

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, October 4, 2007
National Guard Camp Ashland- Memorial Hall
Ashland, NE.

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Marsha Babcock, Marlin Petermann, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Jeff Weak, Jim Grotrain, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Ron Melbye, Brenda Gunn, Tim Gilligan – alternate.
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director, Richard Baier, NDED Director.

Members Excused: Phil Mullin, Dave Nielsen, Rich Jensen, Bernie Heier.

Visitors: Doug Bisson, Ellen Fitzsimmons, Brad Stauffer, Jessica Preister, Connie Anderson, John Knapp,

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 Borgeson, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

Approval of Minutes

Chair Svoboda asked for approval of the 9/06/07 NIZC minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2nd by Commissioner Petermann to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion passed, 8 yea's and 4 abstentions; abstaining – Commissioner's Grotrain, Plucknett, Sigerson, Melbye.*

Commissioner's RFP Phase -1 Proposal Report & Discussion

Doug Bisson and Ellen Fitzsimmons presented an update regarding the progress being made with the Phase I project. Focus Groups dates have been set for Oct. 24th and Oct. 30th at Mahoney State Park. HDR Team members and other NIZC participants will also attend the 2015 vision session in Lincoln on Oct. 18th to gather information from that public meeting and incorporate it into the project. The HDR Team is still seeking community member names and participants to represent several categories for the upcoming focus groups. Please forward any participant names to Ellen Fitzsimmons. A email was sent to all former NIZC committee members, and participants from any of the NIZC events asking for participation in the focus groups meetings. HDR is working on the completion of a web survey to assist with the focus group component.

Election of NIZC Chair and Vice-Chair

The only nomination that has been received for the position of NIZC Chair, was Commissioner Gunn. Nominations for Vice-Chair included Commissioner(s) Sigerson, Petermann and Kotsiopoulos. These nominations were sent to Kathy McKillip prior to the Oct. 4, 2007 meeting. *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Gilligan to cease nominations. Motion passed.*

After Richard Baier counted the ballots, it was announced that the NIZC Chair was Commissioner Gunn and Vice-Chair was Commissioner Kotsiopoulos. Congratulations were exchanged and a standing ovation for outgoing Chair Ken Svoboda for his work as Chair the past 2 years.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:50pm.

Community member John Knapp, ask that the Commission include as many as possible community members for the focus group meetings.

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

Public Comment period closed at 7:51pm

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 Nebraska Environmental Trust received more than 98 grant applications. They will announce in Feb. 2008. NIZC is one of those applications.

If Commissioner's are interested in scheduling meetings with the ED, it has been scheduled to meet with community members, business owners, non-profits, etc on Wednesday afternoons each week.

The 2008 NIZC Legislative Luncheon will be held Jan 9, 2008.

The December 6th NIZC meeting is cancelled as prior years, we do not hold a meeting in the month of December.

USDA is requesting a formal check presentation with Congressman Terry and Congressman Fortenberry the second week in November. All Commissioner's will be invited to attend as soon as the date is set.

A public thank you to Ken Svoboda as Chair was made regarding his support, meeting availability, and hard work this past two years.

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

The Federal Fly-In was a great success and several NIZC Commissioners attend the event held in Washington DC – this event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion occurred about the potential move of the State Fair Park and its relationship to NIZC's comprehensive plan.

Richard Baier provided an update from NDED about how our state rankings are receiving national attention in several categories. These are all very positive steps and as a state we need to be better about bragging a little with regards to what we have to offer.

Congratulations and additional comments were stated regarding the good work and success that NIZC has had, and to keep moving forward.

Commissioner Melbye regretfully submitted his resignation. This resignation will be effective January 2008. It is Commissioner Melbye's concern that other representation can/ and should occur from Class II communities. Commissioner Melbye expressed his appreciation of the hard work that the Commission has accomplished.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC