

**TOWN OF DAVIE
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Lise Bazinet, Planner II
Philip Holste, Assistant Development Administrator
Charmaine Parry, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. MOTION TO EXCUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

3.1 October 2, 2014 absences

Motion made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Munson, to excuse Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey from the October 2, 2014, meeting. In a voice vote with Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Munson, seconded by Mr. Swalley, to excuse Vice Chair Kaltman's absence at the July 3, 2014 meeting. In a voice vote with Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 April 3, 2014, Meeting

4.2 July 3, 2014, Meeting

Motion made by Ms. Munson, seconded by Mr. Weinstein, to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2014, and the July 3, 2014, meetings as presented. In a voice vote with Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Agritourism/leasing farmland – deferred until later in the agenda

5.2 Manure Recycling Solutions

Ms. Bazinet stated there are 104 registered horses in the Town of Davie (through a program for temporary hurricane housing for horses), although not all horses are registered. She continued that the Trailriders also keep numbers on horses in the Town, and they will provide her with their information. Ms. Munson noted that Bar-B Ranch probably has 100 horses, and Peaceful Ridge Rescue has probably 50-75 horses; the larger ranches can provide information.

Ms. Bazinet mentioned that Waste Management wants to know the number of horses in order to calculate the amount of manure (9 tons per horse per year). Ms. Munson recalled they are trying to obtain a cost from Waste Management for having another receptacle to pick the manure up from a residence, or an area for drop-off where Waste Management would pick it up. At this point, the manure is incinerated, but it takes a large amount of landfill space and could contaminate the ground water.

Mr. Holste was curious if there was a concern about the manure going into the residential waste stream – he said Waste Management was “fine with it.” Ms. Munson wondered if people know they can put it in their regular trash containers, and also what the larger horse farms are doing. Mr. Holste said they can publicize that.

Mr. Holste doubted that many people would haul the manure to a centralized drop-off point. He said if the manure was in a separate trash receptacle, Waste Management would have to have a separate truck for pickup, and a cost would be associated with it.

Mr. Holste elaborated that the Town has a contract with Waste Management for waste collection and a contract with Sun Bergeron for waste disposal. All household waste in Davie goes to the Sun Bergeron facility on College Avenue, where it is separated. Non-recyclable waste now goes to the landfill in Kissimmee.

Mr. Swalley said the Committee wants to use the manure as a method of producing energy, and Ms. Munson commented that the Mayor was interested in looking into using a biodigester.

5.1 Agritourism/leasing farmland

Ms. Munson was curious how residents can go about leasing open space in the Town, and how it can be made easier, reporting that Scooby’s had mentioned they were not aware of how to lease from the Town. Mr. Holste replied that he did not know if the Town was planning to lease any

additional property, noting the procedure causes additional work for staff, such as preparing agricultural exemptions. He said the currently leased lands are Robbins (for grazing), Governor Leroy Collins Park (for grazing), FPL easement (for farming), and the Batten's Farm property. Mr. Holste added that some potential lease sites may be targeted for future development.

Mr. Holste said there are not many large pieces of property that are vacant; Ms. Munson said the Town is "sitting on the Farm Park," but Mr. Holste said the whole site is leased. Ms. Munson also mentioned the land near Western High School (114 acres), and Mr. Holste said there is a plan to develop the property. He added the property is overgrown and he did not think it would be fair to have the lessees do work and then be "kicked off" within a year. The Town Council might want to hold off developing until later, but that would be their decision. Mr. Holste asserted it would probably be more expensive for the Town to lease the property than not. He pointed out some considerations when leasing properties for animal use, such as proximity to bodies of water.

5.3 Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Vice Chair Kaltman reported on the new Clean Power Plan proposed by the EPA under President Obama's Climate Action Plan. Highlights of her report are as follows:

- Carbon emissions responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change and sea level rise
- Clean Power Plan provides guidelines for existing power plants
 - Reduce amount of carbon emissions by 30% from 2005 levels
 - No standards exist for carbon emissions
- EPA held hearings on the Plan in four cities
 - She provided testimony at the hearing in Pittsburgh August 1
- Public commentary period extended to December 1
 - Can do online with link provided by Ms. Bazinet

Mr. Swalley encouraged all members to write letters and get their friends to submit letters or comments.

