

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
May 6, 7:00pm
HDR Company Gold Conference Room
Omaha, NE.

Commissioner Attending: Tim Gilligan (alternate), Tom DeLong, Marsha Babcock, Jack Huck, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Phil Mullin, Jon Camp, Jeff Weak, Brenda Gunn, Mark Stursma, Marlin Petermann, Brenda Gunn, Brad Stauffer, Larry Hudkins
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Director,

Members Excused: Mary Ann Borgeson, David Potter, Pete Festersen, Kyle Hutchings

Visitors: Duane Dowd, Rebecca Horner, Doug Bisson, Mike Sledshlog, Ted Seldin, Steve Miller, Kandi Srb.

NIZC Vice-Chair, Pete Kotsiopoulos, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:11PM.

Opening remarks: Vice- Chair Pete Kotsiopoulos provided personal remarks regarding NIZC Chair, John Plucknett, and his attributes to the Commission. “John asked the tough questions, he was here from the beginning, and believed in the process and work of NIZC. John was a dedicated colleague, friend, and community member. At this time, I would like everyone to take a moment of silence, for John Plucknett.”

At this time, Vice-Chair Kotsiopoulos also recognized the recent Legislative resolution that was passed, applauding the work of the Commission.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan, 2nd by Commissioner Camp, to approve the May agenda as distributed. Motion approved 11-0.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Gilligan, 2nd by Commissioner DeLong, to approve the April minutes as corrected. Motion approved 11-0.

Public Comment Period

There was no open public comment period for this meeting agenda.

April meeting discussion and Follow Up

Three key areas of focus; (1) marketing, (2), site selection, (3), technical assistance/design standards review committee.

Comments from Commissioners included the need to keep the regional MSA growing. It seems that the Chambers are respectful of the priorities of NIZC and would like input from the Commissioners, and encourage the Commission to tweak and Chambers proposal. Commissioner Huck stated, “Funding is a concern if NZIC is to start a new group – we need to best utilize existing resources whether that is money or members or another resource.” Local jurisdictions will determine how well the design standards are encouraged and utilized. Many Commissioners feel that the local entities may not follow through, but that several do want to make it work. Comments included, “At the very least develop a component that could be a “council” or leadership group that can continue the work of the Commission.

“We need to make sure that any entity, chamber or other remembers the Commissions 10 Guiding Principles and the work that has been completed, as well as the design standards.”

“Can the I-80 Development Council be built from the ground?”

“How do you get smaller local communities to buy in – if they are not held to accountability or able to keep design standards in check?”

What if the new leadership made local entities adopt the standards – then you can get chamber power and recognition of a bigger piece of the pie. Adopt standards or you can’t be part of the new Council.”

Commission needs to impress upon the Legislature and Governor that they need to fund and appropriate money to define and I-80 Council to provide feedback to the Communities about the review process.”

“Couldn’t all of the counties chip in to pay for a pt. time staff person?”

At this time Commissioner Weak and Babcock, volunteered to assist with the NIZC Ex. Committee to discuss organizational options.

Motion made by Commissioner Huck and 2nd by Commissioner Hudkins, to establish a task force to review and discuss, what type of Council options NIZC should look at, this would include NIZC Ex. Committee members, Commissioner Weak and Commissioner Babcock. Motion approved by consent.

Additional discussion occurred about MAPA – and they can offer. MAPA can and is willing to assist or provide technical assistance as well as offer whatever other level of help that will meet the goals of the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Camp, 2nd by Gilligan to place the nomination of Commissioner Gunn as NIZC Chair on the June 3 agenda and to take a vote, nominations will also be taken from the floor. Motion approved 11-0.

Closing Comments

At this time, seeing that the agenda time was running thin, NIZC Vice –Chair Kotsiopulos, ask the Commissioners to think about the discussion tonight and to review any materials that have been presented, and to send suggestions, ideas, concerns of what would not seem likely to work, and be prepared to make those challenges in to opportunities for discussion at the next NIZC meeting. If a Commissioner is unable to attend, please email your thoughts and comments to Kathy McKillip, so that she can report on them. Vice – Chair Kotsiopulos closed with thanking HDR for hosting the Commission and providing such wonderful space.

Closing

At this time, Vice - Chair Kotsiopulos requested that the NIZC Executive Committee should meet before the next NIZC Monthly meeting. Since there was no new business or agenda an item to address, the **Motion was made by Commissioner Camp and 2nd by Commissioner Hudkins to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned by consent.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC