

RDA Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

200 East Main Street, Suite 910, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 & Zoom

In Attendance: Jeff Turner, Andrew Briggs, Gene Donaghy, Bob Marshall

Staff in Attendance: Michael Galbraith, Erin Whittle, Andy Boxberger, Vanessa Hurtig, Ryan Twiss

Call to order

Gene Donaghy called the meeting to order at **2:51pm**.

Approval of Minutes

Gene Donaghy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. **Jeff Turner moved to approve the minutes, Andrew Briggs seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Claims

One claim was presented for Carson Boxberger. **Bob Marshall moved to approve the claim, Jeff Turner seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Projects-Pending

Michael Galbraith provided an overview of the Road to One Million Projects. There were no disbursement requests.

- Great Lakes Capital – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- University of Saint Francis – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Trine University – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Embassy Theatre – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- DeKalb County YMCA – Complete and funding fully disbursed
- Little River Trail – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Manchester Early Learning Center – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- North Buffalo Street Redevelopment Project – Under construction and has partial funding disbursement. There will be a per-unit funding disbursement as the units are completed. **Construction of the fountain has been completed.**
- Regional Trails in Fort Wayne – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- South Adams Trails – Project under construction and funding in escrow with INDOT. Still drawing down from the escrow account.
- Enterprise Center Phase I – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- UB Block – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Posterity Scholar House – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Michiana Event Center – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- The Landing Redevelopment – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- The Clyde Theater Renovation – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Riverfront Park Fort Wayne – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Eagles Theatre – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Wabash River Trail – Funds have been partially disbursed, project under construction. Phase 1 is complete. Phase 2 is underway.
- Fahl Aquatics Facility – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Strawberry Valley Cultural Trail – Complete and funds almost fully disbursed. Phase 1 and 2 are complete and are ~\$10,300 under disbursed budget.

- Fishing Line Trail – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Kendallville Outdoor Recreation Center – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Grow Wells County – Partially complete and funds partially disbursed. 5 of 6 scheduled disbursements complete.
- CASS Housing – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Community Learning Center – Complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Enterprise Center, Phase II – Construction complete and funding fully disbursed.
- Hanna Nuttman Fields – Complete and funding fully disbursed.

READI Program

The RDA instructed Michael Galbraith and the Regional Partnership to better understand the opportunity presented by the Governor with his statewide Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) Program.

Jeff Turner made a motion that the RDA apply for the READI Grant in the amount of \$50 million. Bob Marshall seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jeff Tuner made motion to approve the proposed consulting agreement to retain the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership to provide services to apply for a READI Grant with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, with up to \$125,000 to be expended to retain a third party consultant and up to \$25,000 for related expenses incurred by the Regional Partnership. Bob Marshall seconded and discussion ensued. Andy Boxberger noted that an adjustment will be made to the proposed contract to clarify the payment breakdown, as reflected in the motion stated, as well as include a statement that the RDA will make its best effort to sign an additional agreement with the Partnership to assist with managing the READI grant should the RDA be awarded a READI grant.

Ellen Cutter, Vice President of Economic Development at Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., spoke about the proposed consultant for the READI plan development, TIP Strategies, Inc. Greater Fort Wayne Inc. has engaged TIP Strategies for its community development strategy, currently underway. Much of the research conducted for the Fort Wayne and Allen County strategy will translate directly to the READI proposal.

The motion on the table was unanimously approved.

The intent to apply needs to be filed with the IEDC by July 1 with the final READI application due on August 31, 2021.

Financials

Erin Whittle, contract CFO, presented the financials. The audit has been submitted to the state. Gene Donaghy called for a motion to accept the financials. **Andrew Briggs made the motion to accept the financials, Bob Marshall seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via roll call of all present.**

New Business

Craig Snow has submitted a resignation for his board seat on the RDA. This resignation creates a vacancy for the membership to fill. Michael Galbraith outlined an election process, including election of a new Vice President from the existing body. **Jeff Turner nominated Andrew Briggs to serve as Vice President. Bob Marshall seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Gene Donaghy called for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Turner made the motion to adjourn, Andrew Briggs seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via roll call of all present virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm.