

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 8, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Parrish, Chair	A
Adrienne Kaltman, Vice Chair	P
Eric Swalley	P
Cynthia Schaefer	P
Stephanie Munson	A
Sam Scott	P
Scott Weinstein	P
Phil Busey	A

**STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT**

Lise Bazinet, Planner II  
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.  
Judy Paul, Mayor  
Rivana Stadlander

Acting Chair Kaltman called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Ms. Edmondson, and it was noted there were five members present, therefore comprising a quorum.

**3. MOTION TO EXCUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Motion** made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Schaefer, to excuse Mr. Busey from this meeting due to illness. In a voice vote with Chair Parrish, Ms. Munson, and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Schaefer, to excuse Chair Parrish from this meeting. In a voice vote with Chair Parrish, Ms. Munson, and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 October 2, 2014, Meeting**

**Motion** made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Swalley, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014, meeting as presented. In a voice vote with Chair Parrish, Ms. Munson, and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### 5.1 Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Plan

Ms. Bazinet provided printed information from the Sustainability Stewards of Broward County.

Dr. Scott believed the nomenclature in the information to be misleading, because he thought they were looking at a resiliency plan for the Town. He felt that the provided information implied that climate change and sea level seem to be the main issues driving the resiliency plan. He continued that the plan should have different elements to address issues as they relate to Town services remaining intact in the event of catastrophic events, which may be unrelated to the sea level or climate.

Mr. Swalley pointed out that use of natural gas provides more independence from the power grid, and felt the Town should set an example in energy use.

Dr. Scott elaborated on ideas for a resiliency plan, mentioning where residents could obtain fuel, ice, etc. in the event of a catastrophic event - "how to," "where to," and "how can I?"

Mayor Paul stated that the Town has a plan that is reviewed every year by the Public Safety Department and others; the Town has distributed ice, food, and other goods in the mobile home parks. She wondered what would be added to that.

Dr. Scott thought the Town's plan was foundational, and recommended expansion with local programs with incentives for energy conservation.

Discussion ensued about how to come up with plans for generating ideas for the environment at the Town level. Some ideas discussed were:

- Alternative energy sources
- Alternative appliances
- Landscaping modifications (grass elimination)
- Perennial peanut groundcover
- Incentivize homeowners for yard transformation
- Homeowners Associations over-water and over-fertilize
  - Difficulties for homeowners to plant environmentally friendly landscapes
  - HOAs and homeowners need to be educated and encouraged re: landscaping
- Xeriscape landscaping
- Monitoring of the Town's fertilizing program
- "Hydrogen House"
  - Independent of fossil fuels

Dr. Scott suggested having a timeline for the Town to create some incentives that could be generated for individuals to look at serious energy conservation and create a methodology working with HOAs to allow individual householders to move from grassy lawns to xeriscape or

perennial peanuts or the like. Ms. Schaefer suggested starting by converting the roadside berms that are currently grassy.

Mr. Weinstein cautioned against increasing costs at the Town level. He suggested a pilot program at one of the parks to measure/evaluate total costs of fertilizing/mowing versus removing grass and installing a xeriscape landscape. Ms. Schaefer pointed out that the perennial peanut will spread, and they have to be careful about where they plant it.

Ms. Bazinet mentioned that they have “Naturescape” in the Town code and perennial peanut has been used in projects. She said that Public Works may have data already about the costs. Ms. Schaefer commented that FAU may have good information on the costs of converting landscapes.

Discussion ensued about who would monitor and analyze the data. Acting Chair Kaltman stated that they are limited as advisory committee. She added that a resiliency plan would be too comprehensive for the Committee to address within their existing format. She asked Ms. Bazinet if they could have workshops and ad hoc committees with community individuals.

Ms. Bazinet responded that the committee could recommend that the Town Council work on a resiliency plan or the possibility of having a plan, identifying problem areas or concerns such as canal flooding.

Acting Chair Kaltman verified that the Town has a climate change plan, but not a resiliency plan. Ms. Bazinet said it could be an extension of the climate change plan.

Ms. Bazinet introduced Rivana Stadtlander, a resident of Davie. She is working on a project for the City of Fort Lauderdale that has enabled her to discover what Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, and other entities are doing about resiliency planning. She said there are three different elements involved:

1. Emergency preparedness
  - a. A good local plan is in place already
  - b. Perhaps look at the preparedness plan and see if there are unaddressed issues
2. Sustainability actions
  - a. Get businesses and municipalities to be more sustainable
  - b. Town has a Sustainability Action Plan – look at it to see what is missing
3. Resilience
  - a. Given anticipated future conditions, how to plan for the community to continue in the future
  - b. Two major issues: sea level rise and temperature change
    - i. Temperature important issue for agriculture
    - ii. Wells, canals, levee integrity
  - c. Committee can deal with education/awareness of residents and businesses

Ms. Stadlander suggested starting with the potential effects on the most predominant businesses/industries in the area, and then exploring what can be done to support them in terms of knowledge. She said the County maps of vulnerable areas will be very helpful.

Ms. Stadlander encouraged the committee to discuss what they can do in workshop sessions, for example, have community sessions with experts speaking. Dr. Scott urged them to make sure the workshops are inclusive of different industries, as well as being interconnected with all modules such as energy, food, etc.

Acting Chair Kaltman advised they do not have to reinvent everything that the County has already laid out, but rather tailor it to suit the Town of Davie. Mr. Weinstein emphasized they need to come up with a recommendation to the Town Council for environment and agriculture. Ms. Bazinet stated the Committee's meeting times are set by resolution, and each meeting has to be advertised.

The following ideas were put forward regarding educating the public:

- Have an educational component to their booth at the Orange Blossom Festival
- Provide community workshops on how-to projects for homeowners

Acting Chair Kaltman requested that each member bring a recommendation for discussion to the next meeting. Ms. Bazinet asked Committee members to send their recommendations to her via email. Mr. Weinstein volunteered to explore where the vegetative debris goes after an emergency event, and how it is processed. Dr. Scott said he would focus on citizen involvement.

Discussion ensued about what would constitute an emergency event, with Mr. Weinstein saying it would involve a Presidential Declaration of a Disaster Area.

Mr. Swalley mentioned that they overlooked the subject of intense drought; he said his "homework" would be energy; Ms. Schaefer will do landscaping.

Mr. Swalley requested an update on the water reclamation project, whether it is being deep-well pumped.

Ms. Bazinet advised that Davie's Sustainability Action Plan will need to be updated in 2016.

## **5.2 Orange Blossom Festival**

Ms. Bazinet reviewed the activities the committees had at prior Orange Blossom Festivals, focusing on education/information. This year she said they want to focus on how to use the website and find information on it. It will be held the last weekend of February. Ms. Bazinet will coordinate booth assignments. Printed copies of the Farm Guide and Sustainability Action Plan were requested for the booth.

Mr. Swalley said he would participate in the parade.

