

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, August 7, 2008
Mahoney State Park – River View Lodge
Ashland, NE.

DRAFT

Commissioner Attending: Paul Cook, Mayor Tim Gilligan, Tom DeLong, Pete Kotsiopulos, Dr. Jack Huck, Marlin Peterman, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Jeff Weak, Brenda Gunn, Mark Stursma.
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director, Richard Baier – NDED Director.

Members Excused: Marsha Babcock, David Potter, Bernie Heier, and Ernie Abariotes.

Visitors: Paul Mullen, Leslie Peterson, Randy Lenhoff, Marian Maas, John Knapp, Steve Eveans, John Kreuoft (spelling unsure), Jim Rughe, Steve Oltmans.

Chair Brenda Gunn welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:01PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Gunn asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2nd by Commissioner Plucknett, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved 12- 0.***

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gunn asked for approval of the 05/01/08 NIZC minutes as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2nd by Commissioner Svoboda to approve the minutes as corrected and distributed. Abstentions; Sigerson. Motion approved with 11 to approve and 1 abstention.***

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:05pm.

Seeing know one interested in speaking at that time, Chair Gunn asked for a motion to close the public comment period. ***Motion made by Commissioner Svoboda and 2nd by Commission Peterman to close the public comment period Motion approved by consent.***

Public Comment period closed at 7:06pm

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.

K-10 tour for the Commission was a great success and the K-10 Association has offered to come visit us or provided the Commission with additional staff support, presentations or any other helpful items as requested.

The Phase I final report is available to be downloaded off of the NIZC website. For a CD copy please contact NIZC to request one.

All fall meetings have been scheduled and are posted at the bottom of the agenda each month – adequate notice has been provided.

NIZC has received official notice that Saunders County Board has nominated and approved the representation of Paul Lienke, Mayor of Ashland and Tom DeLong as NIZC Commissioners, replacing Dean Busing.

Commission, K-10 – Discussion

General discussion began regarding the K-10 Tour. Comments expressed support the framework that has been developed. Commissioner Gilligan stated that the K-10 area in distance is relative to the I-80 corridor of study, and that the tour and presentations were very informative. Gilligan then encouraged Commissioners to have a further vision of more than 2-3 years, to more like 20-30 years when the Commission begins recommendations. Commissioner Kotsiopoulos reported that his time was well spent on the K-10 tour and that he was impressed with the cultivation over time that the reputation and respect that the local entities had achieved. There was established evidence of joint credibility without enforcing jurisdictions to comply, leadership was half public and half private participation and that the K-10 Association was comprised of 60 -70 members including county municipalities, legal, employers, developers, and public administrators. Commissioner Peterman added his thoughts that the tour was inspiring and demonstrated a consistent long term commitment to good development. It was especially interesting that the Association operates as an advisory board, has worked well to distribute opinions and support. Commission Gunn added that she was impressed and likes the idea and identity of a trademark for the corridor. Richard Baier, (NDED) also stated that the presentations on the tour demonstrated a strong use of tax abatement and that is very aggressively used within the K-10 corridor. Baier added that the Association was very selective about how the corridor was defined, supported by strong interactions between cities with design standards, as well as how interesting it was that the Chambers were working jointly together, such as the Omaha and Lincoln Chambers do also to promote regional projects. An additional item of note was the need for smart design standards of business parks, corridor trademark, and protection of specific areas. Additional comments were provided by tour participants', Steve Oltman, Jim Rughe, and Paul Mullen.

Commissioners added that it would be very beneficial to invite the K-10 group up for an informational session for those who were unable to attend.

Closing Comments

Commissioner Plucknett -suggested that we invite the K-10 group to come up and host an informational session.

Commissioners Gunn – the Sept. 2008 agenda, should direct the Commission to focus on 2-3 top priorities for the next 6 months.

Commissioners Sigerson- is interested in finding out or gathering information on the study that is being done regarding the development between St. Joseph. MO and KC as a model not to repeat.

Commissioner Plucknett – NIZC should target jurisdictions this fall to update them on our progress and findings.

Commissioner Svoboda – updates could also be done to some entities via email or through the League of Municipalities, such as hosting an informational reception or booth at the League’s fall 2008 conference in LaVista.

Commissioner Gunn – possibly there could be a fall press release that would include a summary of the past year and fall focus for NIZC.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC