed with H. Snyder's suggestion.
- c. **Policy Manual:** T. Sanders reported that the policy manual will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.
- d. **Airport Consultant Advisor Update:** Matt Reardon of SEH reported that the Airport has been very forthcoming with information. SEH is working with the Airport to address concerns pertaining to custom facility, crosswind runway, on-going infrastructure expenditures, and operations of the airport. M. Reardon expects the report to be ready for review by the end of September.
- e. **Employee Handbook:** T. Sanders stated that he will send the employee handbook to the Board for their review.
- f. **Other:** None.

VII. Public Comment: No comment.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on 8/20/08