

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 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. Carmen Fernandez arrived following the consent agenda. Five members were then present.
  - III. **Public Comment:** *None.*
  - IV. **Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was not approved.
    - a. Minutes of the Board Meeting of 2/23/10: Pending Ratification
    - b. Minutes of the Working Group Meeting of 2/23/2010 Pending Ratification
    - c. Minutes of the Special Session of 3/2/2010 Pending Ratification
    - d. Treasurer's Report – March, 2010: Pending Ratification
    - e. Consultant Services Report: Pending Ratification
    - f. Sources and Uses Report: Pending Ratification
    - g. Executive Directors Report: Pending Ratification
    - h. Chairman's Report: Pending Ratification
  - V. **Action on Recommendations from Working Groups:** *None.*
    - a. **Public Comment:** *None.*
  - 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:** Mayor McDermott discussed the Hammond Transit issues, and stated that we need to begin thinking outside the political boundaries and focus on the quality of life of the citizens of northwest Indiana. He thanked the RDA along with the RBA for their support.
    - b. **Regional Bus Authority:**
      - i. **RBA Application for Financial Support:** Tim Brown presented the Hammond Transit application for financial support. He discussed the following:
        - 1. Ridership
        - 2. Input sessions
        - 3. Hammond Area Transit Survey
        - 4. Northwest Lake County
          - a. Regional Routes
          - b. Local Routes
        - 5. Funding Request
          - a. \$5.8 Million
        - 6. Distributed RFP to Evaluate the Following:
          - a. Restoring Saturday Service
          - b. Extension of Hours
          - c. Transit for Commuters
- H. Snyder asked if the ridership has increased.
- T. Brown stated that it has not increased tremendously, however they sold more monthly passes to senior citizens in one week than the whole prior year.

H. Snyder asked how students were being transported to school in the areas discussed.

T. Brown stated that the students either walk or ride public transit in the Hammond school system. At Morton School in Hammond, roughly 30 students a day ride public transit.

H. Snyder questioned the projected ridership.

K. Dallmeyer stated that the RBA projects 250,000 riders annually. This is based on where they believe the growth is and will increase as people get use to and understand the services. With this plan we will have direct services that will reach out to a new market.

H. Snyder questioned what population are the buses servicing?

Ken Dallmeyer stated that it would be servicing most of North Township.

B. Hanna re-stated some of the things the RDA and RBA have discussed; they talked about getting people where they need to go on a regional and local basis, a revision of the service, while also consolidating certain functions. B. Hanna asked T. Brown to describe what areas are being consolidated. B. Hanna also asked T. Brown to affirm that what we're building is a sustainable corner piece for a consolidated transit systems in northwest Indiana. We want to be certain that those areas that we are investing in will not only be useful now, but adaptable to other systems in the future.

T. Brown confirmed B. Hanna's statement. This particular plan does not have a lot in terms of east-west routes. At some point they will need to do a southern east-west route as an additional regional route. T. Brown is hopeful that this services an area that has not had or seen transit in a long time and has a potential for ridership.

H. Snyder stated that with the understanding that December 31, 2011 ends the operational funding of the RDA, does the RBA feel that these actions will carry past December 31, 2011. If so, how and why?

T. Brown stated that if this is successful and we see more high quality transit on the road, we will be able to expand services and prove to the local legislature that this is a service that needs to be continued. The true example for operating dollars going forward is legislation at the state level.

H. Snyder stated that it becomes incumbent upon the RBA to make people aware of what you are doing, and prove your worth and the asset that can be here to serve the public.

B. Hanna wanted to remind everyone that there is a date certain under we will end operational funding. Our goal was to develop something that really represents the needs of northwest Indiana. The RDA is not in the position to fund operations and funding in perpetuity. Identification of federal funds and leverage was also discussed, along with bringing all partnerships together. The RDA would like to work with the RBA and some of the resources to continue to try to identify sources available aside from that which has already been articulated and have that amount taken off the RDA's total cost. We have seen some progress with para-transit addressing the means of the citizens and we want to reinforce the need to work within the dissent decree. The recommendation is subject to comments from the fiscal task force.

B. Hanna stated that the fiscal task force was created to make sure the RDA is managing their cash flow as tightly as possible and leveraged to the highest degree possible. B. Hanna's recommendation is to fund this application under the conditions and duration based on the fiscal task force. The RBA will work with the RDA to produce a fiscal report for the next Board meeting that allows us to talk about past awards and current awards and the fiscal status of both along with the potential to reduce the award through additional partnerships. Finally, the RDA requires compliance with the dissent decree.

B. Joiner stated that the fiscal task force discussed the need for Policy Analytics to go back and review past grants to make sure the RBA is in compliance. Also any dollars put into capital infrastructure; everything would be looked at from a long term perspective, which will accommodate a regional expansion.

L. Morris stated that there is a necessity from a contracting standpoint for a funding plan for two years.

T. Brown broke it down into a two year time frame because the costs were lower.

L. Morris with the stipulation described by B. Hanna and B. Joiner he moved approval of the recommendation advanced by B. Joiner. With a second by P. Novak.

B. Joiner stated that when looking at it from a fiscal and cash flow standpoint we need to remain mindful that we will need to maintain due diligence in funding all future projects.

Roll Call Vote on the Motion:

C. Fernandez	Yes
P. Novak	Yes
B. Joiner	Yes
L. Morris	Yes
H. Snyder	Yes

The recommendation was approved with the stipulations described above.

*c. **Lakeshore Redevelopment:** None.*

*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 final draft will be available to the public in May, 2010.*

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

**VII. Unfinished Business:**

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

*b. **RBA: Approval of Hammond Phase II Funding Request:** See “Public Status Review – Regional Bus Authority” for discussion dialogue.*

*c. **City of Whiting Acceptance of Fiscal Plan:** B. Kark reported that the City of Whiting was able to move some of the work in the harbor area to the latter part of the project and this shift should accommodate the needs of the RDA and will not delay any of the work on the lakefront project. The plan is workable and the City of Whiting would appreciate review and acceptance by the RDA.*

The City of Whiting has been cooperative without compromising the project. This does not need Board action; this is just merely a report. Without objection the RDA would be able to move forward.

B. Joiner asked if the City will continue to seek federal funding.

B. Hanna confirmed that the City of Whiting will seek stretching the contributions made by the RDA by seeking local and federal dollars.

H. Snyder requested periodic reports on the financial monitoring of the City of Whiting.

B. Hanna confirmed that these reports would come to the RDA Board on a quarterly basis.

- d.* **Cline Avenue:** Mayor McDermott addressed his concerns regarding INDOT's position not to rebuild the Cline Avenue Bridge. He commented on the proposed Riley/Dickey Road route through East Chicago referencing five railroad tracks and one Draw Bridge that delay travel for potential Airport traffic and Hammond residents.

L. Morris stated that the RDA has a direct interest in this decision which is the access to the Gary/Chicago International Airport. The Airports potential can not be reached unless we improve the highway access to the Airport, it's an absolute necessity. I would defy you to find any successful Airport where you have to go through the torturous route that you have to go to reach the Gary/Chicago International Airport. Whether our purview goes beyond that to comment on other aspects of the Cline Avenue proposal, I would welcome discussion from the Board. On that particular issue, in L. Morris' opinion, the RDA has a very strong and very direct interest in influencing the decisions of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Leigh requested any desire for formal expression from the Board on the Cline Avenue situation.

P. Novak stated that he would like to see the RDA take a position on L. Morris' comments. The RDA talks a lot about access to the Gary/Chicago International Airport. In addition, many of the RDA's lakeshore plans are affected by the Cline Avenue closure.

P. Novak made a motion for the RDA to state their position against the plan that is being proposed and ask INDOT to reconsider the issue.

There was no second to the motion, and will not be considered at this time.

B. Joiner stated that he would have seconded P. Novak's motion, but asked if it would be possible for the RDA to sit down and talk with INDOT about this issue in terms of the Airport and the RDA's shoreline and transportation investments.

P. Novak amended his motion to include B. Joiners recommendation. He requested that it be expedited considering INDOT's intentions to move quickly.

All were in favor of the motion, and the motion was approved.

- e.* **Buy Northwest Indiana:** B. Hanna reported that the RDA currently adheres to the Buy Northwest Indiana statute. However, the RDA does not have language specifically other than saying it's a priority to Buy Northwest Indiana. The RDA desires to explain to our grantees the priority of making sure the offer is made to northwest Indiana.

B. Hanna recommended adopting language that requires reporting from the grantees along with the MBE/WBE's along with their purchases from northwest Indiana and also to include the notice and response for northwest Indiana businesses and their processes, to ensure that public dialogue is taking place to circulate public dollars.

The recommendation was so moved by B. Joiner with a second from H. Snyder. All were in favor of the motion and the policy will be developed and added to the RDA's Policy Manual.

- f.* **RDA Financial Audit:** B. Hanna reported that the RDA financial audit has been distributed to the Board and reviewed by the Fiscal Task Force. The audit was helpful and was constructive at the highest level of

fiscal scrutiny. This is so that we can assure to the people we are operating at the highest level. There were no material weaknesses found, only recommendations. The performance audit is currently underway.

- g. **MBE/WBE Quarterly Update:** D. Rosetti reported that all grantees are doing a great job. There was a couple of reports late getting in, but unable to amend the report to reflect changes. The project status shows percentage of completion, and if not on target, ODS requests additional data and monitors closely.
- h. **Announcement of the Marquette Implementation Coordinator:** B. Hanna announced that Kathy Brown has been appointed the Marquette Implementation Coordinator.
- i. **Other:** *None.*

**VIII. New Business:**

- a. **Public Comment:** *None*
- b. **Marquette Park East Draft Preliminary Strategies Report:** J. Baldin and C. Meyers reported on the following aspects of the Marquette Park East lakefront project:
  - i. Opportunity Analysis
  - ii. Resource
  - iii. Stakeholder Interests
  - iv. Marketplace
  - v. Project Vision
  - vi. Project Goals & Objectives
  - vii. Master Plan
  - viii. Capital Recommendations
  - ix. Long Term Implementation Projects
  - x. Capital Improvements & Maintenance Plan
  - xi. Operational Recommendations

B. Hanna appreciates the presentation and working relationship with Gary. He would like the City to work more closely with the RDA in identifying additional federal funding.

C. Meyers stated that they are aggressively seeking additional funding.

B. Joiner offered motion that the conservancy management approach be added to the 11 projects, and we would ask Chris and the team to develop a timeline, and come back to the RDA and ask that the coordinator and policy analytics perform the follow-up so that we can monitor. Second by C. Fernandez.

H. Snyder would like to see cost on the operational revenue and operational cost summaries.

J. Baldin said the annual budget is \$2 million.

H. Snyder would like to see as information as apart of the motion is that you looked at other conservancies for comparisons.

C. Meyers stated that information is in

B. Joiner and C. Fernandez agreed to H. Snyder's additional language. All were in favor of the motion and the motion was approved.

- c. **Budget:** B. Hanna is requesting acceptance of the budget, while making all efforts to be efficient. Most of what we have is designed to bring more leverage in. Policy Analytics has done an analysis of the RDA's budget against similar budgets. The federal budgets allow 10% of overall budget, while state budgets allow 6%. The RDA is currently at 4.3%. The goal is to under spend the budget.

B. Joiner offered a motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by H. Snyder. All were in favor of the motion and the budget was approved.

- d. **Ethics Training:** S. Shabaz reported that the State of Indiana requires all staff, board and consultants to participate in the ethics training. It begins May 3<sup>rd</sup> and ends May 21<sup>st</sup>. You can complete the training online; instructions are included in the packet via email. S. Shabaz will be the ethics coordinator.
- e. **RDA Orientation: June 3, 2010:** Bill Hanna reported that the RDA will be hosting an information session on June 3, 2010 at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville. It is designed to communicate with the public with what expectations and describing process improvements. We want to take advantage of this time to stress our values, and what to consider when putting together an RDA proposal.
- f. **Review of 2010/2011 Planning Calendar:** L. Morris stated that this is the RDA's yearlong efforts. If there are any suggestions the staff should be informed and the calendar updated.

- g. **Other:** *None.*

**IX. Other Business:** *None.*

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

**X. Future Meeting Planning:**

- a. **5/18/2010:** Purdue Technology Center
- b. **6/22/2010:** Porter County, IN

**XI. General Public Comment:**

D. Hodges discussed the Marquette Plan and marina considerations in Gary. He also stated that he is impressed with the riverwalk in the Miller area.

Mark Kalwinski expressed his gratitude to the RDA for their investment to the City of Hammond.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Huber on May 3, 2010