

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**JANUARY 30, 2007**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Julie Aitken and Greg Hoover. Also present were Councilmember Paul and Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Councilmember Starkey and Vice-Chair Daniels were absent.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 24, 2006**

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hoover, to approve the minutes of October 24, 2006. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey and Vice-Chair Daniels being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

**3. DISCUSSION**

**3.1 Agriculture Code Definitions**

Following a brief discussion on the issue, Chair Hurley indicated that with the Board's permission, he would draft a letter to Code Compliance Official Danny Stallone inviting him to attend the next meeting. He indicated that the letter would include the Board's willingness to change its schedule to accommodate Mr. Stallone since he was attending school on Tuesdays. Chair Hurley advised that the letter would also express disappointment that the Board was initiating the move forward with the Code definitions and not Mr. Stallone who had indicated that he would "get back" to the Board on the issue. Chair Hurley indicated that he would forward the letter to Ms. Edwards for circulation among the Boardmembers, providing that this did not violate the Sunshine Law. He commented that if there was no objection to the contents of the letter he would ask Ms. Edwards to forward it to Mr. Stallone. The Board offered no objection to the letter being sent to Mr. Stallone.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Hurley mentioned the livestock identification issue, adding that the understanding at the last meeting was that Councilmember Starkey would contact Police Chief John George on the issue. Further discussion on the issue would ensue when Councilmember Starkey arrived. Ms. Aitken asked if there was any reason why the Board could not approach Chief George, with Chair Hurley responding that he did not see a conflict. Chair Hurley commented that he would contact Chief George himself unless he heard that Councilmember Starkey had already done so.

Ms. Aitken indicated that due to the time lapse, she could not recall the questions concerning the lighting containment issue that she had promised to ask Mr. Breslau who is a parametric photometric expert. Chair Hurley reminded her of the questions and Ms. Aitken indicated that she would make a note to remind herself of the questions for Mr. Breslau. Chair Hurley indicated that there would be further discussion of the issue at the next meeting.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Aitken advised the Board that she had been informed by Jason Curtis that during the inspection of a property, he found dead carcasses of cattle. Mr. Curtis asked if there was an ordinance or a law concerning the disposal of dead animals. Ms. Aitken indicated that there was a law in the Florida Statutes and the Board should make certain that this was also in the Town's Code. She indicated that the police were contacted instead of the Code Compliance Division; however, she knew from past experience that the police were not familiar with the law and did not know how to handle the issue.

Mr. Curtis indicated that he had been directed by Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish to contact the police whenever he came across a dead animal or an animal being abused. He stated that the

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animal was not found in the Town so it was not a Davie issue. Mr. Curtis reiterated that the Board should make sure that the proper disposal of animal carcasses was part of Town's Code.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning animal abuse which included the ceremonial use of animals. Mr. Hoover indicated that many ethnic groups purchased sheep from him and based on their religious practices, that animal was eaten. He could not imagine anyone starving an animal that they were planning to eat. Mr. Hoover commented that the police should be involved and an arrest made if there was evidence of animal abuse.

Ms. Aitken commented that she did not believe that the disposal of carcasses was in the Town's Code, and if it was in the Code it might be very obscure. Chair Hurley recalled that exemption from Code Compliance could not be claimed on that ground. He stated that one of the exceptions where regulation was allowed was with the disposal of carcasses and the way in which slaughtering was done. Ms. Aitken indicated that there was a section in the Florida Statutes relating to dead animals, specifically livestock. She added that the Broward County Code might be different; however, Florida law stated that the animal could either be buried or burned. Chair Hurley commented that this should be a concern for the South Florida Water Management District as it related to Best Management Practices. He added that if the Water Management District had a policy relating to the disposal of animal carcasses, it would behoove the Town to adopt those policies. Chair Hurley suggested that Mr. Curtis contact the Water Management District to find out if there were any existing policies on the issue.

Mr. Curtis highlighted research that he had completed concerning the disposal of animal carcasses and explained that in large commercial operations, the carcasses were sometimes used for composting. He added that this involved certain preparation and the animal was not left in an open field. Chair Hurley asked if it made sense that the Water Management District was the place to start to see if they had Best Management Practices that could be incorporated in the Town's Code. Mr. Curtis responded in the affirmative. Ms. Aitken commented that if the Board was going to complete the Code definitions, it could be suggested to Mr. Stallone that a proviso be included in the Code based on the Florida Statutes. She indicated that none of the farm exemptions would ever cover the issue unless there was specific regulations regarding animal disposal. Mr. Hoover referred to the air quality and commented that this might be a concern for the Department of Environmental Protection and the Health Department. He added that the issue might be of a greater concern for these agencies more than the Water Management District. Ms. Aitken commented that the issue might also be a concern to Broward County.

Chair Hurley presented a copy of the barn checklist that had been brought to his attention. He expressed concern that no effort was made to inform the public of the Florida Statutes as it pertained to the erecting of barns. The Board briefly discussed the issue with Chair Hurley indicating that there was no reference to the Davie Farmer's Guide to provide awareness to the public. Ms. Aitken recalled that a notice would be placed in the Building Division to make the public aware of the existence of the Farmer's Guide. She stated that the purpose of the Farmer's Guide was to make sure that the public was aware of the exemptions as it related to farms. The Board discussed the changes that should be made to the checklist.

Mr. Hoover commented that if the Board had made the effort to preserve the right to build a barn as part of a legitimate farm, then legitimate farmers would be aware of the requirements. The Board disagreed. The Board discussed agricultural classification which was determined by the Property Appraiser and administrative classification which was determined by the Town.

Boardmembers highlighted their experiences with the Building Division when they needed to have a barn erected. The consensus was to send a letter to the Development Services Director Mark Kutney to explain the problem with the checklist, and ask that the checklist be amended. The Board also would request that copies of the Davie Farmer's Guide be placed in the lobby area of the Building Division to be

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made available to the public. The changes to the list was discussed with the consensus that Ms. Aitken would make the changes to the barn checklist and Chair Hurley would create the letter that would be forwarded to Mr. Kutney. Chair Hurley indicated that when the letter was completed it would be forwarded to Ms. Edwards who would forward the letter to the Boardmembers. He commented that the contents of the letter and the amendment to the checklist would be discussed at the next meeting.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Following a brief discussion, the following item was suggested for the agenda for the February meeting:

- o Davie Code Concerning Animal Disposal

**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 7:40 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member