

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**APRIL 22, 2008**

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 22, 2008**

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Daniels, to approve the minutes of January 22, 2008. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

**3. DISCUSSION**

**3.1 Possible Merging of Open Space Advisory Committee and Agricultural Advisory Board**

Ms. Aitken advised that she had written a letter to the Open Space Advisory Committee and explained that some misinformation had been relayed to the Open Space Advisory Committee regarding the equestrian trails issue. She added that the letter had not been written on behalf of this Board.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the merging of the boards as well as the equestrian trail issue. Ms. Aitken indicated that there was a misunderstanding regarding this Board's intent to identify the trail segments and she had written the letter to the Open Space Advisory Committee to clarify the issue. She explained that the idea was to have a joint meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee once there was a draft as to how the trail segments would be identified. Ms. Aitken stated that the trail segments would only be identified for safety purposes and would not be renamed. Vice-Chair Daniels reiterated that it was specified at the March meeting that the trails would not be renamed but they would be identified for safety purposes.

Ms. Aitken informed the Board that at a Council meeting, Councilmember Starkey had spoken of sunsetting the Agricultural Advisory Board and having some of the Boardmembers appointed to the Open Space Advisory Committee. She commented that Council did not agree and Mayor Truex did not think that the issues of this Board were compatible with the issues of the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Linda Greck, Open Space Advisory Committee member, did not believe that the issues of both Boards were compatible, although on occasion there were issues that overlapped. She indicated that at the March 24th Open Space Advisory Committee, Councilmember Starkey had stated that there had been a discussion about sunsetting the Agricultural Advisory Board; however, Council had voted against it. Ms. Greck indicated that at the end of Council's discussion, it was determined that if the decision was made to sunset either board and the only way to avoid that was for both boards to merge, the Open Space Advisory Committee would not be opposed. She commented that based on the discussion, the issue of merging both Boards would continue to emerge.

Meeting schedules were discussed with Ms. Greck making reference to the length of the Open Space Advisory Committee meetings and the fact that it met bi-monthly. She commented that Councilmember Starkey advised that there were times when it was not necessary for the Agricultural Advisory Board to meet because the agenda was very short. Councilmember Starkey had suggested that the boards flip their schedules. Ms. Greck advised that she would discuss Ms. Aitken's letter at the next Open Space Advisory Committee meeting because she believed clarification was necessary by both boards as to what each thought, and whether a joint meeting would be necessary.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding meeting schedules and the number of members on the Open Space Advisory Committee. Ms. Greck indicated that a number of the members expressed concern that they would not be able to attend if the meetings were monthly, and if they missed too many meetings they would be dismissed from the board.

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**APRIL 22, 2008**

Chair Hurley referred to a meeting that was held a year ago addressing the issue of both boards merging. He added that the boards felt their focus was too diverse and it was not in their interest to merge. Chair Hurley stated that it appeared that the agendas did not cross sufficiently with both boards and it did not make sense to discuss the issue further. Ms. Aitken expressed the opinion that the two boards should continue separately and suggested that the issue be revisited in the future. She commented that if the Open Space Advisory Committee's agenda was lengthy, adding other issues of this Board did not make sense. Ms. Greck expressed concern that there might become an issue when there was a conflict of interest, which would be very awkward. Ms. Aitken commented that if Council decided that there were too many boards and it was necessary for both boards to merge there would not be a problem; however, as long as the boards had Council's approval to meet as often as necessary, there was no reason to consider merging.

Discussion continued with Ms. Greck commenting that Councilmember Starkey had expressed the opinion that there had been too much equestrian interest on the Agricultural Advisory Board. Ms. Aitken explained that an individual from Councilmember Starkey's district with nursery background and expertise had expressed interest in being appointed to the Board, however; Councilmember Starkey chose not to appoint that individual.

Vice-Chair Daniels made a motion, seconded by Ms. Aitken that this Board, at this time, did not feel inclined to join with the Open Space Advisory Committee; and at a later date, this could be revisited. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**4.1 Numbering or Naming of Equestrian Trails**

Ms. Aitken explained that she had difficulty downloading the trail map from the Town's website and she had contacted Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish and asked permission to download maps from that department's intranet program which provided a clear view of the equestrian trails. She indicated that Ms. Parrish gave permission providing that the Property Appraiser's website did not become interactive with the Town's. Ms. Aitken commented that the maps from the Property Appraiser's website provided better clarity than that of the Town and were 2008 aerial pictures.

A lengthy discussion was devoted to the issue of the numbering or naming of the equestrian trails with Boardmembers presenting their opinion as to the best manner to solve the problem. It was determined that there were more issues than the Board was able to tackle at this time.

Chair Hurley suggested contacting the Fire Department and request that a representative attend the meeting scheduled for May to discuss the dispatching system and how it worked, and how to solve the problem of identifying the trails. He asked that one of the Boardmembers volunteer to send a letter to the Fire Chief requesting that a representative of that department attend the upcoming meeting.

Chair Hurley questioned if the issue was bothersome to the Open Space Advisory Committee. Ms. Greck commented that she had no problem with the issue but she could not speak for the other Boardmembers. Chair Hurley commented that traditionally, Open Space Advisory Committee was responsible for naming trails. Ms. Aitken suggested that Ms. Greck present the issue at the next Open Space Advisory Committee meeting to see if other Boardmembers had any ideas.

Ms. Aitken referred to outstanding issues and commented that the Board had been blockaded on the agricultural definitions, carcass removal, the ordinance that was drafted and the livestock identification plan. She indicated that the decision was made at the last meeting to directly address Council on those

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**APRIL 22, 2008**

outstanding issues. Ms. Aitken explained that the definitions were completed two years ago and she suggested sending a letter to each Councilmember indicating what the Board had accomplished, that it was apolitical and no one could be upset. She added that there were items missing from the Town's ordinance dealing with agriculture that needed to be corrected. If a letter was sent to Council there was a good chance that one of the Councilmembers would agree to place the item on the Council agenda for discussion.

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Daniels, that a Boardmember write a letter to be copied to each Councilmember, requesting that the Councilmembers place the issues, the agricultural definitions, the carcass removal ordinance, the livestock identification and the livestock-at-large on the Council agenda for discussion.

Ms. Greck questioned if every animal had to be outwardly identified. Ms. Aitken responded in the negative and provided an explanation to the livestock identification plan. A brief discussion followed.

Arthur Hurley and Ms. Greck asked about the process for items to be presented to Council and placed on the Council agenda after they had been discussed by this Board. Ms. Edwards explained how the items discussed by the Board were handled and added that the decision to place items on the Council agenda was made by Town Administrator Gary Shimun. Mr. Hurley indicated that a policy should be made for all boards in the Town stating that if a recommendation was not presented to Council as requested by a board, the individual responsible should send information back to the board indicating that the item was not presented and the reason why it was not presented to Council. He added that if the recommendation was not presented to Council as the board wanted, then the board could lobby. Mr. Hurley stated that the board should be informed as to the reason why their recommendations had not moved forward.

Chair Hurley commented that he had sent two letters directly to Vice-Mayor Luis regarding the ordinances and asked that they be presented to Council; however, Vice-Mayor Luis indicated that he had forwarded the ordinances to Code Compliance Official Danny Stallone. Ms. Aitken commented that Vice-Mayor Luis had the best intention, but as the newest Councilmember he was not aware that he had the ability to request that items be placed on the Council agenda.

Ms. Greck asked about the process for adding new ordinances into the Town Code. Ms. Edwards indicated that she was not sure but she would find out.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Following a brief discussion, the following items were suggested for the May meeting:

- Representative from the Fire Department to discuss trail issues
- Review letter to Councilmembers regarding outstanding Board issues

**7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

There were no comments and or suggestions.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member