

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, September 7, 2006
Quarry Oaks Golf Course – Club House -Ashland

Commissioner Attending: Marsha Babcock, Ron Melbye, John Plucknett, Brenda Gunn, Jim Grotrian, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Dave Nielsen, Marlin Petermann, Jeff Weak, Tim Gilligan, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Inez Boyd, Mary Ann Borgeson, Dean Busing, Kyle Hutchings, Phil Mullin, Bob Workman, Jeff Quist.

Visitors: Brad Stauffer, Jack Stannard, Steve Oltmans, Bob Buck, Mary Buck, Dave Bartholet, Norma Nelson, David Ochsner, Twyla Hansen, Jerry Maxwell, Sue Brauckmuller, Rodney Verhoeff, Katie Torry, Tim Stuart, Glenn Johnson, Sally McGuire, Kimberly Stuhr, David Potter, Dave Sands, Scott Voichoskie, Bruce Sackett, Jacki Bentz, Carolyn Johnson, Al Williams, John Kuzpp, Steve Miller, Steve Masters, W. Cecil Steward, Marvin Krout, Carolyn Johnson, Steve Oltmans, W. Cecil Steward, Leslie Peterson, Senator Chris Beutler

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:10PM.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of 8/03/06 minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Petermann and 2nd by Commissioner Melbye to approve the minutes as distributed. Motioned approved by consent.*

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:14 pm.

Brad Stauffer, Gretna Chamber of Commerce, requested that the Commission consider asking the legislature for funding and to also create a package that would add additional representatives from communities that are within 5 miles of either side of I-80, between Omaha and Lincoln.

Dave Bartholet, Village of Boys Town, interested in attending Commission meetings and participating on the Tourism Committee to assist with a vision for all regional tourism attractions.

Seeing that there was no one else interested in speaking during the public comment period – Chairman Svoboda closed the session.

The Public Comment Period closed – 7:22 pm.

Executive Director Report

Kathy McKillip reported that the Commission continues to receive exposure in the press and is moving forward with the additional sponsored website of I-80ideas.com. To date, 42 ideas and (6 phone calls) have been submitted. I am pleased to say that nothing “insanely crazy” has been submitted.

Ideas to date include – and are not limited to:

- Water Museum, Regional targeted camps, regional postal system, professional football stadium, X-games stadium, commuter rail/bus system, Alternative Fuel research center, Observation tours/space needle, wind charges and wind charges incentive program, amusement park, regional airport, amphitheater or music corridor, regional GIS system, alternative language and approaches to zoning and planning, feasibility study for a recreational lake, eco-tourism focus for Exit 426, trails and public hiking, biking space.
- The site does also ask participants to consider additional comments opportunities and submit more than one idea within the next 6 months.

Commissioners are encouraged to participate as well as the participants here tonight to visit the site and submit your idea and/also promote colleagues, co-workers, family members and neighbors to submit an idea or several as well.

Reminder that September was the last NIZC public notice that will be posted in the papers. All upcoming notices will be posted at www.nizc.org home page; minutes and agenda items are located under file library.

The JCI/AIA and NIZC collaborative event will begin next Wed. Sept 14th at SAC and continue all day on Thurs 14th. Please consider attending and contact Katie Torpy at JCI to register. We look forward to a large turnout, and the following Commissioners are participating in the I-80 corridor panel on the 15th from 2:15-3:45 at Quest, Commissioners: Borgeson, Svoboda, Melebye, Babcock, Hutchings and Gay - Please let me know tonight – as we need to order name badges – there is no charge to participate. I need bios’ photos, for the website.

Governor’s Summit update:

We are considering the morning of Nov. 16th – as a first priority versus the 17th as previously promoted. The key reason for the change is that the Senators briefing session begins the afternoon of the 16th at Platte River State Park – and we feel that it would be a great opportunity for the Senators to participate in the Governors Summit in the am and then proceed to their session’s in the pm – Camp Ashland is 12 minutes away and this would also allow the Senator’s to participate and become more informed about the Commission

Camp Ashland is a great site. We will be in the newly remodeled facility overlooking the Platte River.

Please pencil BOTH dates at this time, for 8-12, it is critical that the Commission has a strong showing.

Our next Commission meetings are noted on the agenda and their locations.

We are in the process of working with Marty Shukert and Alex Garvin to provide additional zoning options and planning components for the Commission in the form of a workbook. Together they will combine information targeting more than just the larger metropolitan areas, they will be focusing primarily on communities such as Ashland, Gretna, Waverly, Eagle, Wahoo, Bennington, Springfield, Louisville, Memphis, Mead, Alvo, Valley, to mention only a few – their findings should be completed by Oct. 31 and copies should be available in time for the Governors Summit. This project is being funded through a grant.

We have been meeting with Stakeholders to inquire about their concerns and level of interest, and though they may be different, everyone is aware that there is a need for a regional focus, and a great deal of opportunity and the timing is critical.

Recently met with Steve Pederson about collaborative efforts and everyone working together to better define the region and the state. A positive meeting resulted with interest in future opportunities.

Currently looking towards a date in October for another “key property owner” stakeholders meeting, yet to be determined. It would be held at the Nebraska Department of Economic Developments office in Lincoln.

Commission Borgeson has asked me to attend and present at the Douglas County Board Meeting. Should anyone else, be interested in having me attend and update your boards/councils/organizations – I would be happy to schedule something.

As always a reminder of, is everyone receiving the emails from the list serve.

Hard copies being mailed have been eliminated to only those that request it.

Is there anyone that would still like to receive minutes, such as in the mail?

If so- please let me know and request it on the sign in sheet – If your name is not on the sign in sheets, I will not know how to contact you.

Agenda Item: NIZC Committee Reports

Economic Development & Marketing Committee: Chair Plucknett

The committee reported back to the Commission about ideas that the committee would like to consider:

A plan needs to be created to coordinate the areas around the inter-changes so that they are more attractive and to continue working on creating an incentive package to assist with development. The next committee meeting date will be Sept.21, 11:30 AM @ a location to be determined.

Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Committee: Chair Petermann

The key issues discussed were specific focus on the Platte River and to what extent the region is to be defined by.

Continue to follow up on the Environmental Carrying Capacity Study and consider finding a funding package for it.

There is a strong need for a property inventory list with the corridor that focuses within the categories of Tourism, Recreation, and other key elements.

Committee members request to seek funds to gather information. Commissioner Babcock suggested that stakeholders also need to put together a package to seek funds to gather more information and move the process forward. Commissioner Weak requested to also utilize the information from the Village of Boys Town and share with the Economic Development committee within the next 30 days if possible.

The next meeting for this committee will be held Oct. 5, @ River View Lodge – Mahoney State Park, 6:00pm.

Planning & Infrastructure Committee: Chair Sigerson

Olson Associates were asked to attend along with representation from the Lincoln Water/Planning Department. Steve Miller and Steve Oltmans presented information from Olson Associate as they continue to work with HDR on related projects within the corridor region. They would like to offer a change of pace by providing a facilitated visioning session for the committee and/or the full Commission. Commissioner Weak asked if Olson Associates brought “new” information to the group versus HDR. It was asked that the Commission research finding more maps of the region and how it is changing, possibly both organizations could assist with that request. Committee member Leslie Peterson, suggest that the Commission work to get ahead of the change and not behind it and volunteered to assist with a visioning session. The Commission will consider hosting a visioning session within the couple of months.

The next meeting for this committee will be held Oct. 5 @ River View Lodge – Mahoney State Park, 6:00pm.

Transportation & Logistics: Vice-Chair Glenn Johnson

The committee is interested in gathering more information from the Nebraska Department of Roads, specifically John Craig and Monte Fredrickson (Jim Knott with NDOR will present at the Oct. 5, 2006 NIZC Commission meeting). The committee is interested in the 20-year plan for road construction. Also, an emphasis needs to be made about creating, enhancing and developing trails and rails, connecting them all together. Currently the committee is researching a variety of transportation issues. At the next committee meeting, the focus for the committee will be to consider railroads and airports. The next committee meeting will be held Oct. 5, at the River View Lodge – Mahoney State Park, 6:00pm.

Agenda Item: NIZC Legislative Packages

It is critical that the Commission is aware and prepared to present specifically to address the question – “What does the Commission want to propose?” It is imperative that the Commission be prepared at the next couple of meetings, October and November, 2006 to be able to set the Commission’s priorities for the next legislative session and establish those needs.

There also needs to be by in from the communities at some level, this structure could be designed and focused via county-to-county and not community-to-community.

By Fall/Winter 2006-07 the Commission will need to recruit a facilitator to blend the themes of the committee’s and develop long-term strategies.

Chairman Svoboda and Commissioner Plucknett specifically asked audience member Senator Chris Beutler how formal leadership would be selected within the next Legislative Session. Senator Beutler responded by saying the leadership is not selected until the first week of the session and this next year will be an exceptional and unpredictable year. The Senator believes that asking the Senators to participate in the Governor’s Summit is critical and to make sure that the Commission has packets available to better inform attendees.

No action taken.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC