

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
April 2, 2009
River View Lodge – Mahoney State Park
Ashland, NE.

Draft

Commissioner Attending: Tom DeLong, Tim Gilligan, Pat Thomas, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Phil Mullin, Ernie Abariotes, Marlin Peterman, Brenda Gunn, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Marsha Babcock, Dr. Jack Huck, Bernie Heier.

Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director

Members Excused: Mary Ann Borgeson, Rich Jansen, David Potter, Chuck Sigerson, Jon Camp, Jeff Weak, and Mark Stursma.

Visitors: Tim Weander, George Schuler, Erica Murray, Jarel Vinduska, James Ruhge, John Knapp, Cathy Kappel, Donna Lyman, Steve Miller.

NIZC Chair, Brenda Gunn, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:05PM.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Gunn asked for approval of the minutes from January 8, 2009. *Motion made by Commissioner DeLong and 2nd by Commissioner Babcock to approve the March 5, 2009 minutes. Motion approved by consent.*

Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan and 2nd by Commissioner Petermann, to cancel the July 2, 2009 meeting due to potential lack of quorum. Motion approved by consent.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:10pm.

George Schuler – Midwest Pre-Cast Association (Minnesota through Missouri area)

Mr. Schuler wanted to answer any questions that Commissioners or public members may have regarding options for pre-cast construction as they relate to design standards and guidelines.

Randy Schultz – Mr. Schultz also made comments regarding the information support available to the Commission and the opportunity use to incorporate pre-cast structures into the corridor design scope.

Both individuals offered additional assistance to Commissioners and NIZC if there was a need for further information and/or assistance regarding this topic matter.

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

Public Comment period closed at 7:14pm

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.

The Commission has been receiving call regarding the development of light rail along the I-80 corridor. Ms. McKillip will be speaking at the Pro-Rail Nebraska annual meeting on May 2, 2009.

Commission Discussion & Olsson Associates Presentation/Consultant Update

Community input meetings will be held April 21, 22. They will be held in Lincoln and Gretna, one held during the day and one held during the evening. In addition, Steve Miller, Olsson Associates stated that any group or private land owner that could not attend the meetings and would like to meet to discuss the project details and provide input could meet at other designated times.

The Commission is schedule at this time to receive a final product in June 2009.

General discussion included the topic of how to create a memorandum of understanding to assist everyone to work together and “how do we come up with enforceable standards?” Questions proposed were, “what could be the role of NDED regarding their recruitment policies and linking design standard guidelines to that entity and economic development incentives to aid in encouraging cooperation?” Also, discussion regarding the potential development of a fee structure for design review for development projects and options to meet the expected design requirements.

Kansas model – NIZC needs to keep striving for the Kansas model, (K-10 Association) and then making it uniquely ours because Nebraska law is different when it comes to annexation. It will be very important to keep a level playing field and to get ahead of the development curve now, especially; during a recession the potential to come to regional development agreeance will be stronger. NIZC should consider seeking enforcement from the state for any kind of outside “maverick” moves that could occur, should also be in the agreements.

Commission agreed to set aside the May 2009 monthly meeting as the meeting to only discuss (along with any consultant updates) how we will enforce regional design standards and guidelines.

Additional discussion included including necessary components regarding landscaping that targets native, drought resistant plant material for the right-of-way and new development areas, will need to be included in the design standard recommendations. Potentially, the May NIZC meeting will solely be discussion on implementation and enforcement, the June NIZC meeting will focus on the small group session feedback and the Aug. NIZC meeting will be or not the Commissions endorsement of the consultant’s findings.

Elizabeth Garvin, Clarion & Associates, Steve Miller, Olsson Associates will be presenting at the April 2, 2009 NIZC meeting for an extended consultant update.

Closing Comments

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC