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Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission  
Board of Commission Meeting  
7:00PM, June 1, 2006  
E.T. Mahoney State Park -Ashland

**Commissioner Attending:** Inez Boyd, Dean Busing, Tim Gay, Ron Melbye, Phil Mullin, John Plucknett, Brenda Gunn, Chuck Sigerson, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Marlin Petermann, Jeff Weak, Phil Mullin, Jeff Quist, David Potter – alternate for Marsha Babcock, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

**Members Excused:** Mary Ann Borgeson, Marsha Babcock, Jim Grotrain, Dave Nielsen, and Bob Workman.

**Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Staff:** Stu Miller, NEDED Dept. Director, Christian Hornbaker, and NEDED Tourism Director.

**Visitors:** Brad Stauffer, Jack Stannard, David Ochsner, Twyla Hansen, Jerry Maxwell, Sue Brauckmuller, Scott Voichoskie, Rodney Verhoeff, Katie Torry, Tim Stuart, Tim Gilligan, Glenn Johnson, Sally McGuire

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:05PM.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Svoboda asked for approval of 5/06/06 minutes as distributed. *Motion made by Commissioner Sigerson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Kotsiopoulos to approve the minutes as distributed. Motioned approved by consent.*

**Public Comment Period**

**Public Comment Period opened at 7:10 pm.**

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

**The Public Comment Period closed – 7:15 pm.**

### **Executive Director Report**

Kathy McKillip reported that the NIZC website went live on June 1, 2006. Some Commissioners still need to submit a photo and bio as soon as possible. The webpage can be altered and changed to fit the needs of the Commission. Eventually all information and public notices will be solely listed at this site – until the general public becomes more familiar with the commission and to be able to provide additional accessibility, information will continue to be listed on NEDED’s webpage.

There has been regular attendance by NIZC Commissioners and McKillip at the Joslyn Castle Institute meetings regarding the “60-mile radius” grant study. NIZC be able to – co-host the evening reception and participate in presentations on Sep. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006. More information will be shared with the Commission, as it is unveiled.

Plans for Fall 2006 Community Open Houses are under consideration. These Open Houses would allow for additional community input regarding ideas and suggestions proposed for the Corridor, dates and locations have yet to be determined.

### **Agenda Item: Election of NIZC Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs**

Economic Development & Marketing Committee – *Motion made by Commissioner Melbye and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Plucknett to nominate Commissioner Mullin as Chair, - motion to close nomination, Melbye, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Sigerson. Motion approved – 1 abstention.*

Tourism, Recreation and Environmental Committee – *Motion made by Commissioner Boyd and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Weak to nominate Commissioner Petermann as Chair – motion to close nomination, Commissioner Melbye, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Sigerson. Motion approved – 1 abstention.*

Planning & Infrastructure Committee – *Motion made by Commissioner Gunn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Weak to nominated Commissioner Sigerson as Chair – motion to close nomination, Commissioner Melbye, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Sigerson. Motion approved unanimously.*

Transportation & Logistics – *Motion made by Commissioner Petermann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Melbye to nominate Commissioner Kotsiopulos as Chair – motion to close the nomination, Commissioner Melbye, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Sigerson. Motion approved – 1 abstention.*

\* At this time, Committee members gathered into their designated committee’s along with participating community members, to elect Vice Chairs and to prepare to report back to the full Commission at meetings end.

### **Agenda Item: NIZC Committee Reports to full Commission**

In addition to minutes taken by each Committee, the Commission regarding the Committee reports made the following comments.

**Economic Development & Marketing** – Elected, as Vice-Chair was Commissioner Plucknett and Commissioner Gay as Secretary. Report included concern over assisting existing business succeed and expand, potential legislation to assist with economic development as well as something that could work for the entire area. Look at workforce development needs. Ask the Nebraska State Chamber to participate on the committee.

**Tourism, Recreational & Environmental** – Elected, as Vice-Chair was community member, Jerry Maxwell and community member Rodney Verhoeff as Secretary. Key issues are; trail system, river protection and awareness –both the public and private sector, flood plain considerations, environmental – agri tourism as a component along the corridor, appropriate adequate lodging, considering this area as a tourism destination for many different reasons, making the corridor more competitive and marketable. Ask for committee representation from Game and Parks, potential wildlife corridor.

**Planning & Infrastructure** – Elected as Vice –Chair was community member Jack Stannard and community member Sally McGuire as Secretary. Key issues; need for a comprehensive map or system that includes all sewer, water, power lines, communication lines, etc as an inventory list. Temporary corridor boundary for this committee is set at 5 miles out – either side of I-80, to better focus the needs, and then can possibly expand as information is gathered and prioritized. Interested in what HDR has to provide via information, maps, etc regarding the area. Commissioner Sigerson would like the committee and anyone else to attend a meeting in the future with HDR. Eventually, surrounding communities current infrastructure needs and inadequacies should also be reviewed.

**Transportation & Logistics** – Elected, as Vice-Chair was community member Glenn Johnson, Johnson will also serve as the committee’s Secretary. Key issues; trails, railroads, highways and bridges, appropriate interchanges, how does the communication industry fit in and its relationship to logistics, airport options and potential, key waterways/rivers and the impact they could have.

At this time, seeing that the committee’s were all able to report, and there was no other Commission business. ***Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Petermann and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Gunn. Motion approved by consent.***

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy McKillip,  
Executive Director - NIZC