

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
303 Franklin Street

September 23, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Vice President William Lopez, Russ Erwin, Peter Sawochka-Dalton, and Jamie Hogan

Absent: President Allison Hultman, Beth Mehling

Also Present: Director of Development Michael Barry, Karen Spanier

Approval of Minutes

Peter Sawochka-Dalton made the motion to approve August 26, 2025 meeting minutes, with Jamie Hogan making the second.

Motion carried 4-0.

Consideration of Claims

Russ Erwin made a motion to approve claims for August and September as presented, with Peter Sawochka-Dalton making the second.

Motion carried 4-0.

Audience Participation

Reports

Building Commissioner/Director of Development

Michael Barry states we have the Environmental Review back on the Mnoke Prairie Trail and it is up on the website for 30 days. After that, we can put out for bid.

Barry mentions we have received an MOU from National Park Service for a project that is new, and we are going to meet to go over it.

At last meeting Barry noted he mentioned the INDOT I-94 Project Bridge Cost Sharing project, however they wrote it for council to sign, and it should be RDC that signs for it. Once corrected he will bring it back for review.

Old Business/New Business

Strategic Ideas Discussion

Allison Hultman had previously sent an email on some strategic ideas for discussion.

Michael Barry mentions partner with tourism assets he would like to know how. Town signs are installed we have a new website coming up shortly. Bed and Breakfast he doesn't think we have any in the town. He talked about vacant properties and what is going on. He comments on the walkability and connectivity we have four trail projects right now he is working on. The goal is to notify as many people as you can, we are looking at this concept now. He is still working on different ideas for her list.

William Lopez noted there are a lot of good points she makes on the list and asks that we table the discussion until next meeting with consensus from the rest of board.

New Business

Town Signage Project Phase 2-Brian Bugajski, director of Parks Department, mentions after a lot of work we have gotten quotes for phase 2 and phase 3 of signage project. He sent quote requests to Steindler, Landmark, and Simko for both phases. Simko asked some questions but did not send in a quote. Landmark quote came back as \$109,611.00, and Steindler quote is for both phase 2 & 3 for \$43,114.53. That would complete project with every sign asked for and includes installation.

He recommends approving Steindler for phase 2 & 3 if the Redevelopment Commission feels that it is a fair cost.

Jamie Hogan made a motion to approve quote from Steindler Signs for \$43,114.53.

Peter Sawochka-Dalton made the second.

Motion carried 4-0.

Seasonal Part Time Firefighters Update-Fire Chief Jay Craig gives an update on 70 days of staffing during the summer that the RDC paid for. Besides going on calls, they did repairs to vehicles and equipment, and trained volunteers.

They started a Tier 2 Volunteer program with some of the workers from summer joining.

Overall, it was a huge success, he got a lot more than that he has a group that took pride as firefighters and brought it to Porter. They all brought that compassion to our community.

It was a success except for the one negative. He wanted to say thank you for your support of his idea and he is hoping you will be able to support this again in the future.

Commission Comments

Russ Erwin announced that this Saturday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm the Westchester Township History Museum is doing a Porter History Month scavenger hunt. It will start at Hageman where you will get your first clue and then to the different historical buildings in Town.

Peter Sawochka-Dalton mentions the ESC is sponsoring a Monarch Butterfly Presentation at Hawthorne Park on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Peter Sawochka-Dalton made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-2.9, this meeting was livestreamed to youtube.com/porterindiana. A recording of the livestream will remain publicly available for a minimum of ninety (90) days following the date of the meeting. Meeting agendas, minutes, and any memoranda, may be viewed at townofporter.in.gov.

Approved the 28th day of October, 2025

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF PORTER

/s/ Allison Hultman, President

/s/ Russ Erwin, Secretary

/s/ Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Member

Attest: /s/ Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary