The Board of Directors met at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at the Regional Enterprise Tower, Pittsburgh, Pa. in the O’Neill Conference Room. Present were Board members: Chair, Mr. Dan Griffin, Mr. Stan Parker, Mr. Rick Pierchalski, Ms. Dusty Kirk, Dr. Dan Rosen, and Ms. Connie Yarris. Chief Counsel Mr. Jim Norris, Executive Director, Mr. David Donahoe, staff and members of the public and media were also present. Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Act and By-laws and the agenda was posted on the District website the week prior to the meeting.

Public Hearing and Comment Period

As required by law, the Chair opened the meeting for public comment prior to proceeding with the agenda. As no one had signed up to speak, the meeting continued.

The Chair welcomed the visiting two students from Chatham University.

Minutes

The first item on the business agenda was consideration of the minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2011, which were distributed to members previously.

As there were no additions/corrections, Mr. Parker moved approval of the minutes from February 22, 2011. Mr. Pierchalski seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Pierchalski gave the following report:

Board Members:

Tax revenue for the first quarter of the year totals $20.7 million or 5.5% higher than the same period last year. These months reflect sales in November and December of 2010 as well as January of 2011. It is the best first quarter in the history of the county sales tax, largely attributable to the strong holiday sales period last year as well as renewed consumer interest in auto purchases.
Expenditures for the two months at just over $18 million are consistent with budget. Larger grant payouts occur later in the year so positive cash flow is important during the first half of the year. Also, the second quarter revenue is expected to be lower than last year. The state began its push to collect delinquent taxes in the second quarter of 2010 so the returns were inflated as those payments came in.

Interest income, once an important factor in the District budget, is expected to be less than $6,500 during the quarter. Just three years ago interest earnings in the first quarter of the year were $245,000. Rates on the products the District is permitted to invest in remain at historic lows and are expected to stay there through this year.

The annual audit of the District should be completed before the next board meeting and the Audit Committee will review it with the auditors and report to the board at that time.

Submitted by
Rick Pierchalski, Treasurer

As there were no questions, Mr. Griffin asked that this report be received and filed.

*Executive Director’s Report*

The Chair called on Mr. Donahoe for his report.

a. Mr. Donahoe explained that in the grant agreement with the Sports and Exhibition Authority (SEA), the District was permitted to set a schedule for inspection of the facilities funded by the RAD guaranteed bond issue. The SEA was requesting a revision to the current schedule for inspection of Heinz Field and PNC Park from a July 1 submission date to August 1 to accommodate inspections during better weather.

In regard to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, The Sports and Exhibition Authority requested that the District accept the receipt of the periodic inspections reports related to (1) general structural review, (2) cable roof system, and (3) glass window walls as satisfaction of the requirements of Section 4(f) of the 1999 Agreement. The Center received its first proceeds from the refunding bond issue approved last year and no previous schedule had been established. Mr. Donahoe introduced Ms. Mary Conturo, Executive Director of the SEA to answer any questions.

In response to Ms. Kirk’s question, Ms. Conturo said all inspections would be due December 31 of the designated year. Mr. Griffin was informed that RAD does receive copies of all inspection reports and that they are fully reviewed by RAD staff. In response to Mr. Pierchalski’s question, the engineers determine the frequency of the glass window walls inspection.
Ms. Kirk asked Chief Counsel if the vote required six members. Mr. Norris said that a majority of the members would be required. Mr. Pierchalski also inquired whether Mr. Donahoe had sent a letter to the Mayor requesting an appointment to the Board. Mr. Donahoe stated that he had sent the letter and so far has received no response.

Mr. Pierchalski motioned approval of the Sport and Exhibition Authority’s request that the due date for PNC and Heinz Field inspection reports be changed from July 1 to August 1. Ms. Kirk seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Pierchalski moved to approve the Sport and Exhibition Authority’s request to accept the receipt of the period inspection reports related to (1) general structural review every five years, (2) cable roof system every three years, and (3) glass window walls as recommended by the Authority engineer as satisfaction of the requirements of Section 4(f) of the 1999 agreement (as amended) regarding the Convention Center. Ms. Yarris seconded this motion the Board followed with unanimous approval.

b. Mr. Donahoe presented the long range plan for the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium for 2008 to 2012 a copy of which is on file at the District’s Office. The Zoo was represented by Ms. Jackie Vincunas, CFO. A copy of this report is on file at the District office. Approval of this plan was recommended by staff.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion/questions.

In answer to Ms. Kirk’s question, Ms. Vicunas answered that the proposed animal health center would not make a profit and that it was not open as a hospital for the public although some educational programs will take place at the facility. Dr. Rosen asked if the Zoo education programs were prepared for decreased funding from the state. Mr. Donahoe informed him that the Zoo’s education programs were not funded directly by the state. Mr. Griffin stated that while RAD money represented a decreased percentage of the Zoo’s budget, the actual dollar amount had not decreased. Ms. Yarris moved approval for the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium’s long range plan with Ms. Kirk seconding the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

c. Mr. Donahoe presented the long range plan of The Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) from 2011 to 2013. Marilyn Jenkins, Executive Director and Kimberly Hrvanek were present to represent ACLA. A copy of this report is on file at the District Office. Approval of this long range plan was recommended by staff.

As there were no comments/questions from the Board, Ms. Kirk motioned for approval of ACLA’s long range plan with Ms. Yarris seconding the motion and the Board voted unanimous approval.

d. Mr. Donahoe presented the City of McKeesport Regional Park’s long range plan for 2011 to 2015. Mayor Regis McLaughlin, Mr. Dennis Pittman, City Administrator and Mr. Jim Brown, Recreation
Director were present representing The City of McKeesport’s Regional Park. This long range plan is on file at the District Office. Staff recommended approval of the McKeesport Regional Park’s long range plan.

Mr. Griffin stated that capital grants were only available at certain times and that the Allocations Committee would determine the availability of capital grants.

Mr. Pierchalski moved approved of the City of McKeesport Regional Park’s long range plan with Ms. Yarris seconding the motion to approve. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

e. Mr. Donahoe updated the Board on the status of the electronic application. In answer to Mr. Griffin’s question, Mr. Donahoe stated that prior applications would not be available on the new electronic system. He also said that close out reports were available for the prior three years.

Old/New Business

Mr. Griffin stated that all remaining Board meeting will start at 3:00PM instead of 3:30PM. No one objected to this change in start time of the Board meetings.

Adjournment

Mr. Griffin reminded all that the next board/advisory board meeting will be April 28th at the O’Reilly Theater. There being no further business, Mr. Griffin adjourned the meeting at 4:20PM.