

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Tourism, Recreation, and Environmental Committee
Minutes – September 7, 2006 Committee meeting
Quarry Oaks Golf Course – Club House – Ashland, NE.

Attending: Sue Brauckmuller, Jerry Maxwell, Dave Neilsen, Rodney Verhoeff, Carolyn Johnsen, Al Williams, Marlin Petermann, Marsha Babcock, John Kuzpp, Robert Buck, Mary Buck, Dave Bartholet.

Chairman Petermann – called the committee to order and review minutes.

Petermann sent out email notices about the committee meeting but some of the members did not receive them, due to various reasons. It is important to check the NIZC website under file library for any notices, and Commission/Committee information.

Committee Overview: Petermann provided an overview to new attendees regarding information and ideas that have been shared. A lot of focus is on the Platte River area. It is important that the committee does not forget about other areas such as I-80 raceway, Horseman's Park, plus many others. A request and consideration was made that the committee and possibly the Commission find or create an inventory list of all the recreation, tourism and environmental features that the metro region has to offer. It was also suggested that the committee asked local communities and economic development groups to assist in this request for information.

Other areas of concern that need to be considered are that ideas might happen –with the creation of the next big ideas? How will this area look in the next 50 years or more?

Questions from committee members were:

Is the focus on the areas between Omaha and Lincoln or just metro – what is the authority that the Commission has. Information was shared about the Commission, the regional approach and LB 546's creation and charge to report findings back to the Governor and Legislature.

There seems to be a need for updated land use maps. Possibly some exist or could be created to assist the region in project reviews.

Review of August Committee items and follow-up:

One idea was to look at establishing a scenic by-way project or designation for Hwy 6. (old Lincoln hwy). Trails and corridors also need strong consideration and support from this committee. NA & PC have done some work assessment in this arena – but more could be done to provide a better vision and to assist with long term planning.

Environmental Results: Discussion was about should it be about population growth, development, or quality of life – what are the important issues.

Lake Proposal: Discussion about a large recreational lake. There was some disagreement about the value and what we see is our recreational/environmental future, how do they work together. Possibly the committee should focus on getting data and inventory to see what is currently available and the needs may already be addressed.

Nebraska Department of Quality: Possibly contact the department as ask if there are recreational stretches of rivers/streams and what is the water quality.
Potential request for funding from the legislature to carryout the Environmental Carrying Capacity Study to better inform and prepare the region for growth along with this, extend the life and existence of NIZC.

Committee Action Items:

1. Locate an inventory of tourism, recreational and environmental assets within the corridor region.
2. If any one has any organization or representatives that they would like to have participate on the committee, email that contact information to Petermann.
3. Need to address potential funding issues from the Legislature within the next session.

Next meeting, Oct. 5, 2006, 6:00pm at River View Lodge – Mahoney State Park, Ashland.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Verhoeff