

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1998
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman Bob Trelo called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman
George Carlson
William Tanke
Steve Davis
Robert Trelo
Charles Agnew
Emerson Delaney

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWArmstrong
RaeAnn Rockhill - The Times
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Ken Smith - IDNR
Howard Anderson - Griffith
Eloise Gentry - Urban League of
Northwest IN

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
James Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

The minutes of the March 5, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from George Carlson; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - On behalf of the Chairman, Bob Trelo extended his condolences to Dan Gardner on the loss of his father.

Chairman Trelo reported that an Officers meeting was held on March 31st to set topics for a retreat meeting.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board members that he was invited to speak at Governor's State University at a Third Annual Open Space Congress meeting. He referred to their agenda contained in our packets. It was a very interesting session. He was able to meet Congressman Weller from Illinois and met his staff person who deals with water projects. Cong. Weller was very instrumental in establishing the Calumet Ecological Park study. Most of the people in attendance were not familiar with the Little Calumet River project and were quite interested.

Mr. Gardner distributed COE letter on request for additional \$300,000. Now that the COE is able to obtain another \$2 million of federal money, they need \$300,000 as additional 5% cash contribution. With this additional money, the recreational features construction will be assured to be completed this summer.

Mr. Gardner referred to several letters in packet from Col. Gerber addressed to Senators Lugar and Coats and Congressman Visclosky. The letters addressed affected property owners in project area and concern expressed by Munster regarding pump stations in their town.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion directing staff to start condemnation proceedings on DC107 and DC512 as a last resort; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew stated that we have some closure gate materials stored at 35th & Chase. There is some additional space that we can use for storage but we need to remodel that section on the west side of the building first. Mr. Agnew made a motion to accept quotes to remodel this area and give work to the lowest quote received; motion seconded by Bob Huffman after he added an amendment to the motion capping the remodeling work at \$7,000; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to roll over the current leases we have with the Northwest IN Foodbank, Gary Dunlap and Dale Nimetz; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously. It was discussed that the Bults would put in a pump and then that cost of a pump would be deducted from their total lease amount. At this time, we do not have a lease with the Bults. Mr. Gardner added that property in the flood area have provisions in the lease that they will accept flood waters and will not pump in flooding times. It is good to have a tenant on that land so it doesn't become a dumping ground. Attorney Casale recommended we amend the leases to read "license agreements" instead of "leases".

Mr. Agnew also stated that a COE Real Estate meeting was held on March 18th.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman made a motion to approve using Steve Truchan to do preliminary engineering for landside drainage in the Stage III area for a cost of \$3,000; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion to use Cole & Associates to do the location survey work for the 3 hotels west of Cline Ave. for a cost not to exceed \$8,942; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion to approve a mitigation proposal for Griffith (Kortenhoven) levee west of the EJ&E RR that requires approximately 9 acres of mitigated land from us; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. We need to work with the

COE and the town of Griffith to develop legal documentation to assure that land be managed at the developer's expense. Mr. Gardner showed on a map where the levees were in that area. By Kortenhoven building this portion of the levee, it is a significant contribution to the project. Even though the Commission would be contributing 9 acres of land for mitigation (they need this commitment for permit approval), it is still a real money-saving contribution if Griffith puts in that portion of the levee.

Legislative Committee - In Committee Chairman Roger Chiabai's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He informed the Board that he went before the State Budget Committee on March 25 for approval and release of \$2 million of 91-93 Build IN funds. He also referred to the news article on the Congressman's request for \$9 million for this next year for Little Cal. President Clinton's budget had \$5.3 million earmarked for Little Cal.

Marina Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the marina report and referred to the status update report from Abonmarche. He referred to letter from the LMMDC to the State Budget Deputy Director stating the outstanding Portage claims needing payment are over \$600,000. Although the total \$2 million request for Portage has not been approved yet; payment of the claims were approved so contractors can be paid and construction of Phase II can continue. Mayor Maletta has been asked to give a marina presentation at the next State Budget Committee meeting in April.

Mr. Tanke also reported that there has been no meeting date set yet to meet with the city but he hopes that will happen very soon.

Finance/Policy Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson gave the financial report. He went over the financial statement and budget report and proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial status statement for January and February and approve the claims for payment totaling \$46,589.18; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion approved unanimously. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the COE \$300,000 request for 5% additional local cash contribution; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Recreational Development Committee - Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney gave an updated report on the recreational features going in now that the weather has been cooperative.

Ox-Bow area - About 60% construction is completed. They expect completion by mid-May. Boardwalk is going in now; all stoning and prep work is completed. Hammond will schedule a groundbreaking once construction is complete.

Gleason Park - About 55% complete. Fishing pier and observation deck is completed as well as culverts rip-rap and drainage ditches. Picnic shelter, bike racks, signage and trails north of 30th Avenue still need to be done; trail paving and parking lot paving will be done april 20th. After prep work is done, paving and re-surfacing of 30th Avenue will be done.

Lake Etta - About 70% complete. Fishing pier, canoe launch and parking lot stoning is completed. Clay ramp over levee is complete; stoning of the ramp will be done by end of April. Parking lot will be paved, striped and bumpers installed.

Chase Street trail - About 50% complete. Parking lot and trail have been graded and stoned; fine grading and paving need to be done yet. Safety guardrail between trail and Chase Street needs to be addressed by COE office.

Minority Contracting Committee - In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Mr. Gardner reported that staff is continuing to press the COE for a more defined and aggressive definition of "good faith effort" in regard to minority workforce and subcontracting. The Commission itself continues to attempt to utilize qualified local minority services whenever it can. Recently, Maximilian Title Company of Gary has been contracted to perform title work for the Commission. We also continue to refer area contracting firms to "Partners in Contracting", an agency housed within NIRPC that assists contractors with Federal construction programs.

Other Business - Mr. Gardner referred to Planet Blue Media Services letter in packet. This is the company making an aerial video tape of the project area. Mr. Tanke added that he made the helicopter flight with them over the project area. They will meet soon to add narrative to the video tape. He passed aerial photographs around that he took.

Statements from the floor - Eloise Gentry, Excutive Director of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, addressed the Board regarding several issues. She asked the Commission to look into the possibility for volunteers to raise greens in the area east of the Urban League building. In the past there had been sewage problems in the area. She asked whether th COE had assured us that these had been corrected. Mr. Gardner responded we will look into it. He also commented thatthose lines are the property of the Gary Sanitary Disrict and any problems should be directed to them.

Additionally, Ms. Gentry asked if the Commission could again attempt to set up a meeting with Whiteco regarding the re-installation of a sign along Broadway that had been removed by

Whiteco as a result of the levee construction. This sign had previously generated some income for the Urban League. Mr. Gardner indicated we would write to Whiteco.

Ms. Gentry also asked about the completion schedule for the levee construction across the street from the Urban League on Broadway. She indicated dust from the construction site had been blowing across the road and dirtying her building. Mr. Pokrajac indicated by the current schedule, the structural portion of the levee was complete and that landscaping of grass, bushes and shrubs would be going in as soon as weather permitted, mid-summer at the latest.

Eloise also commented on the portion of the land owned by the Gary Park Dept. across the street on Broadway. She asked what is planned for that area. Mr. Gardner responded we are continuing to work with the Gary Park Board toward pursuing a driving range and other recreational improvements in the area.

She also commented that she was happy about the recreational facilities going in at Lake Etta and Gleason Park.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, 1998.

/sjm