

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, January 4, 2007
E.T. Mahoney State Park, River View Lodge - Ashland

Commissioner Attending: Inez Boyd, Mary Ann Borgeson, David Potter- alternate, Marsha Babcock, Ron Melbye, Phil Mullin, John Plucknett, Dean Bussing, Jim Grotrian, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, John Winkler, Chuck Sigerson, Bob Workman, Jeff Weak, Dave Nielsen, Ernie Arbariotes – alternate for Jeff Quist, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Brenda Gunn, Kyle Hutchings, Jeff Quist.

Visitors: Rodney Verhoeff, Bruce Sackett, Jack Stannard, Scott Voichoskie, Cecil Steward, Fred Che (?) spelling unclear due to hand writing, Tim Stuart, Larry Jacobsen, Jim Swensen, David Ochsner

Chairman Ken Svoboda 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

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Weak to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved.*

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of both the 11/02/06 monthly Commission and 11/09/06 NIZC Vision session minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2nd by Commissioner Boyd to approve both sets of minutes as distributed. Motioned approved.*

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:15 pm.

Cecil Steward, Director with the Joslyn Castle Institute, reported on the Sept. Charrette event held in conjunction with JCI, NIZC and AIA-Nebraska. More than 40 attendee's participated in the I-80 corridor project. JCI has been editing the project information since Sept. January 2007 a final report the six projects within the Charrette's will be available on the JCI website, which is also a Link on the NIZC website. A request was made to the Commission to allow for a presentation on the agenda for the I-80 Charrette report at the NIZC February or March 2007 monthly meeting.

See no other public comments at this time; Chairman Svoboda closed the public comment period.

The Public Comment Period closed – 7:45 pm.

Executive Director Report

Kathy McKillip distributed a Commissioner survey for Commissioners to complete addressing the Commissions work the past year.

The Annual Report is in the works and a draft will be available the end of January for Commissioners to review. Input from Commissioners is important so please contact McKillip to share thoughts and suggestions.

The Senators Reception has been scheduled for Feb.1. 2007, with NIZC holding a brief meeting afterwards. Invitations to Senators will be hand delivered with follow up calls and other invitations are to be mailed Jan. 16th. Senators are to RSVP the event.

McKillip has been meeting with Patty Wood NEDED Marketing Director regarding update in the NIZC brochure into a 2nd phase, keeping it current. Also, if Commissioners would like to see any additions or changes with the website, it is currently up for review. Photos of Commissioners will be taken this evening to be placed on the website for those who currently do not have a photo. Bio's need to be sent to McKillip by Jan 16th – in order to update the Commissioner file, otherwise information from the County Board and Commissioner resume will be used.

McKillip noted that should the Commission agree, meeting for 2007 would continue being on the 1st-Thursday of each month, unless public notices states otherwise.

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 Gilligan

The next meeting for this committee is undetermined at this time

Agenda Item: NIZC Legislative Packages

There is no Legislative package at this time, NIZC is to watch and monitor Legislative activity and discuss further at the February meeting.

In-Kind Support and Funding sources

There is an opportunity for NIZC to submit a proposal for funding towards a regional comprehensive plan with the Economic Development Agency – with the Department of Commerce. Kathy McKillip will be working on the proposal in January and submitting it at the end of the month. Additional information should be available by the March NIZC meeting. Commission Chair Svoboda, Commission staff, and representatives from NEDED presented information regarding the Commission at a meeting in Denver with the staff of EDA.

NIZC Annual Report

McKillip asked Commissioners for input regarding the Annual Report, which will be presented to the Governor and Legislative body in February. Commissioner comments included;

1. We have abided by the Open Meetings Law every month, and have continuously provided a public comment period,
2. Committee structures are in place and have included community members and have good participation,
3. We are seeking outside funding and are willing to consider in-kind donations to assist with projects
4. We continue to have strong attendance at meetings

Additional information regarding the past year will also be included.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC