

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with John Clark presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Howard Cohen, Carmen Fernandez, Bill Joiner, John Clark, Harley Snyder, and Gus Olympidis. Lou Martinez joined the Board shortly after roll call. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** John Clark requested approval of minutes from the June 19, 2007 meeting. H. Cohen moved to accept the minutes with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the June 19, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** The RDA currently has \$35,086,813 deposited among three financial institutions in interest-bearing accounts. The report reflected activity through July 31, 2007. As of August, all of the contributors have paid except for the city of Hammond and the city of Gary. The RDA staff is negotiating on when both cities will be able to pay. Year to date, the RDA has earned \$1,096,102 in interest on the money deposited among the three financial institutions. The RDA's commitment to the Gary/Chicago Airport has been fulfilled. On the Treasurer's report however, it shows that it has not been completely paid, but H. Cohen believes this to be untrue. In the RDA's strategic plan everything seems to be within budget except the furniture expenditure due to new hires but this is understandable. B. Joiner requested an attachment of the MBE/WBE expenditure report. T. Sanders suggested that the RDA wait until the MBE/WBE consultant is hired. T. Sanders also suggested forming a working group on this matter to determine what the RDA wants done, his worry is that this could become expensive. T. Sanders suggests to create a ceiling, and to do the same for the Media consultant that the RDA also plans on hiring in the near future. On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by H. Snyder, all were in favor and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
- V. **Report of Chair:** There was no report from the Chair.
- VI. **Working Group Report:**
  - a. **Consultant Working Group:**

The Consultant Working Group made up of B. Joiner, G. Olympidis and L. Martinez met at Purdue University Calumet on August 7, 2007 to review and consider two proposals from SEH and PolicyAnalytics. Both were credible and worthy of consideration. The RDA Board sought further clarification from SEH in which they submitted in a timely fashion. Three recommendations were made by the Consultant Working Group. 1. PolicyAnalytics is retained providing the desired services to the RDA 2. Separate cost estimates must be submitted to the RDA board before approval, opposed to one lump sum arrangement and 3. The Consultant must report directly to the Executive Director. The three attending members of the working group are all in favor of these recommendations. On a motion to accept the three recommendations by G. Olympidis and a second by B. Joiner, J. Clark precedes to call an open discussion. H. Cohen requested further clarification on the second recommendation; 2. Separate cost estimates must be submitted to the RDA board before approval. The working group established the second recommendation because the contract was extremely broad in nature, the working group was interested in understanding what the scope of work was going to be, and they felt that it would be appropriate to come to the board with any expenditure. The RDA board would then distribute the funds appropriately. Some board members expressed their concerns regarding matters between the RDA and the General Consultant that may need to be conducted in between board meetings. They felt that it may be risking the potential of the fluidity of the RDA to be able to make decisions in a timely fashion, because the board is not always available as a quorum to make immediate decisions. They feel that this recommendation restricts the RDA. H. Cohen suggested setting a budget threshold, and within that ceiling the Executive Director has the authority to negotiate that ceiling with the General Consultant. Every month there may be reporting requirements. When a consulting contract has been executed it will come back to the board. It gives the RDA board members one month to

look at the report and if someone has a question, it gives them a chance to look at it at an upcoming RDA board meeting. Also, it gives the RDA the ability to go ahead with the projects. J. Clark asked D. Hollenbeck about the legal aspect of the situation. J. Clark asks if there is a mechanism short of our gathering as a group with a quorum in a noticed meeting to come up with a way to do business with the General Consultant. D. Hollenbeck reports that as long as this mechanism is being decided at a public meeting, it is acceptable to designate certain parameters to the Executive Director or a working group. The RDA must also notice the meeting 48 hours prior to the assembly, not including weekends. Some board members expressed the difficulty in meeting with only a 48 hours notice; a 48 hour notice with at least five board members including the Chairman to assemble is going to be difficult. H. Cohen moved to amend only point B in the motion: Giving authority to the Executive Director to contract \$20,000 or less, but anything above that amount will need prior board approval. H. Snyder seconds that amendment.

The amendment was defeated by a four to three vote. Those in favor were J. Clark, H. Snyder and H. Cohen. Those opposed were G. Olympidis, B. Joiner, C. Fernandez and L. Martinez.

H. Snyder moved to amend the motion, however to approve points A and C but to send point B back to the working group for consideration, and also a report at the next RDA board meeting. H. Cohen seconds that motion.

The amendment was passed with consideration to the original motion as amended. Those opposed were G. Olympidis and L. Martinez. Those in favor were B. Joiner, J. Clark, H. Cohen, H. Snyder and C. Fernandez.

**b. 21CSI and Indiana High Speed Rail:**

H. Snyder delivered information regarding the current request for funding from 21CSI and Indiana High Speed Rail. The working group met on July 2, 2007 to consider two different proposals, 21CSI and Indiana High Speed Rail. The working group was very impressed with the quality of both presentations and recognizes the importance of these efforts to the economy of northwest Indiana. 21CSI was asked to provide additional documentations and it was completed appropriately. The RDA board decided that funding should be confined to the four projects outlined in the RDA's comprehensive economic development plan approved by OMB and the State Budget Committee which was accepted in February 2007 by the RDA board. This outline includes the Gary/Chicago International Airport, Commuter Rail Transportation, Regional Bus System and the development of the Lake Michigan shoreline. Under the RDA's current funding plan it would be hard for the board to approve any funding outside its economic plan. It is important that the RDA stay within the constraints of its budget. The RDA appreciates their efforts and extends their appreciation to Dennis Hodges and Bob Wichlinski. The working group has suggested that the two projects not be funded at this time. H. Snyder made a motion to thank them for their efforts as purposed by 21CSI and Indiana High Speed Rail the working group suggests these two projects could not be funded at this time. The board would like them to give the RDA an opportunity in the future, but there are no guarantees at that time either. H. Cohen, because of Purdue Calumet's involvement with 21CSI and a number of its projects, will be recusing himself in these matters concerning 21CSI. There was no second to H. Snyder's motion. B. Joiner is not prepared to vote on this and offers a motion to defer for 45 days until the board can get the committee back together after the board receives an ample amount of information regarding funding and any additional information 21CSI or Indiana High Speed Rail feels would be beneficial. H. Snyder accepts as a substitute motion.

All were in favor of the motion.

H. Snyder would just like to advise the RDA board of discussions that he has had with some of the constituents concerning potential use of our monies to assist communities or entities with the RDA funding sources for the purpose of utilizing monies that the RDA currently has invested that aren't earmarked for certain proposals. The board members may want to think

about whether or not the RDA may act as a bank for a short period of time intended as short term funding aids for government funding. This is only a suggestion and something for the RDA board to consider.

**c. Investment Update:**

B. Joiner reported that the charge that has been given to Scannell Wealth Management is to look at our total dollars and full funds and to come back to us with a recommended investment strategy that will be reviewed with the working group and then with the board. The RDA has not received that back at this time. No motion was made.

**VII. Project Progress Report:**

**a. Regional Bus Authority:**

The Regional Bus Authority meeting last week approved a grant agreement that he has not yet seen by the RDA. Their funding is scheduled to start in January of 2008.

**VIII. General Consultant Funding Request:**

B. Shel Drake was asked how much they may need within the next month, his response acknowledged somewhere between \$8,000 - \$10,000 dollars, but this is only an assumption. G. Olympidis moved that the RDA board approve up to \$10,000 that can be utilized under the umbrella of the services and until such time that the working group comes forth with another recommendation. On the record, G. Olympidis being 1/7 of this commission will insist specificity of services and a reasonable proclamation of what it is going to cost to deliver the services. B. Joiner seconds the motion. B. Joiner addresses T. Sanders stating that T. Sanders had mentioned that there are three or four things that T. Sanders had planned to do and B. Joiner questioned if these things are embodied in the work that PolicyAnalytics will be doing for the RDA. T. Sanders reply was yes. C. Fernandez asks that anything that is within T. Sanders scope of work that the RDA doesn't necessary need a consultant for be should be done by T. Sanders. C. Fernandez asks that those things that an executive director can and should do for the RDA not be outsourced.

All were in favor of the motion. The motion was passed.

**IX. Project Progress Report:**

**b. South Shore:**

They are currently working on the cars in Japan. The delivery of the cars is expected in November 2008.

**c. Gary/Chicago International Airport:**

There is an update from Chris Curry regarding his trip to Atlanta. The Gary Airport is currently prospecting airplanes and airlines to utilize the Gary airport. There will be a meeting on Thursday August 23, 2007 that T. Sanders will be attending that will be dealing with environmental issue around the airport.

**c. Marquette Plan**

The Marquette Plan is moving along with Portage prepared to go into construction as they finish up all the engineering work. The East Chicago/Gary project is moving along well. They've signed an agreement with SB Freidman and Company, a consultant out of Chicago. They are going to be working on outreach and public communications in East Chicago and Gary.

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

On Thursday at 10 a.m. there will be a meeting of the Transportation Study Committee of the General Assembly at Dune Park Station in Chesterton. T. Sanders was asked to speak at this meeting. This is a meeting where they travel around the state and ask people who are interested in transportation issues to offer testimony. The board is more than welcome to attend.

The RFQ for the Compliance Consultant was due Friday August 17, 2007. Three responses were received. T. Sanders would like to get someone on board quickly to help the people that we fund reach goals that we have for minority and women owned business hiring.

The RDA has received one response from the RFQ for the Media Consultant. They are due on Friday August 24, 2007. T. Sanders would like to form a working group to discuss the range of how the RDA is going to do this, whether it may be a newsletter, public outreach or public information. B. Joiner has suggested a PR campaign that will foster support for the RDA's vision as we move forward. The RDA needs to think through that and consider how much the RDA wants to spend on that issue.

There were two shows on Comcast cable and one on Gary Public Access that T. Sanders was asked to be on concerning the RDA issues and the Airport that the RDA is funding.

In October T. Sanders would like a working group or a series of working groups to deal with these issues. It was also T. Sanders' plan, with board approval, to have board meetings every other month. In the off months the RDA would have a series of working group meetings on a set day and those working groups would only take place when necessary. Discussions may happen at the next meeting.

The RDA is going to be audited by the State of Indiana. The law requires that the Office of Management and Budget hire an auditing firm and the RDA will pay for that firm.

Several board members appointments are expiring this month. T. Sanders has written letters to all the appointed authorities and have advised them to make their reappointments as soon as possible.

The RDA would like to meet in Indianapolis in January 2008 during the General Assembly and invite everyone in the General Assembly to attend.

Future meetings will be discussed at a later time because of conflicting board members schedules.

**XI. Public Comment:**

A member of the public and also a member on the SEH Consulting team asked a question regarding the recent reward to the General Consultant. The question was if there are any northwest Indiana firms on the PolicyAnalytics team that will be doing the reviews. G. Olympidis asked B. Sheldrake from PolicyAnalytics to address this question. B. Sheldrake's company's headquarter is in Indianapolis; however they do have employees throughout Northwest Indiana. URS has an office in Chesterton, ODS has an office in Porter County and Hunden Strategic Partners has an office here in Northwest Indiana. One member of the team does not have an office or employees in Northwest Indiana and that is Shrewsberry and Associates, PolicyAnalytics MBE firm. They have done work throughout Indiana and the Midwest and come highly regarded. Public comment was to keep in mind the robust economy includes professional services, and if our professional services in northwest Indiana aren't selected to do the work we are losing a major component of what we could be doing though the RDA.

**XII. Adjournment:**

Without further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on August 23, 2007