Vice Chair Kaltman noted Florida is vulnerable to storm surge and the municipalities are actively engaged in taking preventive steps. She emphasized that according to flood maps in Broward County, western Broward County and Davie will flood at the same rate as Fort Lauderdale and the coastal area. Mr. Swalley reported that Miami Beach will be installing three pumps to mitigate sea rise at high tide, which is three inches higher than it was 20 years ago.

Vice Chair Kaltman brought up the "tipping point" mentioned by scientists, when nothing would be accomplished by reducing greenhouse gasses. That point is indicated by the melting of land ice. She noted six of the Antarctic glaciers have fallen into the ocean. As they completely melt in the oceans, they will cause a dramatic rise in global sea level, from 13 to 16 feet. Mr. Swalley mentioned that as the waters warm, they expand, and that also causes a rise in sea level.

Mr. Swalley asserted that the hydrogen fuel cell should be explored as a cleaner source of distributed power generation. He spoke about its advantages, noting each building, for example, could make its own fuel on demand. Any renewable source of power can serve the same function, instead of going back into the grid. Mr. Swalley remarked that the hydrogen fuel cell is an ideal solution, as the Earth is a “water” planet. He said he will be visiting the Hydrogen House at Florida State University and will come back with a report. Discussion ensued about people and businesses going off the power grid, with the taxes on solar and wind power use being mentioned as an impediment.

Vice Chair Kaltman pointed out the increasing numbers of people supporting the climate change idea, from mortgage brokers to the Department of Defense. She said the Department of Defense cited proximity of military bases to the flood zones.

Mr. Swalley predicted a major rush of water going across the state when the sea levels rise, causing erosion and flooding. Pro-active steps need to be taken such as building houses on concrete piers and building bridges.

There was a brief discussion about how terrorists could take advantage of the area following a hurricane.

Vice Chair Kaltman mentioned that the State is looking into approving a new liquefied natural gas plant on the Treasure Coast.

Dr. Scott said that the Town should have a Resilience Plan; there are models to look at, such as Melbourne Australia’s City Resilience Plan. He said Davie could become a model for other cities in the area if they had a public/private partnership. Dr. Scott continued that even the State of New York has a lot of solar power use, despite shorter daylight hours and roofs that are not built as they are in Florida. He advised that the Committee explore making a recommendation to the Town to look at a Resilience Plan.

Mr. Swalley thought the Town of Davie should develop a pilot program using the hydrogen fuel cell technology. He enumerated the benefits of that technology: solution to global warming, economic benefit, environmental benefit, and political solutions (no dependence on foreign countries for energy).

Vice Chair Kaltman announced a Climate Change conference on November 2, 2014, - she will send specific information to the Committee. Mr. Swalley mentioned he attended the Town Hall part of last year’s conference and relayed how interesting it was. He has been, and will continue, doing research on hydrogen fuel cell technology using renewable sources.

Vice Chair Kaltman mentioned that a previous speaker, Don Burgess, from Broward County’s Department of Natural Resources had left a manual on sea level rise and wondered if there had been any follow-up on that. Ms. Bazinet said she would provide Committee members with a hard copy of Mr. Burgess’ presentation and copies of the CDs at the next meeting. She said

there has been discussion of creating the “Triple A” areas, the areas most sensitive to sea level rise. Based on that, resiliency policies would be created.

Vice Chair Kaltman shared that she is on the Broward County Climate Change Task Force and they work with three other counties: Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, and the Keys. Fort Lauderdale has established communication with a city in Africa that is similar in their needs. Vice Chair Kaltman said she would bring more materials to the Committee at the January meeting to assist in their study before making a recommendation.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Approval of 2015 Meetings Calendar

Motion made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Munson, to approve the calendar as presented by Ms. Bazinet. In a voice vote with Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The following items were suggested:

- Follow-up on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
 - Resiliency Plan
 - A speaker from Broward County to talk about Triple A’s
- Orange Blossom Festival (parade)
- Waste Management person to speak on their composting plan

8. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Dr. Scott mentioned that it came to his attention that some organic material used for fertilizer on the golf course has a smell like young animal waste. He wondered if it could be processed more or diluted before being used on the course. Ms. Bazinet said she will look into the concern.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Munson, to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. In a voice vote with Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey absent, the motion passed unanimously.

[Minutes submitted by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]

Approved

Chair/Committee Member