

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 with Chairman Leigh Morris presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Leigh Morris, Lou Martinez, Bill Joiner, and Peter Novak. Four members were present. All action is subject to ratification when a quorum is present. The votes will be considered a recommendation to the full Board.
- III. **Public Comment:** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** All were in favor of the consent agenda. D. Hollenbeck reported on the litigation between Porter County and the RDA re: Porter County effort to withdraw from the RDA. Litigation is taking place in Jasper County. Tom Fisher and Chad Duran from the Attorney Generals Office are representing the RDA. D. Hollenbeck was impressed by the judge and comfortable with the way the situation was handled. D. Hollenbeck expects a response from the judge within 30 to 60 days.
- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of 11/17/09:</u> | Pending Ratification |
| b. <u>Minutes of the Working Group of the Whole of 1/13/2010:</u> | Pending Ratification |
| c. <u>Treasurer's Report – December, 2009:</u> | Pending Ratification |
| d. <u>Consultant Services Report:</u> | Pending Ratification |
| e. <u>Executive Directors Report:</u> | Pending Ratification |
| f. <u>Chairman's Report:</u> | Pending Ratification |
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:**
- a. **Public Comment:** None.
- b. **Policy Manual:** Action was deferred until next Board meeting when a quorum is present.
- VI. **Project Status Review:** The status of each of the Working Groups, expected outcomes, actions taken thus far, major issues, and current activities are outlined in the work plan review.
- a. **Public Comment:** Bruce Schneider with the Town of Porter came to officially thank the RDA for the Town's recent grant. He stated that this will revitalize the current trail system, and the Town of Porter thanks the RDA for helping to make this possible.
- Mayor McDermott with the City of Hammond thanked the RDA again for funding that aids in the construction of connectivity, but also helping to develop regionalism in an area cut into several different segments while giving the ability to obtain unsustainable land and bike trails. He stated that the quality of the Board and staff is exceptional. He also commended the governor and the general assembly that created the RDA. The City of Hammond continues to meet MBE/WBE requirements and will continue to strive to do so.
- b. **Lakeshore Redevelopment:**
- i. **SEH Marquette Plan Update:**
1. **Portage Lakefront Park:** Greg Calpino presented the RDA Board with a plaque re: 2009 Outstanding Park Development from the Indiana & Recreation Association. G. Calpino also discussed the Burns Waterway, beach/waterfront, pavilion/concession, and the Marquette Greenway Trail.

2. **Whiting/Hammond Lakefront:** Kerry Keith discussed the Whiting park trail connector. He also discussed Hammond initiatives as they relate to the following:
 - a. Lake Michigan
 - b. George Lake
 - c. Wolf Lake
 - d. Forsythe Park
 - e. Connectivity to Illinois
 - f. Land Pedestrian Bridge

 3. **Marquette Greenway Trail:** AJ Monroe discussed the Marquette Greenway Trail as they relate to the following:
 - a. Broader Trail System
 - b. Diverse Corridor
 - c. Connecting Communities
 - d. Linking RDA Initiatives and Projects
- ii. **Whiting Application for Financial Support:** Mayor Stahura with the City of Whiting presented the primary features of the cities application for financial support and loan request:
1. BP Investment
 2. Diversify the Economy
 3. Residential Growth
 4. Economic Opportunities
 5. Quality of Life
 6. Renovations of Whiting Lakefront Park
 7. Connectivity to Trail System
 8. Lake Michigan Shoreline Access
 9. Wetland Areas re: Gaining Land
 10. Wihala Beach
 11. Retail Opportunities
 12. Increased Traffic
 13. Railroad Corridor Quiet Zone
 14. Green Development
 15. \$2 million Loan Request re:

B. Joiner offered a recommendation to receive the Whiting application and loan request for further review; seconded by L. Martinez. \$19,445 million for financial support and \$2 million loan request.

B. Hanna stated that he is working with the city to narrow the scope and stretching the resources. B. Hanna also complimented the Mayor and his staff.

L. Morris stated that there is an obvious effort to utilize private investments which will also have a positive effect.

c. **Regional Bus Authority:**

- i. **Update:** T. Brown updated the RDA on the transition plans regarding the consolidation of the Hammond Bus Service. The public input sessions are gaining fantastic input. RFP's for ads are going out February, and responses are due by March 26th.

The Express Bus ribbon cutting is scheduled for January 27th.

T. Brown stated that idea's regarding the connectivity with the RBA and NICTD is to bring back bidders that will do routes at a ½ hour bases, early am/pm and at an hourly bases from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- ii. **RBA Application for Financial Support:** T. Brown stated that the RBA received a request from PACE and UPS. UPS has asked that transit options be reassessed through consolidation, elimination or transition for their Gary and East Chicago Routes.

They are requesting a two year commitment of approximately \$121,000.

B. Hanna issued concerns directed towards PACE re: funding operations. Some items need to be reviewed.

L. Morris recommended moving to staff and consultants for further review by the Working Group with a second by B. Joiner.

- d. **Expansion of the Gary Chicago Airport:** L. Morris reported that major efforts regarding the L&B Business Plan are moving along as planned and a working draft is expected in the next 30 days.

Chris Curry reported that The RDA and GYY are working closely on the L&B Business Plan. C. Curry also discussed the rail relocation of Canadian National Railway, formally EJ&E.

- e. **Extension of South Shore Commuter Service:** *None.*

VII. **Unfinished Business:**

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

- b. **MIC Coordinator Job Search:** B. Hanna reported that the background check is complete, and will offer the position to the candidate within the next week.

- c. **MBE/WBE Quarterly Report:** D. Rosetti reported that the Gary East project will not be in compliance for Phase I and presented the Board with an Exemption Request.

B. Joiner recommended no action with a second by P. Novak. All were in favor. B. Joiner offered rolling the difference into the second phase.

L. Martinez requested “overall totals of projects” on page 6 of D. Rosetti’s Quarterly Report.

- d. **Other:** *None.*

VIII. **New Business:**

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

- b. **Other:** L. Morris stated that the RDA is a co-conveyor along with NIRPC, the Forum and 21 additional stakeholders in discussions as they relate to Cline Avenue. The stakeholders are working with the four mayors to help establish a single voice for enhancing structures in northwest Indiana while addressing current needs.

IX. **Other Business:**

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

b. **Other:** *None.*

X. **Future Meeting Planning:**

a. **2/23/2010:** Purdue Technology Center, Crown Point.

b. **3/23/2010:** TBA

XI. **General Public Comment:** None.

XII. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on February 10, 2010