

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, September 5, 2007
Platte River State Park – Mallet Lodge
144231 346th Street, Louisville, NE.

DRAFT

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Dave Nielsen, Marsha Babcock, Marlin Petermann, Ken Svoboda, Ernie Abariotes, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Jeff Weak, Bernie Heier, Brenda Gunn, Tim Gilligan – alternate.
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Phil Mullin, Chuck Sigerson, John Plucknett, Jim Grotrain, Rich Jensen, Jeff Weak, and Bernie Heier.

Visitors: Paul Mullen, Doug Bisson, Tim Stuart, Time Weander, David Black, Rebecca Horner, David Kotak, Marty Schukert, Steve Miller, Ellen Fitzsimmons.

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 9-1 with 1 abstention from Commissioner Heier.*

Approval of Minutes

Chair Svoboda asked for approval of the 8/02/07 NIZC minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Borgeson and 2nd by Commissioner Petermann to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed, 9 yea's and 1 abstentions; abstaining – Commissioner Heier.*

Commissioner's RFP Phase -1 Proposal Report & Discussion

Introduction and presentation of the HDR Team that included specifics areas of target and activities in relationship to the Phase 1 plan. The Team discussed general background information, the project scope, and public participation process, opportunity for participation, project context and timeline. Discussion from Commissioners included concern to include and invite the agricultural community to the focus groups, former NIZC Committee members, stakeholders, and other elected officials and/or their staff members. NIZC Committee members should be encouraged to participate on a focus group that is not the same topical matter that they participated in before, as to enlighten themselves in another subject. Commissioners also suggested utilizing I-80ideas.com as a method for a web base survey to include additional community member opinions.

Focus groups are targeted to begin meeting in October 2007. HDR Team is anticipating hosting 12-15 at this time, within the targeted area. Commissioners were given assignment of providing names of potentially interested participants to be invited to participate in the focus group discussions. Commissioners and public members are encouraged to contact HDR Team for any additional information, or thoughts regarding the Phase 1 process.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 8:10pm.

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

Public Comment period closed at 8:10pm

Executive Director Report

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.

The Commission and NDED submitted another grant application September 4, 2007, decision regarding this application will not occur until spring 2008. The Commission and NDED were notified that the grant application to USDA regarding RBOG funds was approved, and the full amount was awarded. These funds are to assist in the development of a Regional Comprehensive Plan.

NIZC Executive Director, Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as NDED Director Richard Baier have attended several meetings with stakeholders and elected officials. The meetings were very well received, and there is a great deal of interest in the Commission and the creation of a Regional Comprehensive Plan.

At the October 4, 2007 NIZC meeting it will be time to elect the NIZC Chair and Vice-Chair. Nominations-suggestions can be made ahead of time or made from the floor at that meeting.

The League of Municipalities is coordinating the efforts of the Class I & II communities' representation.

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. Motion approved by consent.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC