

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, February 2, 2006
Mahoney State Park – Red Oak & Cedar Rooms

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Tim Gay, Marsha Babcock, Peter Kotsiopulos, Jim Grotrian – alternate for JoAnn McDowell, Dave Nielsen, Steve Oltmans, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Jim Strand, Ken Svoboda, Jeff Weak, Bob Workman, Ron Melbye, Brenda Gunn, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: JoAnn McDowell, Jeff Quist, Kyle Hutchings, and Dean Busing

Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Staff: Stu Miller

Visitors: David Potter, Kandi Srb, Greg MacLean, Rodney Verhoeff, Glenn Johnson, Doug Bisson, Scott Berryman, Lou Allgayer, Andy Blackwell, John Walters, Jim Sanders, Brian Buckingham, Gary Stander, Wayne Williams, Ronna Wiig, Jessica Preister, Scott Voichoskie, David Kotok, Rick Houch, Bob Borgeson, Suzi Nelson, Bob Twiss, Kevin Svec, Tim Gilligan, Tim Schram, Paul Lienke, Bob Crisler, Sue Brauckmuller, Paul Gossin.

Chairman Ken Svoboda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Svoboda asked the commissioners and DED staff to introduce themselves.

Kathy McKillip, NIZC Executive Director, then took the Commission roll call at 7:07PM.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Svoboda asked if there are any changes that need to be made to the minutes as distributed from the January, 2006 meeting. There being none, ***Motion by Melbye and seconded by Sigerson to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion approved by consent.***

Executive Director Report

Kathy McKillip reported that a website can be created for the Commission to better inform the public. McKillip has also been researching potential grants available to assist the Commission with funding issues.

Sarpy County Presentation

Rick Houck, Sarpy County Planning Director presented information to the Commission regarding the setting of design standards along the corridor within Sarpy County. Also stated that the comprehensive plan in for Sarpy County is in the draft stages and that the final plan should be due within 2 weeks and a copy will be forwarded to the Commission.

NIZC Mission Statement

After discussing the options presented, one was approved. *Motion by Workman and seconded by Boyd to approve the NIZC Mission Statement as; “Fostering regional partnerships and promoting economic development opportunities for all communities within the Lincoln/Omaha I-80 Corridor.” Motion approved.*

Growth Strategy Scope Discussion – Vice-Chair Steve Oltmans distributed to all in attendance a growth strategy scope of work for the Commission to consider. This study would encompass an 18 month period. The majority of the funding to finance such a study would have to come from the private sector and other entities. This strategy is to look at the corridor 25-50 years out with the highest economic impact growth with minimal environmental impact. Motion by Gay and seconded by Boyd to permit the NIZC Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Director to work with the NEDED to pursue funding opportunities and to meet with members of the Legislature regarding available funding to be used for implementation of the study. Motion approved.

Commissioner Boyd also requested that the Commission set aside time at the March NIZC meeting to discuss funding opportunities for the Commission.

Chairman Svoboda asked Kathy McKillip about the status of a NIZC annual report. McKillip reported that technically the NIZC does not need to have a formal report to the Governor until February 15, 2008. It was discussed that a brief report, updating the Governor about the Commission should be delivered to the Governor by February 15, 2006.

Discussion occurred regarding appointments of additional Commission members. Motion by Borgeson and seconded by Workman to add the Mayor of Ashland to sit on the Commission as a non-voting member. Motion failed 12-3.

Public Comment Period

Mayor Ronna Wiig from Ashland presented ideas about the creation and existence of the Commission.

Bob Twiss – Resident from Gretna requested that the Commission take a position regarding LB 1121.

Paul Gossin – Resident of Ashland requested that the next meeting of the Commission be held in Ashland so that the community of Ashland could present information to the Commission.

Bob Christo – Resident from Ashland requested that the Commission take a position on LB 1121.

Sue Brauckmuller – Resident of Ashland request that the Commission keep LB 1121 separate from the Growth Strategy Study.

Scott Voichoskie – Resident of Ashland request that any studies or consultants that the Commission may utilize should be credible.

There was no further comment or response from the public.

Motion to adjourn by Gunn, second by Strand. Motion Approved by consent.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy McKillip,
Executive Director
Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission