

RDA Meeting

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Archbold-Wilson Park Pavillion in Ossian, IN

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

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

Call to order

Gene Donaghy welcomed to new board member, James Khan, and called the meeting to order at **2:05pm**.

Approval of Minutes

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

Claims

Two claims were presented, one for Carson Boxberger and the second for reimbursement to the Regional Partnership for administrative expenses including the audit, an insurance premium and costs associated with the READI application. **Bob Marshall moved to approve the claim, Jeff Tuner seconded** and called to question the amount of the audit and source of funding for the READI expenses. Erin Whittle, contract CFO, provided information on the audit expenses and confirmed that the READI expenses are being paid through the interest money the RDA has accrued, as approved by the IEDC. **The motion to approve the claims 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. About 50% finished. New multi-story family homes in progress.**
- 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. **Still in progress.**
- 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. **Anticipate completion this fall.**
- 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 – **Project complete and requesting distribution.** The project owner provided an update on the project, which is part of a 65-acre park. The RDA funds specifically went toward the construction of the pavilion/amphitheater, which are complete and have already been used a number of times this year, as well as the Wall of Gratitude and the playground. Gene Donaghy called for a motion to approve the disbursement request. **Bob Marshall made the motion, Andrew Briggs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**
- 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

Michael Galbraith provided an update on the creation of the READI Program application. All 11 counties have submitted projects through their LEDOs for consideration for the Regional Development Plan, which will serve as the READI application. TIP Strategies has been contracted by the Regional Partnership on behalf of the RDA to assemble the Regional Development Plan. The deadline for application to the IEDC has moved from August 31 to September 30. For Northeast Indiana, everything remains on track to submit ahead of the deadline. The plan will ask for the full maximum amount of \$50 million in READI grant funding.

The September RDA meeting will occur as an Executive Session working session with TIP Strategies, followed by a public board meeting later in the month for any action to be taken.

Financials

Erin Whittle, contract CFO, presented the financials. The budget looks very different from the actual results because of the additional READI expenses. **Bob Marshall made the motion to accept the financials, Andrew Briggs seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

New Business

Andrew Boxberger, legal counsel to the RDA, presented recommended bylaw amendments for consideration to clarify the process of election of board members. The statute is vague on the process which has led to some confusion. The recommendations included changing to majority of RDA members to fill a vacancy rather than two-thirds and added language to allow action taken at a meeting with quorum to be considered official action. No action was requested by counsel at this point. Andrew Boxberger and Michael Galbraith will follow up with the members of the RDA to present the amendment recommendations as a proposal to gain their feedback. The members of the RDA were defined as the elected executives of the 11 counties and 17 second- and third-class cities in the region.

Gene Donaghy called for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Turner made the motion to adjourn, Andrew Briggs seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.