

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, November 1, 2007
Mahoney State Park – River View Lodge
Ashland, NE.

DRAFT

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Marsha Babcock, Rich Jansen, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Jeff Weak, Jim Grotrian, Chuck Sigerson, Ron Melbye, Brenda Gunn, Tim Gilligan – alternate.
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director.

Members Excused: Phil Mullin, Dave Nielsen, Bernie Heier, Ken Svoboda, John Plucknett, Marlin Petermann, and Ernie Abariotes.

Visitors: Doug Bisson, Ellen Fitzsimmons, David Black

Chair Brenda Gunn 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 Gunn asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Boyd, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.***

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gunn asked for approval of the 10/04/07 NIZC minutes as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Grotrian and 2nd by Commissioner Melbye to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion approved by consent.***

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. Input from Focus Groups was discussed. More than 100 participated in the 12 different topical groups. Concern was expressed by NIZC Commissioner's regarding, how to involve more landowners and how participants were targeted for the focus groups. Discussion regarding how to include more city planners, and planning agencies into the process, as a result the Planning Agency Roundtable is scheduled to occur in November to include this group of participants. The mid-term grant report is due December 31, 2007. Commissioner's requested to review the report prior, or by Dec. 15th in time for discussion at the Jan. 3, 2008 NIZC meeting. Other Focus Group comments included the need to develop a Foundation that would coordinate the development of a "business/corporate park" and also to assist with other public projects within the corridor.

The Web survey should be up and running in December and hopefully will involve more community input. It was suggested that the survey be available for a minimum of two weeks.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 8:05pm.

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

Public Comment period closed at 8:06pm

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 2008 NIZC Legislative Luncheon will be held Jan 9, 2008. Deadline for regret is Dec. 21, 2007 – invitation will go out the first week in December, a draft is available for Commissioner inspection.

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

The League of Municipalities is coordinating the efforts of the Class I & II communities' representation, it is hopeful that the elections will be conducted and results concluded before the end of the year, so that new Commissioner's can start in January, 2008.

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

Commissioner Melbye regretfully submitted his resignation. This resignation will be effective January 3, 2008. It is Commissioner Melbye's concern that other representation can/ and should occur from Class II communities. Commissioner Melbye expressed his appreciation and thanks to fellow Commissioner's regarding the hard work that the Commission has accomplished, and complimented the on the groups wealth of leadership and commitment to the Commission's mission and challenges that the Commission has overcome and the potential to create change. Commissioner Melbye expressed the willingness to be of any future assistance to the Commission regarding support and participation.

Commissioner Grotrian expressed an interest and request to ask NDED staff member Joseph Young, Legislative Coordinator, and/or Richard Baier, NDED Director, to attend the Jan. 3, 2008 meeting as to provide an insight to the 2008 Legislative session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC