

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**JULY 25, 2006**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Jacque Daniels (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Julie Aitken, and Councilmember Starkey. Also present were Programs Manager Phillip Holste and Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 27, 2006**

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starkey, to approve the minutes of June 27, 2006. In a voice vote, with Ms. Daniels being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

5.1 Mr. Holste explained that he was one of the liaisons working on the open space bond, along with Engineer Michael Mungal who was the liaison for the Open Space Advisory Committee. Mr. Holste explained that community meetings had been held and feedback had been received from the Town Council and from the different committees regarding sites that residents were interested in seeing available for purchase. He indicated that his reason for attending the meeting was to get Boardmembers feedback on additional sites that were not on the inventory lists that he had provided. Mr. Holste explained how the inventory list was acquired and stated that willing seller requests had been sent to most of the property owners on the inventory lists. He commented that 10 positive responses and 15 negative responses from property owners had been received. Ms. Aitken asked if the responses were reflected on the inventory lists. Mr. Holste responded in the negative, explaining that the lists had not yet been updated.

In addition to the properties listed in District 1, Boardmembers identified several other properties in District 1 that were not included that might be available for open space. Mr. Holste commented that a formal information list indicating positive or negative responses from property owners had not yet been prepared for submission to Council.

Councilmember Starkey referred to the dog park and commented that there had been suggestions to use an underutilized portion of the Betty Booth Roberts Park for the dog park. A lengthy discussion followed with suggestions being made for several parks that could be used for a dog park once improvements had been made. Ms. Aitken commented that there was a greater need for a dog park in east Davie than in west Davie where there was more land.

Councilmember Starkey stated that former Councilmember Kathy Cox and Councilmember Paul had expressed interest in having a park in honor of veterans. She commented that lack of funds had prevented early efforts to improve the park; however, improvements to Veteran's Park could make it a true memorial park. Councilmember Starkey referred to equipment that she had seen at the League of Cities Conference and added that although the equipment was mainly for seniors, they could be added to any area. She explained that there were plans to place some of these equipment in Pine Island Park and Sunny Lake Park. It was the consensus that the Veteran's Park would be utilized by more people once improvements had been made. Councilmember Starkey stated that Sunny Lake property had been acquired by the Town for open space through grants from Broward County and the State. She commented that the Sunny Lake parcel should be improved to reflect an Audubon environment for residents as well as passive canoeing. There were plans to replant the tree canopy that had been destroyed as a result of Hurricane Wilma and to add some passive picnicking to the area. Vice-Chair Daniels asked about plans for the Berman Preserve and Councilmember Starkey provided an update. Councilmember Starkey also discussed the concerns of residents about the use of 58th Avenue as a cut through.

The Board discussed the items on the inventory list in District 2 and identified several parcels that could be used for open space. Ideas were presented to improve the areas if property owners decided to sell to the Town. Councilmember Starkey indicated that there had been interest from the Old Davie School regarding the Davie 2005 parcel located east of the school. She added that the property would be used by the School for its farming outreach program. Mr. Holste commented that he had spoken to a representative

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of the Davie 2005 parcel who had indicated that they were not interested because the property was now in the development review process.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the location of a dog park in District 2. Mr. Holste explained that several locations were suggested but there had not been an overwhelming consensus on a location at the District 1 or District 2 meetings that he had attended. Councilmember Starkey commented that it was important that areas in the Town be identified where residents would be able to allow their dogs to run. She commented that residents knew that Council had passed a resolution for a dog park and they did not care about the location. Councilmember Starkey explained the criteria for a park and added that she would provide brochures to the Board. Mr. Holste stated that thought should be given if the Town wanted to spend money to acquire a site for a dog park, which could be expensive. He advised that an existing site owned by the Town would be less expensive. Councilmember Starkey referred to the Florida Power and Light easement and commented that it was interesting because it connected many of the Town's parks from east to west on the east side of the Town. If the Town could enter into a lease agreement with FP&L and possibly allow for a trail to connect all of the parks, that was something in District 2 that should be pursued.

Councilmember Starkey commented that she wanted to know the locations that the Board was most interested in both District 1 and District 2 because public hearings would be held. A lengthy discussion followed with Boardmembers identifying the Kalpana parcel (formerly Sigars) and Ciedi parcel in District 1, and in District 2, the Davie 2005 parcel, the Polish Catholic Church parcel, the Batten Farm parcel, Covenant House and the FPL easement. The Berny Lane and Tao Ling Wu parcels were identified; however, these were not included on the District 1 inventory list.

The District 3 inventory list was discussed and reference was made to the Wal-mart issue with Councilmember Starkey commenting that Council was well within its right not to approve a 24-hour operation of that magnitude. She explained that contrary to a newspaper article, Council did not give in to public demand there were other issues involved.

Councilmember Starkey highlighted several parcels on the list and reiterated the need for an FPL easement and whether they would grant the easement to the Town or if the Town would have to make a purchase. She discussed possible improvements to some of the parcels if they were acquired by the Town. Councilmember Starkey advised that she had been contacted by a nursery owner who was willing to sell; however, she informed him that the decision to purchase was up to the public. Discussion ensued concerning nurseries with Ms. Aitken asking why other nurseries were not listed. Mr. Holste explained that the intent of the inventory list was not to add every vacant property or nursery to the list, but rather to get feedback from residents, Councilmembers and Advisory Boardmembers. He added that if this Board wanted to add additional items to the list, willing seller letter requests would be sent. Mr. Holste explained that the first group of willing seller requests would be reviewed by the end of August and owners would have two weeks in which to respond.

There was discussion regarding parcels in District 3, owned by the Town, that could be used for a dog park as well as the Purchase of Development Rights. Councilmember Starkey referred to Pine Island Park and indicated that she had been asked by residents to have another tennis court erected. She explained that there was enough room to add additional courts as well as a shelter to hold tennis tournaments; however, she did not know what the cost would be for the additional courts.

Councilmember Starkey discussed Robbins Lodge and the possibility of improvements to provide maximum use. Boardmembers made several suggestions for these improvements as well as maintenance. Councilmember Starkey commented that the suggestion had been made to have a park ranger office at Robbins Lodge so that there would be someone on the premises 24 hours a day. She commented that there had been constant questions concerning duties performed by the park ranger, and she suggested that there should be a wandering mechanism throughout the park a way to prove that the park ranger on duty had made his rounds. Councilmember Starkey stated that the park rangers were not opposed to the idea.

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A lengthy discussion was devoted to the issue of easements and connectivity of trails with Chair Hurley pointing out the lack of safety on Peaceful Ridge Road, particularly for children in the area. The consensus was to move the trail from Peaceful Ridge Road. There was discussion regarding several other parcels; however, it was determined that they were too disjointed and there would be no connectivity.

The District 4 inventory list was discussed with several of the parcels listed being identified as possibilities for acquisition by the Town once there was public feedback. Mr. Holste stated that the Board was aware that the Farm Park was located in District 4, and that the Town had received funding from the County and presumably the open space bond funds would be used to make up the difference between the purchase price and the grant price which would be approximately \$3.5 million. He explained that with the exception of two properties listed, willing seller requests had been sent to all properties. Mr. Holste identified the two properties and indicated that they were adjacent to each and slated for a vacation which would need to be completed before moving forward with the willing seller request.

Councilmember Starkey commented that she would like to see connection and linkages to some of the parks in District 4 which was missing. She added that funds would have to be earmarked to make the improvements in District 4, or funds would have to be earmarked as a priority for the future so that developers could pay into trail improvements through the Town. Lengthy discussion continued regarding the improvements that should be made to create better connectivity to the parks.

**3. DISCUSSION**

**3.1 Agriculture Code Definitions**

Chair Hurley suggested that this item be tabled until the August meeting. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**4.1 Ideas For Farmer's Market**

Chair Hurley suggested that this item be tabled until the August meeting. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

Councilmember Starkey advised that a Fall Craft Fair and Green Market was being held by the Town in September 2006; additionally, a Green Market was also being held at the Labor Day Splash. She added that Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej had tried to include the green market whenever there were activities and events within the Town.

Ms. Aitken commented that the updated Davie Farmer's Guide was still not posted on the Town's website and wondered when this would take place. She explained that the Guide in its present state was outdated and the changes should be placed on the Town's website as soon as possible especially when a new neighborhood had moved into the Town.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Identification of Parcels for Open Space Bond**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Chair Hurley spoke of permitting problems being experienced by a neighbor who was trying to replace a barn that had been destroyed during Hurricane Wilma. He commented that he did not have enough information to provide to this neighbor as to what was required or whether this had the agricultural classification or hobby farm classification. Chair Hurley indicated that the issue should be discussed further at the August meeting.

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**6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Aitken and Jason Curtis apprised the Board of an incident involving horses that were loose in the Rolling Oakes area. Mr. Curtis explained that the description garnered from the police was not helpful in locating of the owner. He suggested that pictures of horses be placed in protective covers and given to Davie police officers to enable proper identification of horses. Additionally, it was suggested that a holding area be created with volunteers from different areas who could be contacted by dispatch when horses were loose and the horses could be held until the owners were located. Mr. Curtis indicated that he would be able to contact volunteers through the Property Appraiser's Office.

Lengthy discussion ensued with Boardmembers presenting different ideas as to how the issue could be handled. Ms. Aitken suggested that this be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the August meeting.

Councilmember Starkey suggested that Boardmembers assist in locating and identifying farms in the areas that could be used as holding areas which would be helpful for the Police Department.

**7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

There were no comments or suggestions.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member