

Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission
Board of Commission Meeting
7:00PM, March 2, 2006
Ashland Country Club – Ashland, NE

Commissioner Attending: Mary Ann Borgeson, Inez Boyd, Dean Busing, Marsha Babcock, Jim Grotrian – alternate for JoAnn McDowell, Dave Nielsen, Steve Oltmans, John Plucknett, Chuck Sigerson, Bob Workman, Jeff Quist, Ron Melbye, Kathy McKillip – NIZC Executive Director

Members Excused: Ken Svoboda, Tim Gay, Pete Kotsiopoulos, Brenda Gunn, and Jeff Weak

Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Staff: Richard Baier, Stu Miller

Visitors: 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, Peggy Brown, Suzi Nelson, Bob Twiss, Kevin Svec, Tim Gilligan, Tim Schram, Paul Lienke, Bob Crisler, Sue Brauckmuller, John Winkler, Scott Voichoskie, Jennifer Roberts-Jensen.

Vice -Chairman Steve Oltmans welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Oltmans 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 the Agenda

Vice-Chairman Oltmans asked if there are any changes that need to be made to the agenda as distributed. There being none, ***Motion by Quist and seconded by Boyd to approved the March NIZC meeting agenda as distributed. Motion approved by consent.***

Approval of Minutes

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

Executive Director Report

Kathy McKillip reported that a website for NIZC is currently under works and Commissioners need to submit a photo and bio as soon as possible to be placed on the website. Jim Strand formally resigned and the Commission has received his letter. Lancaster County Board has appointed Phil Mullen to replace Strand. Phil will be attending the next NIZC meeting. Plans are well underway for the Alexander Garvin

Session and will be covered later on the agenda. The NIZC annual report was presented to Governor Heineman on Feb 16th, 2006.

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period opened at 7:15 pm.

Mayor Ronna Wiig from Ashland suggested saving the taxpayers' money on studies by gathering information from communities and Ashland is willing to offer their current information that would be needed and utilized by the Commission.

Brad Stauffer – Gretna Area Chamber of Commerce would like to become informed about NIZC meetings and interested in representation.

Jerry Hurdle (spelling unsure) – Resident of Greenwood, critical for the Commission to consider the infrastructure needs along the corridor. Nebraska City should be added as a contact community to participate in the Corridor study and expanded about concerns regarding the 214th St overpass.

Community Member not signing in from Ashland – Fire and Safety issues regarding public safety and services should be considered by the Commission.

At this time the Public Comment Period closed – 7:40 pm.

Cass County Presentation

John Winkler, City Administrator with the City of Plattsmouth presented information that stating that Cass County is the 4th fastest growing county in Nebraska. Biggest concern is identifying and controlling industrial sites available. They have a 60% commute rate – the county zoning is pro-active, appropriate with a regional approach. They have strong parks and mining operations.

Ashland Community Presentation

Scott Voichoskie, City Administrator for Ashland presented and abbreviated presentation with more to follow at a later date. Included in the abbreviated presentation was information about the 156 housing permits issued in 2005, and that Ashland has been working hard on the creation of a stronger infrastructure. Biggest challenge is pulling regions together for a cooperative effort along the corridor.

Greenwood Community Presentation

Jennifer Roberts-Jensen – Village Board member with Greenwood. Presentation included realization that Greenwood has limited employment –mostly trucking. For infrastructure, residents are on metered water. Greenwood does not have the infrastructure in place to accommodate new residents or to reach new homes. Population is 550, in 2005 they approved 12-15 housing permits.

Alexander Garvin Session

Alex Garvin will be arriving on March 8, 2006 and researching the corridor March 9 & 10 with the Commission Session to be held on March 11. The public is encouraged to attend. The Commission has been receiving lots of interest and press regarding the upcoming event. March 11, session's agenda is available on NEDED website.

Kathy McKillip reported that there has been interest to offer in-kind donations for public meetings and community task force groups to be developed to better assist the Commission with community outreach and other potential costs associated with the Commission.

Motion by Sigerson and seconded by Babcock to request the NIZC Ex. Director to draft a policy for rules of gift acceptance as to accepting in-kind donations. Motion approved unanimously.

Other Business

Motion by Workman and seconded by Babcock to discuss as an agenda item on the April 6, 2006 meeting, the pro's-con's of expanding the Commission with non-voting members. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion by Sigerson and seconded by Quist to adjourn. Motion approved by consent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy McKillip,
Executive Director
Nebraska Innovation Zone Commission