

**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
LORAIN PORT AUTHORITY
December 9, 2014**

Committee: Mrs. Cook; Messrs. Brown (6:25 p.m.), Davila (6:09 p.m.), Sommers and Williamson, Jr.

Board Members: Ms. Carr; Messrs. Mullins and Bansek (6:40 p.m.)

Staff: Richard Novak, Executive Director

Guests: Rick Payerchin - Morning Journal

- I. **Roll Call** - The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Committee Chairman Neil Sommers. Roll call indicated a quorum was present.
- II. **Disposition of Minutes.** The minutes of September 9, 2014 Strategic Development Plan Committee Meeting were presented for approval. Motion by Mr. Williamson, Jr. to accept the minutes. Support by Mrs. Cook. Motion carried.
- III. **Report of Chairman.**

A. Mr. Novak presented a proposal to the Committee for the Board to pass a Resolution supporting the City's efforts to establish a "Community Entertainment and Arts District." Mr. Novak stated the Entertainment District allows for reduced costs for liquor permits, which is another economic development tool. This would attract businesses and allow existing businesses to stabilize themselves and allow different options for entertainment purposes. This is a very large area, encompassing a large portion of the Community. A map of this District was presented.

A Motion was made by Mr. Williamson, Jr. to present to the Board a Resolution concerning the City of Lorain's efforts to establish a "Community Entertainment and Arts District" in the Downtown area. Seconded by Mrs. Cook. Motion carried.

B. Black River Landing Request for Proposals. Mr. Novak summarized the proposal to allow for a submittal of a "Request for Proposals" to be disseminated to developers for development of the southern portion of the Black River Landing site. He indicated that the Staubach Report completed several years ago had recommended that certain steps and initiatives be taken by the City and Port in order to attract potential developers. He added that the City and Port have completed various steps toward that goal including eliminating the transmission towers, which previously bisected the waterfront and hindered development, initiated over \$30 million in road repairs,

established a county wide Land Bank Program and captured the Rockin' on the River Concert Series from Cuyahoga Falls. Mr. Mullins queried if the land was to be sold or leased. Mr. Novak responded that it would depend upon the nature of the development. Mrs. Cook indicated that she would be opposed to selling the land. Ms. Carr stated that a decision to possibly sell the land should not be dismissed since certain caveats and development thresholds could be included with a Purchase Agreement.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Cook to present to the Board the Request for Proposals for Black River Landing. Seconded by Mr. Brown. Motion carried.

IV. Other Business – None.

V. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Strategic Development Plan Committee, Mr. Williamson, Jr. made a motion to adjourn. Support by Mrs. Cook. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Neil Sommers, Chairman

Richard M. Novak, Executive Director