

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, August 2, 2007
Quarry Oaks Golf Course – Club House
28500 W. Park Hwy, Ashland, NE.

DRAFT

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Jim Grotrain, Dave Nielsen, Marlin Petermann, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Ernie Abariotes, Ron Melbye, Brenda Gunn.

David Potter – alternate, Tim Gilligan – alternate.

Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Marsha Babcock, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Phil Mullin, Jeff Weak, Bernie Heier.

Visitors: Jack Stannard, Paul Mullen, Brad Stauffer, W. Cecil Steward, Bob Twiss, Steve Oltman, Doug Bisson, Mike Siedschlag, James Ruhge, Randy Lenhoff, Ted Seldin.

Chair Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:07PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Svoboda asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Boyd and 2nd by Commissioner Petermann to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

Approval of Minutes

Chair Svoboda asked for approval of the 5/03/07 NIZC minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Petermann to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed, 8 yea's and 4 abstentions; those abstaining – Commissioners, Borgeson, Nielsen, Plucknett, and Sigerson.*

Commissioner's RFP Phase -1 Proposal Report & Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding the RFP proposal. It is important to determine the vision of Mahoney, Schramm and Platte River State Parks within the corridor as well as the vision of the Nebraska Department of Roads. Current meeting dates have been established with stakeholders, and elected officials regarding perceptions and visions within the corridor. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the Sarpy County Presentations regarding the Beltway study as to not duplicate the process. One proposal really represents 4 companies, a collaborative proposal. There was one letter from a local company stating why they did not submit a proposal and their willingness to assist in the regional design process. The RFP Scope of Work information

has been publicly available for three months, so turn around time for RFP proposal should not have been a factor.

Motion made by Commissioner Petermann and 2nd by Commissioner Sigerson, that the NIZC RFP Review Committee recommends that the Executive Director and Director of NDED be authorized to negotiate a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. based upon the proposal submitted by “the HDR Team” for a Phase I Study for the Development of an NIZC Regional Comprehensive Plan, up to a maximum not to exceed amount of \$184,400, and subject to approval of the contract by the project Grantees. Motion passed unanimously 12-0.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:20pm – Beginning Discussion of Phase 1-RFP Proposal.

Mike Siedschlag – Mr. Siedschlag wanted to express that NIZC has demonstrated cooperation and HDR, Olson Associates, and RDG wanted to do so as well, by developing a proposal that also demonstrates corporate collaboration. The biggest challenge is to complete the entire package of the scope of work. However, everyone is excited to move this project forward and work together.

Paul Mullen – Mr. Mullen with MAPA, wanted to report that MAPA is also an EDD or recently designated Economic Development District, by the Economic Development Agency – and is anxious to collaborate with NIZC and publicly wants to offer complete cooperation and collaboration with NIZC and the consultants selected for the RFP Proposal.

Brad Stauffer – Mr. Stauffer, with the Gretna Chamber of Commerce, was like to state that the Chamber is supportive of the State of Nebraska endeavors within the corridor and NIZC. It is important to re-iterate at this time that communities maintain local control and support NIZC proposal.

Bob Twiss – Mr. Twiss from Gretna, comments on public meetings and process of NIZC commissioner appointments/elections.

At this time, seeing that there was no other public comments, Chairman Svoboda, closed the public comment period.

Public Comment period closed at 7:25 pm

Public Comment Period opened up at 7:37pm for potential comments from the public regarding the selection of the submitted proposal that addressed the RFP-Phase 1.

Public Comment Period closed at 7:40pm – seeing no comments. Discussion continued with NIZC Commissioners.

Executive Director Report

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.

Currently considering grant applications for additional funding that would need to be submitted in September, 2007. To date we have not heard from USDA regarding the RBOG grant status, hopefully this will news will be released by the end of August, 2007.

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 Svoboda and 2nd by Commissioner Melbye. Motion approved by consent.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC