

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday April 17, 2012, with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Leigh Morris, Harley Snyder, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, Ed Glover, Jeff Good, and Peter Novak. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Public Comment:** *None*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** E. Glover moved for approval of the consent agenda with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.
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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 20, 2012:</u> | Approved |
| b. <u>Minutes of the Working Group of March 20, 2012:</u> | Approved |
| c. <u>Consultant Service's Report:</u> | Approved |
| d. <u>MBE/WBE Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |
| e. <u>Buy Indiana Quarterly Report:</u> | Approved |
- V. **Action on Recommendation from Working Groups:** *None*
- VI. **Project Status Review:**
- a. **Public Comment:** *None*
- b. **Surface Transportation:** L. Martinez reiterated that NICTD and RBA working groups are now working as one unified group. This group will be referred to as the Surface Transportation working group.
- J. Nowacki requested the Board spend their money more effectively on public transportation, commenting that an entire Region will be without any means of transportation.
- i. **Update:** H. Snyder reported that in late March, he and L. Martinez met with the administrative staff of NICTD to discuss their desire to sustain a long-term marketing plan that was received. No decision has been made by NICTD at this time, but they continue to consider the proposal.
- P. Novak added that in regards to the buses they are in constant contact with the Mayor's and looking for a foundational plan for long-term funding.
- K. Dallmeyer with the RBA reported on the following:
- Monthly ridership—March 2012 there were 30,884 riders on the Lake County fixed route
 - Operating services—Operating services have doubled in ridership
 - Immediate needs—The RBA will need roughly \$10 million to continue its services
 - Long-term need—\$20 million dollars
- c. **Shoreline Redevelopment**
- i. **Public Comment:** J. Nowacki stated that the Air Show had been postponed due to the Marquette Park project being behind schedule. He asked the Board to be mindful when they state that all projects are on time and within budget.
- ii. **Update:** B. Joiner commented on J. Nowacki's comment stating that all projects are indeed on time and within budget. In all instances where we are extending grants adherence to the RDA's budget figures we remain diligent in terms to assure that is the case. Beyond a small percentage

that is allowed for over runs, there cannot be any over runs and in the contexts of our budgets we are well within line.

d. Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:

i. Public Comment: *None*

ii. Update: L. Morris commented on the strength of the partnership between the Airport and the RDA and stated that both are working collaboratively in making sure that the comprehensive business plan is the guide for all activity going forward. The RDA has such a strong focus on working diligently to make sure that these things happen in the most constructive and appropriate way possible for the Region.

S. Landry stated that all projects are still on schedule and although they are faced with many challenges they are still in line with meeting the December 2013 deadline. Bids are currently being completed at the Airport along with the signing of purchases, and sales agreement by CN has been accomplished.

S. Wheeler added that the Airport is negotiating utility/relocation agreements as well as open bid/contracts, which are currently in progress.

L. Morris reported that the key point is to get on the path to make sure that we will be seeing more planes by 2013 and although it is a critical challenge we continue to stay on that path. L. Morris also stated that he appreciated the strong leadership that is being provided by the Airport.

S. Landry gave an update on Allegiant Air and reported that 8,600 seats have been sold by Allegiant Air since opening in February and the \$1 million dollar payment from the FAA is roughly 1,400 seats away. In the month of February the load factor was 94.17% and in March the load factor increased and came in at 97.26%.

J. Good commented stating that on behalf of the RDA and the Working Group we are committed with moving forward with Allegiant and other Airlines coming to the market. This is only the beginning. We are working very diligently to push every envelope we can, and we are indeed engaged.

D. Hollenbeck reported that he had the pleasure of flying out of Gary on Allegiant Air and it was an incredibly positive experience. Holleckbeck stated that it took less than a minute from the parking lot to get to the terminal. Once on the plane he noted that it was very clean and the plane was also full. All of the passengers had positive comments.

e. Economic Development:

i. Public Comment: *None*

ii. Update: P. Novak reported that he is looking forward to forthcoming meetings and creating a policy in terms of economic development in partnership with IEDC, and is also looking forward to opportunities to continue to bring jobs to northwest Indiana.

f. RDA Administrative:

i. Public Comment: *None*

- ii. **Update:** B.Hanna stated the RDA is currently working hard to improve areas that can help raise awareness. With respect to the Marquette Plan the RDA has recently developed a web tool to help benefit and to showcase the description of the projects and their impact that they have to the region. This has been the busiest year to date for the RDA and in terms of the Shoreline Redevelopment we feel that it is time to get it out there and to show our accomplishments.

VII. Unfinished Business:

a. **Public Comment:** *None*

i. **Other:** *None*

VIII. New Business:

a. **Public Comment:** *None*

- i. **Marquette Park Plan Map:** S. Ziller presented the Board with the newly established Marquette Plan map that can be accessed at www.RDATransformation.com. The map takes a comprehensive look at RDA shoreline investments. The hope is to eventually include projects occurring within all RDA project areas. The site is currently in test-mode and should be up and running by Monday, April 23, 2012

B.Hanna thanked S. Ziller for all of her hard work and time that was put into the project. In the future we hope to provide more opportunities for the community to have interface with us and now that the shoreline is starting to come to life we don't want to miss out on the opportunity to share that with the citizens of northwest Indiana.

ii. **Other:** *None*

IX. 2012 Future Meeting Planning: The quarterly Board structure and the monthly working groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

a. **RDA Working Group Meeting, May 15, 2012** *TBA*

b. **RDA Working Group Meeting, June, 19, 2012** *TBA*

General Public Comment: J. Nowacki voiced his disappointment with the \$4 million dollar investment with CN Railroad and doesn't believe they needed RDA funds. He felt that it will deplete the city of taxes that will otherwise be owed for the taxing unit. He asked, "what do we get in return?" He understands that railroads are an important surface transportation, but they are also dangerous (referring to the derailment in Miller).

L. Morris commented on J. Nowacki's comment regarding the CN Railroad stating that the CN agreement is one of the most significant new economic development investments in northwest Indiana in a long time. The RDA's role is consistent with the policy that the Board adopted, and that is to provide gap-funding and to fill that gap to the extent that those funds are available. Without the RDA's help this transaction would not have happened. It helped bring almost \$300 million dollars in investment to the area along with the creation of 251 jobs.

T. Torres voiced her concerns about the funding for the RBA stating that in theory it was a good idea, but in its delivery it was not. She hoped that the RDA can find the courage to recognize the error and not continue to make any more mistakes. Without adequate oversight there has been a tremendous abuse of tax dollars. She believed that northwest Indiana needs a transit system, but stated that, "we need professionals to run it".

- X. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin