

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission  
Board of Commission Meeting  
7:00PM, January 3, 2008  
Mahoney State Park – Red Oak Room  
Ashland, NE.

**DRAFT**

**Commissioner Attending:** Marsha Babcock, Inez Boyd, Rich Jansen, Pete Kotsiopulos, Jeff Weak, Jim Grotrian, Dave Neilsen, Marlin Petermann, John Plucknett, Phil Mullin, Brad Stauffer, Brenda Gunn, Tim Gilligan – alternate, Mark Stursma – alternate, David Potter –alternate.

Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director, Richard Baier – NDED Director, Joseph Young, - NDED.

**Members Excused:** Bernie Heier, Ken Svoboda, Chuck Sigerson, and Ernie Abariotes.

**Visitors:** Doug Bisson, Ellen Fitzsimmons, Steve Miller, James Ruhge (sp? unsure), Tim Weander,

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 Boyd and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Jensen, 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 Jensen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Weak to approve the minutes as distributed. Abstentions; Babcock, Neilsen, Pucknett, Stauffer. Motion approved by 8 to approve with 4 abstentions.***

#### **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. Provided a mid-term report for Commission's to review on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Currently, this plan is targeted for completion by the end of February. The web-survey has done very well, and the promotional piece in the OWH and LJS provided the opportunity for additional community currently not involved with the process to participate. Commissioner's expressed a need to have the survey linked to area young professional groups. The HDR Team will provide a 5-7 minutes presentation for the Senator luncheon on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. January 23, 2008 is the Planners Roundtable, where city administrator's or city planners will have the opportunity to discuss and submit ideas, and thoughts for growth strategies for the Corridor region. This meeting will be held at

National Army Guard – Camp Ashland. Commissioner comments included, that strong effort needs to be made to seek input from as many organizations, businesses, community members, and elected officials as possible and to continue promoting the web survey as a viable option for participation. The web survey is schedule to be up through the month of January, 2008. Commissioners ask questions about the potential cost of Phase II and if there are any guestimates available.

### **Public Comment Period**

#### **Public Comment Period opened at 8:28pm.**

James Ruhge addressed the Commission about the potential to develop the area with a good plan, and look for the opportunities that exist in economic development. He expressed support for the Commission and the work being completed.

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

#### **Public Comment period closed at 8:35pm**

### **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. To date we have 31 Senator's that have responded stating that they will be attending, plus 3 staff members. This is a strong number and great response – several others declined the invite due to pre-scheduled events.

We welcome three new Commissioner's; Brad Stauffer – Gretna, representing Class II cities, Mayor Ronna Wiig, Ashland – alternate for Class II cities, Mark Stursma, Papillion – alternate for Class I cities. These Commissioners's were elected through an election process coordinated by the League of Municipalities.

### **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**

Commission Chair, Gunn, introduced and welcomed Richard Baier, and Joseph Young with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. A report regarding the Tax Rate Review Committee was distributed and discussion about seeking additional funds for Phase II, followed. It was suggested by Mr. Baier, that the Commission must find another way to seek additional funding, because, NDED will not be seeking additional legislative funding support for the Commission. Commissioner comments included, would a Senator be interested in supporting a funding request for NIZC, and what would that request look like. It was suggested and supported by each fellow commissioner, to have the NIZC Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Chairs, meet to develop legislative bill language that potentially would include a monetary request from the Legislature for the NIZC, Phase II – Regional Comprehensive Plan, completion. This of course would have to be created and have a Senator sponsor within the first 10 days of the session.

Commissioner Mullin expressed an interest in discussing the State Fair and what role the Commission should participate in regarding the public discussions, suggestions, etc. It was requested by Chair Gunn, to place the State Fair on the Feb. 2008 meeting agenda, to provide an additional opportunity for discussion.

At this time, seeing that there was no other Commission business. *Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Babcock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Petermann. Motion approved by consent.*

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy McKillip  
Executive Director - NIZC