

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, October 5, 2006
E.T. Mahoney State Park – Riverview Lodge - Ashland

Commissioner Attending: Inez Boyd, David Potter – alternate for Marsha Babcock, Ron Melbye, Phil Mullin, John Plucknett, Brenda Gunn, Jim Grotrian, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Marlin Petermann, Dean Busing – arriving late, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Mary Ann Borgeson, Kyle Hutchings, Bob Workman, Jeff Quist, Jeff Weak, Chuck Sigerson, Dave Nielsen, Tim Gay, Marsha Babcock,

Visitors: Brad Stauffer, Jack Stannard, Sue Brauckmuller, Tim Stuart, Glenn Johnson, Sally McGuire, Kimberly Stuhr, David Potter, Dave Sands, Scott Voichoskie, Kevin Svec, Virginia Miller, Gordon Scholz, Mark Bowen, Mark Hoistad, Bruce Sackett

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.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Commission proceeded to agenda items not requiring a vote.

Approval of the Agenda – (8:00pm with Commissioner Busing in attendance)

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

Approval of Minutes (8:00pm with Commissioner Busing in attendance)

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of 9/07/06 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.

Dave Sands provided information and requested information about the Water Policy Task Force, where members are appointed by the Governor and is created by statute, where this task force has been studying the potential of a State Tax Credit for donations of conservation easements. The corridor and Platte River could be a targeted area and this could also be replicated statewide. A transferable tax credit program could look something like what Colorado has. Retirement of irrigated acres could also benefit from such a program. The Water Quality Task Force would consider a tax incentive like this to

be another tool, in community tool kits, to assist in focusing on certain regional areas and areas that would gather the most legislative support.

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 – 7:25 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. Recently taped a 30-minute show for KFOR that aired Oct. 3, 2006 attended and presented at the Sept. 26, 2006 Douglas County Board meeting and distributed The Bridge, I-80 Corridor DVD and brochures to each Board member and staff. Ideas continue to come in; possibility would be to target college students within the region to act as a “think tank” for the Commission and potential research.

I encourage all of the Commissioners and participants here tonight to visit the website and submit your ideas’ and well as encourage your colleagues, co-workers, family members and neighbors to submit and idea or several.

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’s are located under the file library. Other public meeting notice is available on the State’s official website under public meetings. Only minimal copies of the minutes will be brought to Commission meetings.

The JCI/AIA event will be wrapping up their projects and providing information regarding the Charrettes and when they are available, I will provide copies to the Commission. Commissioners Borgeson, Weak, Kotsiopoulos, Babcock, and Richard Baier participated in the AIA-Nebraska Conference as NIZC panel members. It was well received. Richard Baier and myself participated on a panel for the Lower Platte River Summit for NIZC as well.

Governor’s Summit – Nov. 16th, 2006 9-12, still working on specifics, however, the Governor and UN President JB Milliken have reserved a great deal of time to attend and present. It is imperative the Commissioners attend as we will be presenting a panel as well as updating on our progress.

Visioning Session – The majority of the Commissioners elected to reserve the date of Nov. 9 – with time to be decided (no more than 3 hours).

I am currently in the process of working with Marty Schukert and Alex Garvin in following up with the Spring 2006 session by creating a physical/applicable planning and assessment tool called the Nebraska Community Advantage Tool Kit - funding was provided through a grant. Please review the draft outline provided to you all tonight and review with any feedback, ideas or areas of concern before Oct. 13, 2006. I hope to have

this available at the Governors Summit. We are also seeking nominations for the NIZC Governors Quality Growth Award for Regional Development. Nomination forms will be available on our website the first of Nov. The application deadline will be Nov. 10th; 2006. The focus of this award is to recognize entities that have progressively worked towards regional design standards and creative approaches that have brought communities/counties together through collaborations to encourage long-term stability. This award will be presented at the Governors Summit.

As always – I hope everyone is receiving the emails. If there are additional correspondences that I need to be aware of and add to the list please let me 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.

Agenda Item: NIZC Committee Reports

Economic Development & Marketing Committee: Chair Mullin & Chairman Ken Svoboda

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

The Federal Fly-In event with the Department of Commerce was very successful. Members from the Commission attending had an opportunity to meet with Deputy Director Dennis Elburn (sp?). There is funding available for visioning and research that focus on regionalism. Potential funds for infrastructure planning and design, MAPA has gone through the grant application process and has been successful.

Chair Mullin also added that whatever is good for a community is good for the corridor region. Strong interest and need for a regional TIF district. Sarpy County would be supportive of county TIF package.

The next committee meeting date will be Nov. 2, 6:00pm prior to the regular NIZC full Commission meeting.

Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Committee: Chair Petermann

Committee expressed interest in Transferable Tax Credit for Easements.

Greenway corridor with discussion about designated planting mix as a “gateway to Nebraska” concept. We are the Arbor Day State and should take a significant lead in the process regarding private/public/county/ regional/state partnerships.

There is a real need for a comprehensive trail plan for the corridor region.

The committee also expressed strong support for funding appropriation in the amount of 100,00-200,000 for Phase II of the Environmental Carrying Capacity Study.

The next meeting for this committee will be held Nov. 2, 6:00pm prior to the NIZC Full Commission meeting.

Planning & Infrastructure Committee: Chair Sigerson – (Did not report at this time.)

The next meeting for this committee will be held Nov. 2, 6:00pm prior to the NIZC Full Commission meeting.

Transportation & Logistics: Commissioner Kotsiopoulos

The committee is hosting the presentation this evening, featuring Jim Knott with the Nebraska Department of Roads. This presentation will provide information regarding construction plans and updates with the corridor region.

Jim Knott presented a very informative power point presentation regarding roads, costs, areas of concern and development within the corridor region.

Next focus for the committee will be on rail and air.

The next committee meeting will be held Nov. 2, at 6:00pm prior to the NIZC Full Commission meeting.

Agenda Item: NIZC Legislative Packages

Check and see what others are considering and the level of community input about legislative issues. Send email prior to meeting about potential legislative topics to Commissioners as a priority list for support for review. No quorum, No action taken.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip
Executive Director - NIZC