

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, October 2, 2008
Mahoney State Park – River View Lodge
Ashland, NE.

DRAFT

Commissioner Attending: Paul Cook, Tom DeLong, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Marsha Babcock, Dave Nielsen, Marlin Petermann, Ken Svoboda, Jeff Weak, Ernie Abariotes, Brenda Gunn, Mark Stursma.

Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director.

Members Excused: Bernie Heier, Mary Ann Borgeson, Rich Jansen, Kyle Hutchings, Dr. Jack Huck, and Chuck Sigerson.

Visitors: Jarel Vinduska, Kevin Anderson, Tim Weander, Kandi Srb, Mike Sledschlag, Jim Ruhge, Jell Poley, Pete Pirsch, Paul Mullen, Connie Anderson.

NIZC 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 Svoboda and 2nd by Commissioner Nielsen, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved 11- 0.***

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gunn asked for approval of the 09/04/08 NIZC minutes as distributed. Corrections made to the minutes were to strike and remove the 5th sentence in the last paragraph, “***TIF needs to be used more for counties***” as it was not correctly recorded. In that same paragraph, the last sentence should state “***commuter rail system not computer rail system***”. ***Motion made by Commissioner Nielsen and 2nd by Commissioner Svoboda to approve the minutes as corrected and distributed. Motion approved by consent.***

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:10pm.

Jeff Poley: Mr. Poley addressed the Commission as a representative from Pro-Rail Nebraska. The organization, along with Mr.Poley, is interested in supporting the discussion and development of a commuter rail line between Omaha and Lincoln. Mr.

Poley asked that the Commission keep this topic in the forefront of discussions when it comes to long term planning.

Seeing no one interested in speaking at that time, Chair Gunn asked for a motion to close the public comment period. *Motion made by Commissioner Weak and 2nd by Commission Svoboda to close the public comment period Motion approved by consent.*

Public Comment period closed at 7:12pm

Executive Director Report

If there are additional correspondences that McKillip needs to be aware of and add to the list please let her 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.

Between Sept. 26, 2008 and November 24th, 2008 there will be 26 presentations made to local government entities and organizations regarding the Phase I study, and updates regarding the Commission.

Commission Discussion

The Commission began discussion about the NIZC planners and zoning focus group that was held on Sept. 29, 2008. The following information was provided by those who attended, Commissioners Stursma, Delong, and Kotsiopoulos. Commissioners shared information that included; the need to define area boundaries along I-80, avoid duplication of infrastructure, develop design standards that are not too difficult so that local jurisdiction can support them and incorporate them, utilize the First Principles from the Phase I study, each jurisdiction wants and needs to collectively contribute to the process.

General discussion began regarding other areas of importance, such as the replication of the K-10 Association as an option for NIZC to hand off the existing process as NIZC prepares to sunset in 2010. Succession is a priority and discussion began surrounding the idea that the K-10 Association be targeted for replication for NIZC. K-10 Association is a good blend of public and private participation. Commissioner Kotsiopoulos suggested that NIZC invite the Governor and state senators to the K-10 session when the session is held. Commissioner Svoboda suggested also that the area Chamber of Commerce's also be invited to attend that session as well.

Closing Comments

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC