

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, April 6, 2006
Papio-Missouri Natural Resource District - Omaha

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Marsha Babcock, Jim Grotrian – alternate for JoAnn McDowell, John Plucknett, Ken Svoboda, Pete Kotsiopulos, Marlon Petermann, David Potter – alternate for Marsha Babcock, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Phil Mullen, Jeff Weak, Inez Boyd, Chuck Sigerson, Jeff Quist Brenda Gunn, and Bob Workman.

Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Staff: Stu Miller

Visitors: Rodney Verhoeff, Scott Berryman, Rick Houck, Sally McGuire, Jack Stannard, Steve Jensen, Kent Holm, Doug Rix, Tim Stuart, Jim Sanders, Deborah Hundley, Scott Voichoskie, Brad Stauffer.

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:20PM – Due to severe weather conditions and the possibility of travel delays for Commissioners. Svoboda asked the Commissioners and DED staff to introduce themselves.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:22PM.

At this time – due to lack of a quorum, Chairman Svoboda moved onto the Community Presentations.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Svoboda stated that the agenda could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Svoboda stated that the minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

Executive Director Report

Kathy McKillip reported that a website for NIZC is currently under works and many Commissioners still need to submit a photo and bio as soon as possible. Copies of Alex Garvin's PowerPoint presentation are available for the Commissioners. This was a great success, with press coverage and positive community and Commissioner feed back. Alex is anxious to see how the Commission proceeds and looks forward to assisting the group in anyway. Several NIZC Commissioners as well as the ED attended the Innovation Forum. Bob Workman suggested that the NIZC invite Jason Smith back to discuss Biotechnology as a result of this forum. The May NIZC meeting will be the Corridor Bus Tour – plans are under way and Community members are encouraged to reserve seats

with McKillip. A DVD was distributed to Commissioners regarding a program produced through Cox TV entitled: The Bridge – The I-80 Corridor, this was contributed by Doug Bisson, AICP, Community Planning Manager, with HDR. This DVD is presented somewhat in the format of a documentary, including interviews with several community leaders about the I-80 corridor and potential.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:35 pm.

Rick Houck – Distributed proposed highway and corridor overlays with follow up from his presentation in February.

Rodney Verhoeff – Commented on how great it was to bring in Garvin and for NIZC to keep up the good work. Also wanted to encourage the Commission to work with other groups with similar interest and that his organization would be happy to provide any resources that the Commission may need.

At this time the Public Comment Period closed – 7:45 pm.

City of Omaha Presentation

Steve Jensen presented information via power point, of the view of Omaha as projected for the next 50 years. Some information from this presentation included the following; Douglas County has the 6th lowest commute time, by 2025 there will be no land left to plot in Douglas County. Omaha and Lincoln are a regional issue, not just a local jurisdiction issue. Several comments focused on housing issues and availability with future growth in Washington County.

Douglas County Presentation

Kent Holm, Director of Douglas County Environmental Services, built upon the presentation from Jensen. Douglas County comprehensive plan was adopted March 14, 2006 with a conservation design that is mandatory while also focusing on infrastructure requirements and contiguous development. There is a need for Sarpy County and Douglas County to identify better ways to move residents between the counties and improve regional connections. Population within the Douglas County jurisdiction would increase by about 100,000 under the projected development scenarios.

Papio-Missouri NRD Presentation

Marlon Petermann, Asst. General Manager, Papio-Missouri NRD and NIZC Commissioner, presented a DVD about the history and future of the Papio-Missouri NRD and the role this organization plays with the community and regional area. Each Commissioner was provided this DVD and also given printed materials that focus on the environmental elements challenging the Corridor area.

Chairman Svoboda at this time called the meeting adjourned seeing no quorum to conduct further business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy McKillip,
Executive Director - NIZC

