

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission  
Board of Commission Meeting  
7:00PM, November 2, 2006  
Quarry Oaks Golf Course, Club House - Ashland

**Commissioner Attending:** Inez Boyd, David Potter, Marsha Babcock, Ron Melbye, Phil Mullin, John Plucknett, Brenda Gunn, Dean Bussing, Jim Grotrian, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Tim Gay, Marlin Petermann, Marsha Babcock, Chuck Sigerson, Bob Workman, Ernie Arbariotes – alternate for Jeff Quist,  
Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director, Richard Baier - NEDED

**Members Excused:** Mary Ann Borgeson, Kyle Hutchings, Jeff Quist, Jeff Weak, Dave Nielsen.

**Visitors:** Jerry Maxwell, Carolyn Johnsen, Jarel Vinduska, Jean Vinduska, Virginia Miller, Sue Brauckmuller, Shirley Niemeyer, Dave Sands, Rodney Verhoeff, Katie Torpy, Christian Hornbaker, Bruce Sackett, Brad Stauffer, Kim Stuhr, Tim Gilligan, Tim Stuart, Mark Bowen, Rick Houck, Jack Stannard, Sally McGuire, Dave Sands, Scott Voichoskie

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:31PM.

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of the agenda as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Boyd and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Grotrian to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.*

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of 10/05/06 minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Mullin to approve the minutes as distributed. Motioned approved by consent.*

#### **Public Comment Period**

##### **Public Comment Period opened at 7:40 pm.**

Shirley Neimeyer expressed concerns regarding environmental concerns. The Commission has a critical role in considering the environment areas within the corridor. There needs to be a reduction of combustion and stronger consideration for innovative ways to handle the energy issues. The Commission needs to make the environmental issues a priority when planning.

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 – 7:45 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

I encourage all of the Commissioners and participants here tonight to visit the website of [www.I-80ideas.com](http://www.I-80ideas.com) 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](http://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.

Governor's Summit – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 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. Currently very active in planning for the Governor's Summit on I-80 Growth and Development, registration flyers are available this evening, there is no fee, and the key areas of target will be the private sector. Registration flyers can be completed and given to me tonight to register Commissioners, committee members and anyone else in attendance. The flyer is also available on our website, like everything else.

Visioning Session – The majority of the Commissioners elected to reserve the date of Nov. 9, 9am-12:00pm (no more than 3 hours). Roberta Pinkerton, with OPPD will facilitate. This session will be held at Camp Ashland.

We are still 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. 10<sup>th</sup>; 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:

A resolution to be placed as an agenda item for the next Commission meeting that demonstrates respect for local zoning, This resolution would create an all encompassing plan for regional growth.

The next committee meeting date is undetermined at this time.

### **Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Committee: Chair Petermann**

Committee created ideas to stimulate regional thinking:

Development of a Greenway along the Corridor in collaboration with the National Arbor Day Foundation, native grasses, trees, etc. due to Nebraska being the home of Arbor Day, providing a visual gateway to the west.

The committee has struggled with the concept that not all of the committee's ideas are broad enough. There needs to be a comprehensive Trails Plan. The needs to also be additional discussion about expanded recreational opportunities within the eastern part of the State. The creation of an incentive/grant program for recreation/tourism business development, in assisting the small business in developing into a new market.

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 is yet to be determined.

### **Planning & Infrastructure Committee: Chair Sigerson**

No report - The next meeting for this committee is yet to be determined.

### **Transportation & Logistics: Commissioner Gilligan**

The committee reviewed several areas of interest:

Within the corridor are 2 main railroads that closely connect, to work stronger together, within the Lincoln Airpark the possibility of the creation of short lines uniting the trains. The reality of the role of the Lincoln airport, potential to become a freight/cargo airport sending heavy passenger traffic to Omaha. Possibilities of the Millard Airport, corporate or commuter airport, potential of ground re-use still being considered.

Trucking – the truck lanes on the inter-state currently service freight in the 3-lanes, light rail is always an interesting concept, but at this time the feasibility for the population numbers are strong enough, possibly start with a commuter bus system, but the communities at the end and along the route need to be prepared to service the passengers with transportation needs upon arrival. At this time, public transportation at the destination sites is not strong enough. Commissioner Boyd stated that MAPA did a ride share study that maybe of interest to the Commission.

The next meeting for this committee is yet to be determined.

**Agenda Item: NIZC Legislative Packages**

Five legislative items were placed on the agenda for discussion and action.

***Motion to create a legislative package for all 5-components, made by Commissioner Babcock and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Boyd.***

(Yes to motion – 11, No to motion – 2, Gunn, Melbye, Abstention to motion – 2, Grotrian, Babcock)

For discussion;

Commissioner Gunn, stated concerns on the TIF component, currently it is on the ballot for the November election and it is not written as well as it could be. The Commission should watch to see what happens before moving forward.

Commissioner Boyd, the TIF component could be a helpful tool for counties in filling in the between the funding gaps.

Commissioner Melbye, supports Commissioner Gunn's comments, and expressed concerns that this TIF component could take away from the communities.

***At this time a friendly amendment to delete Item # 2 (TIF) from the legislative package to continue with discussion, Commissioner Sigerson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Gunn.***

Commissioner Workman, offered discussion regarding the support for the Transfer Development rights piece as a tool to assist in the protection of the Platte River Valley  
Commissioner Sigerson, offered discussion and thoughts regarding legislative package items 4 & 5, that these are supportive concepts of what the Commission is trying to accomplish within the Corridor and should be studied further.

Commissioner Petermann, after a great deal of discussion, requested that the legislative discussion be placed on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sigerson added that change the agenda language from “legislative discussion” to, “Commission discussion”

***At this time, offer from Commissioners Melbye to remove the motion made by Babcock and Sigerson withdrew the Amendment.***

***Request to add the Economic Development Committee's Resolution on the agenda for the next meeting for Commission discussion along with the legislative –commission discussions.***

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy McKillip  
Executive Director - NIZC

