

**DAVIE WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 16, 2003
5:30 P.M.**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members present were Chair Tom Green, Vice-Chair Barry Mowell, Timothy Fulton, Gary Gaffney, Daniel Lavrich, Gail Ling, Ronald Phillips and Don Zane. Also present were Utilities Director Daniel Colabella and Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Jeffrey Harrod was absent.

Chair Green indicated that there were several items that Boardmembers had asked to be included on the agenda. He added that he was not sure what the clear direction was as there were several items that were supposed to be listed as New Business. Mr. Gaffney indicated that he would like the potential tree ordinance to be revisited. Chair Green asked if there were any additional items to be added to the agenda. There was a brief discussion regarding the resolution proposed by Mr. Gaffney relating to the Boards involvement with issues under its purview.

Mr. Gaffney made a motion, seconded by Mr. Zane, that the change or amendment to the agenda be accepted. In a voice vote, with Mr. Harrod being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 21, 2003

Mr. Gaffney indicated that he wanted the proposed resolution regarding protocol for all advisory boards added to the minutes.

Mr. Lavrich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gaffney, to approve the minutes of October 21, 2003 with amendments. In a voice vote, with Mr. Harrod being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 Drainage Issues – Bruce Bernard, Public Works/Capital Projects Director

Mr. Bernard indicated that the drainage improvement had been ongoing on a small scale in the Town since the early 90's beginning in east Davie. He explained that large scale drainage improvements began after the consortium of Central Broward Water Control District, Broward County, City of Cooper City and Davie after the storm of 2000. Mr. Bernard indicated that the consortium had conducted a study of the areas that needed drainage improvements within the right-of-way, after which it was determined that there were 13 locations in the Town that needed drainage improvements

A lengthy discussion followed with Mr. Bernard explaining that the engineering firm that did the consortium was asked to do a cost estimate for the Town, plans as to how the improvements would be done, estimated cost of the improvements, partnership between the Town and CBWCD and allocation of funds by the District to assist the Town with the purchase of materials. Mr. Bernard commented that in April 2001, a resolution was passed allocating \$3.1 million to drainage improvements. He explained that the improvements which began in August 2001 were a three year project; he highlighted the areas and added that presently 80 percent of the improvements were completed. Mr. Bernard referred to the Hiatus Road area and explained the problems that existed and the improvements that were completed.

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Mr. Colabella asked whether that first area was the worst in the Town in terms of elevation, with Mr. Bernard responding in the affirmative. Mr. Bernard commented that the project began with locations that were owned by the Town and explained that other areas required permission from owners to allow easement onto their properties.

Mr. Bernard highlighted the areas where improvements had been completed and briefly explained plans for other drainage improvements in the Town, operation of pumps, drainage issues and the C-11 Canal.

Ms. Ling referred to drainage problems in Vista Filare and Shenandoah areas, adding that a back-flow valve had been installed in the area to prevent water from backing up if the pumps were working. She asked if there were other places in Davie where this valve was installed, with Mr. Bernard responding negatively.

Mr. Bernard explained about all the other projects as well as drainage projects which were completed in house with Town labor which were capital approved.

Chair Green asked about the location of the new park, Mr. Bernard provided the information and added that the park would be used to re-route the canal on 136th Street through that park. Mr. Bernard added that the park would probably be used as a wetland property and the right-of-way would be widened where the park began to 26th Street. Mr. Lavrich asked if there would be buffers between the park and surrounding neighbors. Mr. Bernard responded in the affirmative.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed design for the project which would begin in October 2005 with several boards providing ideas for the project. Mr. Zane asked for confirmation to the newspaper article concerning modification of the drainage at the intersection of 14th Street and 136th Street. Mr. Bernard confirmed this.

A lengthy discussion was devoted to the other improvements taking place within the Town.

3.2 Trees and More - Michael Orfanedes, Urban Forrester

Mr. Orfanedes presented handouts to the Boardmembers and provided a brief description of what his job entailed. He explained that there were two landscape inspectors in the Town and it was their job to preview all the plants that came in for commercial projects and single family residences. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that landscape plans were reviewed to make sure that they were up to code, and staff met with developers and contractors in an effort to work out any problems ahead of time rather than after the fact. He spoke of the plan review stage when building plans were reviewed again for compliance to the original set of plans after which inspections took place. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that every property that was programmed for landscaping was inspected; even renovations, adding that 70 percent of the inspections generally failed initially, and he briefly explained the reason. He added that compared to other cities, Davie was fortunate to have a lot of open space but these needed to be taken care of.

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Mr. Orfanedes spoke of his involvement in outreach programs for the Public Works Department; which included teaching employees proper pruning techniques and proper fertilization. He added that a series of meetings were being held at the Pine Island Community Center to teach the public proper tree planting, tree selection and pruning. Mr. Orfanedes referred to several handouts from the Davie Update which provided instructions for storm preparedness and fertilization tips.

Mr. Orfanedes briefly outlined some of the problems that occurred with improper pruning of trees and fertilization by unprofessional and untrained individuals, as well as safety issues such as tree anchoring devices (rebar). He discussed the issue of palm trees, incorrect planting of these trees, improper fertilization and sickness of these trees due to lack of oxygen. Mr. Orfanedes provided handouts to this effect and devoted a lengthy discussion to some of the existing problems such as tree failure due to breakout of branches in trees with multiple trunks, all of which was due to improper pruning. He spoke of a program with the Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida where he and the two landscape inspectors had been practicing structure pruning in trees. A handout on pruning was provided to the Board.

Mr. Orfanedes spoke about hatracking and indicated that enforcing the hatracking rules was a Broward County requirement and provided brief details of hatracking. Chair Green asked if Davie had anything additional to the County hatracking ordinance. Mr. Orfanedes referred to the County brochure on hatracking which included information excessive lifting. He added that excessive lifting or topping were both violations of the County's ordinances.

Mr. Zane asked what the suggestions were for people who had large trees. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that there were proper ways to reduce the size of a tree which was called reduction cuts, which he explained. He discussed the tree removal program, tree size, proposed tree removal ordinance and observance of the County ordinance.

Mr. Orfanedes commented that getting rid of topped trees was a good idea because people believed that was the proper way to cut them, adding that for a tree that was too big or too messy, tree removal was the way to go. A lengthy discussion followed regarding site required trees, tree removal, and Code requirement for mitigation, the square footage and location of new trees as required by Code. He spoke of the Tree Trust Fund which was considered to be expensive. Ms. Ling asked if nuisance trees were included with Mr. Orfanedes responding negatively.

Mr. Mowell asked if there were no particular site requirements or location, would an inspection be necessary for a removal permit. Mr. Orfanedes responded that an inspection would be required and he explained the procedure before approval would be granted for the issuance of a permit.

Discussion ensued regarding trees that were planted in inappropriate locations by the Town, some of which had to be relocated by Public Works.

Mr. Orfanedes commented that there many things that he would like to do in the Town and it would take some time. He spoke of issues within the Town that had been brought to the attention of Mr. Bernard, adding that there were plans in place to address these issues.

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There was a lengthy discussion on invasive trees with Mr. Gaffney commenting that he had proposed an ordinance that would assist homeowners in removing invasive trees particularly Australian Pines. He added that he had suggested that there might be federal or State funds to assist in removal of these trees; however, when he first presented the ordinance, he was told that it would be cost prohibitive and it would not be approved by Council. Mr. Orfanedes commented that anything that could be done to remove invasive trees was a good thing; however, there was the question of resources. He added that there was sentiment in the community for keeping some of the invasive trees in some areas because they provided canopy.

Discussion followed regarding location of invasive trees and safety issues during a hurricane. Mr. Orfanedes explained that the reason why most of these trees were hazardous was because they were "topped", reiterating that the problem with the issue of removal was the cost. Mr. Gaffney indicated that if there were funds to remove trees after damage had been done, there should be money for removal before. Mr. Colabella indicated that the funds were from FEMA. Ms. Ling referred to the removal of trees during a new development and asked if this was a requirement by the Town. Mr. Orfanedes explained that this was not only a requirement by the Town but also by the County. He explained the changes being made to the Code regarding vegetation clearing and grubbing. Mr. Orfanedes explained that tree trimming service providers in Broward County should have a valid license with one trained person per jobsite. This was a requirement by the County and they were seeking the assistance of municipalities. Mr. Gaffney asked about the licensing requirement whether an individual had to be an arborist. Mr. Orfanedes responded negatively; however, he provided information about the course and the examination.

Mr. Zane asked if a property had to be inspected prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy with Mr. Orfanedes responded affirmatively.

Mr. Orfanedes distributed additional handouts to the Board regarding pruning of shade trees.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Colabella referred to the Citizens Questionnaire and indicated that he would like to start using it again and have it placed on the Internet with the approval of the Board. He explained that he would like the Boardmembers to examine the questionnaire to see if they wanted to add additional questions or make any changes. Chair Green suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting. There was no objection from the Board.

Mr. Gaffney made a motion to table the discussion for the noxious tree ordinance to the February 17th meeting. There was no objection from the Board.

There was a brief discussion regarding the date for the February meeting as some of the Boardmembers had long standing plans that would interfere with their attendance.

Mr. Zane made a motion to move the February 17th meeting to the February 25th. There was no objection from the Board.

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5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Chair Green indicated that if Boardmembers had not contacted their appointing Councilmember regarding being involved in issues and being informed of issues, they were missing the most important source to work with. He suggested that Boardmembers send an e-mail to their Councilmembers.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member

