

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, March 15, 2007
Nebraska – Able Room
Mahoney State Park
28500 W Park Hwy, Ashland, NE.

Commissioner Attending: Rich Jansen, Marsha Babcock, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Jim Grotrain, Dave Neilsen, John Plucknett, Jeff Weak, Ernie Abariotes, Ron Melbye, Brenda Gunn, Tim Gilligan, John Winkler
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Ken Svoboda, Inez Boyd, Mary Ann Borgeson, Marlin Peterman, Chuck Sigerson, Phil Mullin,

Visitors: Jack Stannard, Mike Siedschlag, Bruce Sackett, Katie Torpy, Randy Lenhoff, Mark Bowen, W. Cecil Steward, Dustin Asher, Mary Ferdig, Greg Youell, Dave Kotak, Rodney Verhoeff, Steve Oltmans, Jarel Vinduska, Kimberly Stuhr, Bob Twiss, Leslie Peterson,

Vice-Chair Brenda Gunn welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:11PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chair Gunn asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Weak and 2nd by Commissioner Melbye to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved.*

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Gunn asked for approval of the 2/01/07 NIZC minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Jansen and 2nd by Commissioner Gilligan to approve the minutes as distributed. Motioned approved.*

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:15pm.

At this time community member Bob Twiss, Gretna commented on the need to comply with public comment on agenda items.
See no public comments at this time; Vice-Chair Gunn closed the public comment period.
The Public Comment Period closed – 7:17 pm.

LB 488 – Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:40pm

At this time, Bob Twiss, Gretna wanted to comment on an agenda item not listed on the agenda, LB 391.

Public Comment Period for LB 488 closed at 7:42pm.

LB 565 – Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:45pm.

Jeff Weak, spoke during the comment period for Wild Escape Theme Park – also provided a handout and brief presentation. Questions were asked if the community of Gretna has been involved in the process, and if the developer needs LB 565 to pass in order to further the projected plans.

W. Cecil Steward of Lincoln, Lb 565 can be both good and bad when preserving landscapes; money has to come from somewhere.

Bob Twiss, Gretna, in connection to other legislation, LB 565 is also relevant statewide. Gerald Vinjesk, Gretna, wanted everyone to be informed that critical decision regarding environmental issues and development will be discussed at the Sarpy County board meeting on March 20.

Seeing no other comments at this time, Vice-Chair Gunn, closed the comment period.

Public Comment Period for LB 565 closed at 8:02pm

Executive Director Report

Copies of the 2006 NIZC Annual Report were available for distribution. 2007 legislative roster was available for Commissioners.

McKillip has been applying and researching grant funds that NIZC may qualify for. These funds are necessary in order to move the Commission forward in developing a regional comprehensive plan.

As always – I hope everyone is receiving the emails. If there are additional correspondences that I need to be aware of and add to the list please let me know. Hard copies in the mail have been eliminated to only those specifically requesting them. Remember, if you are a guest, please sign in and provide contact information so that the Commission can keep you updated and informed.

Agenda Item: NIZC Committee Reports

No committee reports at this time. Committee's did not meet.

Economic Development & Marketing Committee: Chair Mullin & Chairman Ken Svoboda

The next committee meeting date is undetermined at this time.

Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Committee: Chair Petermann

The next meeting for this committee is undetermined at this time.

Planning & Infrastructure Committee: Chair Sigerson

The next meeting for this committee is undetermined at this time

Transportation & Logistics: Commissioner Kotsiopoulos

The next meeting for this committee is undetermined at this time

Other Business

At this time, seeing that there was no other Commission business. *Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Weak. Motion approved by consent.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC