

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 28, 2002
6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members present were Chair Julie Aitken, Barbara Spiece and Hilda Testa (arrived 7:05 p.m.). Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Vice-Chair Jason Hurley and Jacquie Daniels were absent.

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR

There was a lengthy discussion by the Board regarding the new board policy ordinance.

Ms. Testa made a motion, seconded by Ms. Spiece, to postpone the selection of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary until the full Board was in attendance. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

3. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

4. SELECTION OF SECRETARY

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 10, 2001

March 26, 2002

Ms. Testa made a motion, seconded by Ms. Spiece, to approve the minutes of July 10, 2001 and March 26, 2002. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

Chair Aitken reported that she had been informed that the Davie Farmer's Guide, as well as the Board's recommendation, would be presented to Council at the June 5th Council meeting.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 How to Encourage and Protect Hobby Farmers/Rural Residential Areas

Chair Aitken commented that previous discussions indicated that there was a need to preserve hobby farms and other rural residential areas; however, this could be accomplished only if there was familiarity with the neighborhood and by knowing the residents needs. She commented that in some of the neighborhoods, there was a mixture of rural residence and hobby farms, and a residence would not necessarily qualify as a farm. Chair Aitken suggested that as an Oakhill resident, Ms. Testa make suggestions that she believed would aid in the protection of hobby farms and the preservation of residences in the community.

Ms. Testa indicated that the highest percentage of livestock in the areas with hobby farms consisted of horses with a small percentage being dogs and chickens. She questioned whether the mandate was to preserve the rural lifestyle or the equestrian lifestyle. Chair Aitken responded that the mandate was to adopt legislation to ensure the preservation of the rural character and equestrian lifestyle. She added that though they were not identical, they went hand-in-hand because in some areas semi-rural character and equestrian lifestyle existed. Ms.

Testa indicated that there were several things that could be done by the Town to ensure the equestrian lifestyle. She referred to the need for more police presence to ensure traffic safety.

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A lengthy discussion ensued regarding various traffic issues relating to safety, through traffic, and the comparison between speed limit requirements in the Oakhill area and the speed limit in other areas such as Plantation and other sections of Davie. Chair Aitken commented that it was very encouraging that a traffic study was being conducted by the Town. Ms. Testa commented that Councilmember Paul had been instrumental in having new signs placed in the area; however, the numbers of cars and through traffic were a great concern.

Chair Aitken referred to sidewalks and street lights and asked for an explanation as she did not understand why they were a problem. Ms. Testa responded that sidewalks and street lights were an indication of suburbia which was not favored by most Oakhill residents. The Board discussed the pros and cons of street lighting and sidewalks with Ms. Testa indicating that she was not in favor of street lighting. Ms. Spiece questioned Ms. Testa's aversion to street lighting which Ms. Testa explained.

Southwest Ranches was discussed with Chair Aitken inquiring if there were any problems from new residents concerning the equestrian lifestyle. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the treatment of horses by some residents with Ms. Testa indicating that although she was unhappy with this issue, she did not favor the enactment of new ordinances that dictated residents' action. Ms. Testa expressed the opinion that if residents owned livestock, there should be incentives provided by the Town for best management practices that were followed. She provided examples of these incentives.

Chair Aitken referred to the mandate and indicated that Ms. Testa should compare all the ordinances including Section 12-34(B) and concentrate on what was applicable to the Oakhill area instead of what was exempt. She advised that the concentration should be on items that would encourage new homeowners to maintain horses in order to prevent negative feedback from the Town due to lack of adherence to the requirements. Discussion continued with different ideas being presented.

Ms. Testa referred to water restrictions and how it applied to horse owners. Chair Aitken responded that she was not sure of how this was controlled by the Town. Ms. Testa indicated that there was a certain standard that should be maintained by horse owners and unfortunately this was not done by everyone. Chair Aitken indicated that thought should be given to new developments in the Oakhill area and while the Zoning In Progress was still in place, Oakhill should have a voice. She added that the Planning and Zoning Division favored the open space zoning; however, she was not sure if it would be accepted by Council. Chair Aitken advised Ms. Testa that while the Zoning In Progress was still in place, she needed to speak with her neighbors to find out the type of structures that they would like to see in the neighborhood, in terms of architecture. She commented that once this was accomplished, a presentation could be made to Council.

The Board discussed a recent Council workshop where reference was made to open space development and the focus on certain corridors and the possibility of maintaining Oakhill in the

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semi-rural manner was also discussed. Chair Aitken referred to vacant property in the Oakhill area and indicated that the owner wanted to move forward with development and was willing to conform to whatever was required. Discussion followed regarding open space development with Chair Aitken reemphasizing the need for a basic consensus from residents regarding the type of structure that they would like to see.

Ms. Testa referred to trails that went across residents' driveways and advised that the material along these driveways was very slippery and posed a danger to both horse and riders. She suggested that in the future there be an ordinance where the homeowner would allow the Town to provide special surface for new trails along driveways. Chair Aitken suggested that Ms. Testa form a list of new and existing ideas in order to make a presentation to Council. She added that this presentation would be representative of the entire Oakhill area and not an individual.

6.2 Ideas for the Upcoming Hurricane Season - Large Animal Rescue Plans

Chair Aitken indicated that it was too close to the hurricane season to formulate a plan and it would not be possible to accomplish anything for this season. Ms. Testa indicated that ideas should be formulated for pre-hurricane season. She advised that she had a proposal involving the construction of stalls which she would like to submit to Council; however, that was dependent on the cost.

6.3 Brainstorming Session of New Ideas

The Board deferred this item to June 25, 2002.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

9. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Spiece made a motion, seconded by Ms. Testa, to adjourn. There being no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member

