

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, Marsha Babcock, Dave Nielsen, Marlin Petermann, John Plucknett, Brad Stauffer, Mark Stursma, David Potter

Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director, Richard Baier – NDED Director.

**Members Excused:** Bernie Heier, Ernie Abariotes, Mary Ann Borgeson, Rich Jansen, Kyle Hutchings, Peter Kotsiopoulos, Dr. Jack Huck, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Jeff Weak, and Brenda Gunn.

**Visitors:** Paul Mullen, John Knapp, Jim Krance, Jack Stannard, Tim Weander, Jim Rughe, Norma Nelson, Steve Oltmans.

Acting Chair as appointed by Chair Brenda Gunn for the meeting, Marling Petermann 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 Petermann asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Babcock, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved 9- 0.***

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Peterman asked for approval of the 08/07/08 NIZC minutes as distributed. ***Motion made by Commissioner Babcock and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Delong to approve the minutes as corrected and distributed. Abstentions; Babcock, Nielsen, Stauffer. Motion approved with 6 to approve and 3 abstentions.***

#### **Public Comment Period**

**Public Comment Period opened at 7:10pm.**

**John Knapp:** Springfield, Would like to request that there be an opportunity for public comments after each agenda item instead of only 1 time during the meeting. Exit 426 does not deserve special protection. It is already mostly protected by Game and Parks Commission and is not any more special than any other exit in the area.

**Jim Krance:** Omaha, There still needs to be a great deal of attention and consideration regarding the potential for a large body of water for recreational purposes. This is a huge market that must be considered and is untapped for the area. Is the Commission ever going to address the issue of lake within the metropolitan area, this would be a great economic development project. Could this topic be placed on the November, 2008 agenda for discussion?

*Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Stursma to place Jim Krance on the Nov.6, 2008 agenda. Motioned approved, 9-0*

Seeing know one interested in speaking at that time, Chair Petermann asked for a motion to close the public comment period. *Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commission Cook to close the public comment period Motion approved by consent.*

**Public Comment period closed at 7:24pm**

### **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.

There are several public presentations being scheduled for this fall to update communities and elected officials on the Phase I study findings. If you are interested in having me present at your board meeting, please let me know and I will make the arrangements.

Currently working on bringing the K-10 group to the Corridor area for additional thoughts and discussion for the NIZC Commissioners, this will probably be in November.

### **Commission Discussion**

The Commission began discussion regarding the prioritizing of the top 3 areas to focus on for the next six months. A ballot was distributed to aid the Commissioners in making a priority selection of projects, 1-10 with 1 having the most priority.

Richard Baier, NDED, tabulated the results.

Selections ranked were:

- 1 – Establishing design standards for the Corridor.
- 2 – Development of an infrastructure and Utility regional multi systems plan.
- 3- Begin the replication process of a like-minded K-10 Association for the Corridor

3 – Define Corridor boundaries.

Others topics following behind the top 3 were: Protection of Exit 426, Development plans for a Green Corridor, Development of a Corridor Trademark and Marketing Plan, Increased transportation opportunities including rails and trails, tax incentive packages to assist in cross county projects, legislative issues to aid in the regions economic growth.

Absent Commissioner will also be provided the ballot and be asking to email results back to Kathy McKillip.

***Motion made by Commissioner Plucknett, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Babcock, to take the top two highest ranked projects and start preparations for recommendations by the Oct. 2008 meeting, motion approved, 9-0.***

General discussion began regarding other areas of importance, such as what the final phase for NIZC will look like. From a Legislative issue, Commissioner Cook asked, what type of funding options are available as a package that communities can put together? Can the funding playing field be leveled out between cities and counties to encourage inter-local agreements? TIF needs to be used more for counties. Commissioner Stauffer added that there is a great need to have “sites” ready with infrastructure, so infrastructure is critical. Richard Baier added that there needs to be buy-in from the communities and the counties to move this process forward and encouraged the Commission to ask Kathy McKillip to make multiple presentations through out the fall of 2008. Commissioner Gilligan added that the Commission needs to begin thinking about how to carry this process long-term, or thinking about the K-10 Association process, in addition keep in mind that a computer rail system should be added somewhere in the mix.

### **Closing Comments**

Commissioner Plucknett -suggested that we find a way to focus on tax incentives to assist in regional growth.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy McKillip  
Executive Director - NIZC