

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
303 Franklin Street
April 22, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Absent: Beth Mehling

Also Present: Director of Development Michael Barry, Clerk Treasurer Corinne Peffers, Maura Mundell and David Gilbert from Duneland Chamber, Clerk Treasurer Corinne Peffers, Town Council President Laura Madigan, Council Member Kelly Karriman, and Secretary Karen Spanier.

Approval of Minutes

Jamie Hogan made the motion to approve March 25, 2025 meeting minutes, with Bill Lopez making the second.

Motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Claims

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Audience Participation

None

Reports

Building Commissioner/Director of Development

Barry stated in January we signed a Contract with Great Lakes Engineering, and they were bought out by Schneider Engineering, so we need to sign another contract for Schnieder Geomatics

Bill Lopez made a motion to approve the Schnieder contract, with Peter Sawochka-Dalton making the second.

Motion carried 5-0.

Barry mentioned we are still waiting for the environmental on Mnoke Prairie Trail.

Barry states the Governor removed Next Level Trail funding; the word trail does not appear in budget. There is \$569,000 additional money to use from DK Trail that was not used. He spoke with RDA, and we can use that on anything that is part of DK Trail. The DK trail was originally to go from Beach to Kouts. What we did was rebrand route following Calumet trail to Brickyard Trial to DK trail. There is no way of finding anything saying what trail it is. Barry mentions that the trail committee (Bugajski, Albrecht-Mallinger, Barry) will discuss ideas and get a consensus and work on signage and upgrades for trail. The RDA wants us to spend the money, there is no timeline. He will put something together for that for next meeting. Hultman mentions we keep \$100,000 aside for future funding of Waverly & 20 trial. Lopez asked if it could be used to purchase property at Waverly & 20, Barry states yes.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Commission Comments

Hultman states Barry met with attorney, and we can use DEDC 501c3.

Maura Mundell, DEDC, on April 10 the DEDC met and approved the administration of the exterior improvement grant without charging management fee. The DEDC is requesting to make some minimal edits to application. All proposed edits will be submitted for approval by RDC and our attorney. All funds donated for Town of Porter stay in the Town of Porter.

Bill Lopez is the Town of Porter representative to the DEDC. On approval the RDC will submit funds to the DEDC, and the DEDC will write checks to applicants. She is asking to move forward with moving forward tonight. Lopez stated this might jump start the program.

Jamie Hogan made a motion to approve moving forward for the 501c3 with the DEDC for the façade grant, with Russ Erwin making the second.

Motion carried 5-0.

Hultman asks if we want to continue to pay for NWI Forum membership or investing in forum. Barry mentions it is for development for Northwest Indiana we worked with them on the Readi Grant. Maura Mundell mentions the DEDC did do their renewal.

Hultman asks if we can determine next month.

Lopez states we could get consensus to table it until month.

Hogan mentions they are very important to region, what else are we going to find out.

Jamie Hogan made a motion to approve renewal to Northwest Indiana Forum in the amount of \$687.50, with Bill Lopez making second

Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

Russ Erwin made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Approved the 27th day of May, 2025

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, OF THE TOWN OF PORTER

/s/ Allison Hultman, President

/s/ William Lopez, Vice- President

/s/ Russ Erwin, Secretary

/s/ Jamie Hogan, Member

/s/ Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Member

Attest: /s/ Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary