

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 28, 2003

6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Board members present were Chair Hilda Testa, Vice-Chair Julie Aitken and Jacque Daniels. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Jason Hurley and Barbara Spiece were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 23, 2003

Chair Testa indicated that the second paragraph on the first page should read "...B&B Feed which had considered relocating."

Vice-Chair Aitken commented that the following paragraph should be added on page 2..."Mr. Stallone left and discussion continued by the Board."

Vice-Chair Aitken made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, to approve the minutes of September 23, 2003 with the necessary corrections. In a voice vote, with Mr. Hurley and Ms. Spiece being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Equine Hurricane Turn-out

Chair Testa commented that she was disappointed with the Town's lack of participation on this issue. She indicated that there were a large amount of horses in the Town and although there was a brochure to assist residents in being better prepared, there were animals that would have no place to go in the event of a "nasty" hurricane. Chair Testa remarked that in reality, not everyone would build a stockade for their horse. She expressed the opinion that with the number of equestrian parks within the Town, stalls could be built by the Town to be used as shelters for horses during a hurricane as well as for other purposes.

The Board devoted a lengthy discussion to the different events that could be held at the equestrian parks and added that reservations would have to be made prior to the hurricane season. Chair Testa indicated that due to the large number of residents with horses, these stalls should be exclusive to Davie residents. She indicated that her proposal was to make the stalls multi-purpose which would be more acceptable to the Town. Chair Testa indicated that because the expected turn-out would be large in number, there should be a fee for the use of the stalls.

There was a brief discussion concerning how the project would be handled if Council considered it to be too costly. The Board discussed the layout of different locations, setbacks, and how the project would fit in the various locations. Ms. Daniels suggested that the lay-out should be similar to a campsite both for horses and their owners alike. Vice-Chair Aitken commented that the issue at hand went beyond a recommendation and likened it to the Zoning in Progress project. She suggested that the project had to be carefully planned before it was presented to Council. A brief discussion followed with each Boardmember presenting ideas for the proposed project. Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that she would "download" aerial photographs of the various proposed parks for presentation at the next meeting. She commented that this was a huge undertaking and reiterated that research be conducted before the idea was presented to Council.

Vice-Chair Aitken added that the plan should appear feasible and possible and should not be a financial killer. A lengthy discussion was devoted to how information could be acquired concerning the cost for erecting the stalls, cost accuracy, the initial amount of stalls to be erected,

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the exact acreage of the proposed locations and the retrieval of additional information from the aerial photographs.

Chair Testa indicated that erection of the proposed stalls would help to support her idea for equestrian programs within the Town. She added that there was more potential for equestrian programs if there were equestrian type show grounds.

The Board briefly discussed items for the next agenda. Chair Testa commented that plans for the presentation of the proposed project would be discussed at the next meeting.

3.2 Items for the Davie Update Agricultural Corner

Chair Testa indicated that she contacted Town Administrator Thomas Willi and Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej concerning items for the Davie Update and was advised that the Board would have to determine exactly what to place in the articles. She explained that the Davie Update was published three times per year and the deadline for the next publication would be February 15th, which would afford the Board ample time to compile articles.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning changing the name from Agricultural Corner, and it was the consensus to change the name to "Rural Lifestyles" with a sub-heading titled "What's Happening". Vice-Chair Aitken commented that the article would be a directory and should provide a listing of programs provided by various equestrian businesses in the Town

Following a lengthy discussion concerning how the Board would be contacted, it was decided that Chair Testa's e-mail address would be used as the means of contact. Also discussed was an outline for the article as well as various businesses that could be included. Chair Testa commented that nurseries should also be included on the list. She added that there should be a limit on the number of listings so as not to exceed the allotted space. Ms. Daniels suggested rotating the names. Chair Testa suggested that each Boardmember present names for the listing at the next meeting. She indicated that under the sub-heading should be a list of agricultural clubs and the programs they provide.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Aitken provided an update concerning policy information which was discussed at the September 23rd meeting regarding retail sales and non-agricultural uses on farms which was forwarded to Code Compliance Official Daniel Stallone. She felt the information was subjective and would provide enough "wiggle room".

A brief discussion followed regarding the Right-to-Farm Act and the protection provided if agricultural uses took place on a farm.

Vice-Chair indicated that the Right-To-Hobby Farm Ordinance passed on first reading by Council and was overwhelmingly approved. She added that this item would be on the November 5th Council agenda for second reading.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

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There were no comments and/or suggestions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member