

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2005**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Board members present were Chair Julie Aitken, Vice-Chair Rick Bruns, Jacque Daniels and Councilmember Susan Starkey. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Jason Hurley was absent.

**2. DISCUSSION**

**2.1 Ideas For Farmer's Market**

Councilmember Starkey explained that she had invited Fred Segal, President of the Broward County Farm Bureau, due to his affiliation with the Farm Bureau and because of the Board's discussion at the August meeting regarding a farmer's market in Davie. She added that she had also contacted Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej and presented ideas to her regarding a farmer's market. Councilmember Starkey indicated that Ms. Stafiej had "given" her the first date of November 12th for the farmer's market which was compatible with other events occurring on the same day. Councilmember Starkey indicated that based on the ideas and the feedback received from Ms. Stafiej, the Board could decide whether or not it was interested in the idea of a farmer's market.

Councilmember Starkey advised of discussions with Mr. Segal regarding a similar activity in Pompano Park and asked him to present the ideas to the Board. She commented that the idea was not to create a Pompano Park because their farmers' market was held weekly. Councilmember Starkey indicated that Ms. Stafiej suggested that initially the farmers' market could be held four times per year. She commented that Ms. Stafiej felt that the fees being charged were typical for an 8x10 space; however, she was planning to lower the fees to enable people to participate. Chair Aitken asked if the homeowner's insurance of someone with a backyard garden would be sufficient to enable participation. Mr. Segal indicated that it depended on the type of policy and the homeowner should check with their insurance company.

A brief discussion ensued regarding insurance issues with Chair Aitken inquiring if there was someone on staff who handled all Town insurance issues who was expert enough to answer questions regarding homeowners' policy. Mr. Segal commented that the Pompano Green Market was operated by the Pompano Beach Historical Society in cooperation with the City of Pompano. He indicated that the City of Pompano had certain insurance requirements that had to be met by vendors and suggested that Ms. Stafiej contact the City of Pompano Beach for assistance regarding insurance issues involving the farmers' market.

Councilmember Starkey commented that it was important to "tap" into the fresh market items and not just nurseries. She indicated that this was familiar territory to Ms. Stafiej and she should be left to handle the details concerning the insurance issue with the Town Attorney. Councilmember Starkey added that

Mr. Segal provided a history of how the Pompano Green Market began. He added that following the inception of the Pompano Green Market, he was approached by the Pompano Beach Historical Society to see if the farm bureau would assist in locating vendors. Mr. Segal explained that the Green Market operated every Saturday for 30 consecutive weeks from November through April. He indicated that vendors were charged a fee of \$300 for the 30 weeks; however, if a vendor wanted to come in for less than 30 weeks, the weekly fee would be at a higher rate.

Mr. Segal highlighted the type of vendors and the various items that were sold, adding that there were sponsors for the Green Market such as John Knox Village. He indicated that there were booths set up by the sponsors to provide information. Mr. Segal commented that during the year, free booths were given to 4-H Clubs and other civic organizations; and there was live entertainment at the Green Market. He explained that the Green Market was in its third year of operation and had grown considerably. Mr. Segal provided information on the location adding that the event was in old Pompano.

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Councilmember Starkey indicated that Ms. Stafiej discussed the entertainment idea with Redevelopment Administrator Will Allen who indicated that the CRA would sponsor the first event, providing that the CRA could stipulate the location of the event. There was discussion regarding the use of tents for the event. Councilmember Starkey commented that typically participants were required to provide their own tents and they were allowed to set up the tents prior to the event.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding location, entertainment, type of vendors and items to be sold at the Davie Farmer's Market. Chair Aitken indicated that there should not be too much restriction placed on the items to be sold; however, the venue should not become a flea market. Boardmembers presented different ideas concerning the type of produce and other items that should be sold at the farmer's market with the consensus that it be stressed that along with produce, other items should be homemade. There was further discussion regarding the selling of eggs and small livestock with Mr. Segal indicating that with the proper license, eggs could be sold. Mr. Segal explained that there was a fish farm in the City of Pompano and there had been talk about setting up a trailer with a tank attached in order to have live fish at the green market. He indicated that this was a unique idea to attract people to the Davie Farmer's Market.

Ms. Daniels asked about plans to bring people out to the farmer's market. Chair Aitken commented that the Town would have to place information in the Davie Update. Councilmember Starkey commented that Ms. Stafiej mentioned she would contact vendors who had participated in previous events. She added that once the Board indicated its interest in the farmer's market, she would make a presentation to the Town Council for approval to move forward.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding changes to the present brochure and ways to advertise the event, sponsorship from various businesses and possible activities to amuse children who attend. Chair Aitken expressed the hope that the farmers market would grow and become a weekly event.

Councilmember Starkey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, for the Board to move forward with the Davie Green Market project. In a voice vote, with Mr. Hurley being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

Councilmember Starkey would present a final draft of the brochure at the next meeting. She asked Boardmembers to contact anyone they knew who would be interested in becoming prospective vendors.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**3.1 Possible Revision of Agricultural Definitions in Town Code**

Chair Aitken advised that she had contacted Code Compliance Official Danny Stallone and invited him to the October meeting. She indicated that she had not yet received a response from him. Chair Aitken explained that amendments were being made to the Code because some of the definitions were poor and some were missing.

Dr. Bruns asked if there were any changes that would allow someone who was not receiving an agricultural exemption to receive the exemption once the changes were made. Chair Aitken responded negatively and explained that the changes would make clarification and stop abuse. She indicated that once the changes were made, a recommendation would be made to Council to put the changes into effect.

A lengthy discussion was devoted to the Code revision with Chair Aitken making reference to a previous meeting when the problems involving garden centers were discussed. Chair Aitken indicated that the major items of concern were garden centers, plant nurseries and landscape maintenance contractors and the lack of a clear definition. Boardmembers commented that more stringent definitions should be placed on the items mentioned with Councilmember Starkey commenting that was where Mr. Stallone would be helpful. Chair Aitken commented that the revision as it existed was a draft which would be defined by Mr. Stallone.

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There was a lengthy discussion regarding definitions and the determination of agricultural classification. Chair Aitken explained that for a home to have the Save Our Homes homestead exemption, the home had to be separated from the agriculturally classified land and be assessed fully. She indicated that the law does not allow the agricultural classification, the homestead exemption and the Save Our Homes cap on a farm.

3.2 Article for Davie Update

Boardmembers were in agreement with the article for the Davie Update; however, Councilmember Starkey indicated that the project referred to as monthly “Davie Farm Market” should be changed to “Davie Green Market.” A brief discussion followed regarding additional information to the Davie Update article which should not exceed 150 words.

Councilmember Starkey indicated that information concerning links to the Town Code and hurricane information should be included in the article. Chair Aitken commented that after Council unanimously passed the Davie Hobby Farm ordinance, it was not codified by staff. She indicated that she contacted Councilmember Paul and steps were being taken to have the ordinance codified.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to be discussed.

**5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

There were no comments and/or suggestions.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member