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Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, May 4, 2006
E.T. Mahoney State Park -Ashland

Commissioner Attending: Marsha Babcock, Inez Boyd, Tim Gay, Kyle Hutchings, Jim Grotrian – alternate for JoAnn McDowell, Ron Melbye, Phil Mullin, John Plucknett, Brenda Gunn, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Marlin Petermann, Jeff Weak, Bob Workman, Ernie Abariotes – alternate for Jeff Quist, David Potter – alternate for Marsha Babcock, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Mary Ann Borgeson, Dave Nielsen, and Dean Bussing.

Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Staff: Richard Baier- NEDED Director and Stu Miller, NEDED Dept. Director.

Visitors: Brad Stauffer, Mayor Colleen Seng, Marvin Kraut, Bob Twiss and several others that did not sign in.

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:02PM.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Sigerson and 2nd by Commissioner Kotsiopoulos to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of both the 3/02/06 & 4/06/06 minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Sigerson and 2nd by Commissioner Kotsiopoulos to approve the minutes as distributed. Motioned approved by consent.*

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:10 pm.

Brad Stauffer – In recognizing that the appointment of potential NIZC Commissioners is slated for discussion on the NIZC agenda this evening, Mr. Stauffer, wanted to provide input and suggestions that the Commission consider placing non-voting Commissioners at the table, from key communities that are immediately challenged by the I-80 corridor. Mr. Stauffer asked the Commission to consider this option when moving ahead on the agenda. Mr. Stauffer also thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present on the NIZC Bus Tour and for touring the community of Gretna.

Chairman Svoboda asked for any other public comments, or suggestions from those attending – seeing none the public comment period was called to close

The Public Comment Period closed – 7:15 pm.

City of Lincoln Presentation

Lincoln Mayor, Colleen Seng presented an opening statement of suggestions and encouragement to the Commission. This statement focused on 4 key areas;

1. Respect the environment.
2. Preserve and prepare accordingly for mass transit.
3. Limit the number of interchanges throughout the corridor.
4. Strongly consider a high-speed public transit element between both bookend cities (Omaha/Lincoln)

Marvin Kraut, City Planning Director – Lincoln presented information that millions of dollars have been spent on infrastructure growth for a promotion of shared regional vision and cooperation for all entities. Limit the number of acreages by clustering locations for acreages to be developed. Comprehensive plans are not bibles, but guidelines to which decision and discussions can be made from. Consider a shared vision for an elongated community when discussing corridor projects.

Executive Director Report

Kathy McKillip reported that the NIZC website is currently under works and many Commissioners still need to submit a photo and bio as soon as possible. The NIZC webpage will go live on June 1, with or without Commissioners photo and bio. Alex Garvin's website has a section referring to his visit to Nebraska and the I-80 Corridor, Commissioners are encouraged to check out the site at www.alexgarvin.net.

There has been regular attendance by NIZC Commissioners and McKillip at the Joselyn Castle Institute meetings regarding the "60-mile radius" grant study. At this time, it seems as though NIZC will have an opportunity to co-sponsor a conference in on Sept. 13-14 about the 60-mile radius and I-80 corridor.

The Commission is moving forward and has gathered great information from the past 5 months of community presentations. Presentations to occur in the future will be from the Nebraska Community College Association, Lower-Platte NRD, Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance and University of Nebraska, as well as area Stakeholders/Investors. The NIZC Corridor Bus Tour that was held previously today enjoyed the I-80 route as well as informational presentations from the communities and site tours from Waverly, Ashland, Gretna, and the Platter River. Those providing information for the tour were, Marlin Petermann, Doug Rix, Tina Sondgeroth, Brad Stauffer, Mayor Tim Gilligan, Mayor Ronna Wiig, and Scott Vioschette. Due to poor driving conditions, the tour ran longer than scheduled and the Louisville/Cass County area tour will be held in the fall of 2006. More than 32 attended the NIZC Bus Tour; it was open to community members at no charge.

At this time McKillip asked Richard Baier, NEDED Director, to present any thoughts or comments for the Commission. Baier responded with, the NIZC Bus Tour was a great way to visit the communities and visualize all of the potential and great assets that each community brings to this project and to the Commission. Communities should strongly consider what is the role that they want to play within this process, considering niche

markets, large-scale opportunities, and to also actively support and participate in the process being provided through the NIZC regarding the I-80 corridor.

Agenda Item: NIZC Addition of Non-Voting Commissioners

Commissioner Workman brought the agenda item before the Commission and discussion surrounded the topic. Currently community members are allowed to participate on the NIZC task force committee's that are represented by Commissioners and report directly to the Commission. Communities seeking positions as non-voting members did have the opportunity to nominate local community members for representation. Many missed that opportunity or cast votes for those already serving as an NIZC Commissioner.

- At this time (8:10pm) a member of the audience, Bob Twiss, became outspoken about the topic. Mr. Twiss wanted to speak about this agenda item as a public member. The request was denied, seeing that the public comment period had already closed. Mr. Twiss insisted that for the public record, it stated that he was denied an opportunity to speak during this portion of the NIZC meeting.
- No other discussion about the agenda item occurred, no motions were made.

Agenda Item: NIZC Election of Vice-Chair

Chairman Svoboda asked for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Gay nominated Commissioner Gunn as the NIZC Vice-Chair. *Motion was made by Hutchings to close the nominations, 2nd by Plucknett. Motion to elect Gunn to serve, as the NIZC Vice-Chair was made by Gay, 2nd by Hutchings, motion approved unanimously.*

NIZC Task Force Committee's

Motion was made by Commissioner Gay 2nd by Commissioner Plucknett to accept 4 key NIZC Task Force Committee's, at this time a friendly amendment was made by Commissioner Sigerson to accept the 4 and keep the 4 committee's open-ended for additional opportunities to create more, should NIZC need to and if the community members would express interest in them, amendment accepted by Commissioner Gay and Commissioner Melbye. Motion was approved unanimously.

The NIZC Committee's and Commissioners serving on them are as follows:

1. Economic Development & Marketing- Melbye, Gay Plucknett, Weak, Mullin
2. Tourism, Recreation & Environmental – Babcock, Boyd, Petermann, Workman
3. Planning and Infrastructure – Gunn, Peterman, Hutchings, Sigerson
4. Logistics & Transportation – To be determined by Chairman Svoboda.

NIZC Summer Schedules

Chairman Svoboda asked about the idea of holding regular monthly NIZC meeting throughout the summer. Consensus from the Commissioners was that the momentum is strong and that there is work to be done, so to continue meeting monthly with the newly formed committee's also meeting and including community members to participate as well. There would be enough space to meet at Mahoney and the regular NIZC meeting

room space is reserved for June and July. Meeting will continue to stay on the First Thursday of each month.

NIZC In-Kind Donation Policy

Motion was made by Commissioner Gunn, 2nd by Sigerson to approve the In-Kind Donation Policy created by NEDED Legal Counsel, Don Fertig, for NIZC. Motion Unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Hutchings, 2nd by Weak to adjourn. Motion approved by consent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip,
Executive Director - NIZC