

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 2, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Parrish, Chair	P
Adrienne Kaltman, Vice Chair	A
Eric Swalley	P
Cynthia Schaefer	P
Stephanie Munson	P
Sam Scott (arr. 5:16 p.m.)	P
Scott Weinstein	P
Phil Busey (left at 6:05 p.m.)	P

**STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT**

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

Chair Parrish called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**3. MOTION TO EXCUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Motion** made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Weinstein, to excuse Vice Chair Kaltman from this meeting. In a voice vote with Vice Chair Kaltman and Dr. Scott absent, the motion passed (5-0).

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 January 8, 2015, Meeting**

**Motion** made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Swalley, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015, meeting as presented. In a voice vote with Vice Chair Kaltman and Dr. Scott absent, the motion passed (5-0).

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**5.1 Resilience Plan**

Ms. Bazinet mentioned three documents regarding resilience plans that she had sent to the Committee members. Ms. Schaefer thought they could set aside low-lying green areas for water

retention. Mr. Swalley pointed out that the bulk of the documents contained ideas, and it appeared to him that Davie could do a lot in the way of leading by example.

**Motion** made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Busey, to recommend to that Town Council look at the low-lying areas and see what changes can be made in order to facilitate and prepare for rising sea levels. In a voice vote with Vice Chair Kaltman and Dr. Scott absent, the motion passed (4-1) with Mr. Weinstein opposed.

Mr. Weinstein was curious what the low-lying areas would have to do with providing an improved resiliency plan. Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Busey commented that those areas would be impacted more with rising sea levels. Discussion ensued about the drought in California, and Ms. Schaefer thought Florida should start thinking about a mitigation plan.

**Motion** made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Mr. Swalley, to recommend to the Town Council that they see the presentation given by Mr. Burgess that showed the impact of rising sea levels on Broward County. In a voice vote, with Vice Chair Kaltman absent, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Swalley said he wants to give a 20-minute presentation at the July meeting on the advantages of hydrogen economy and hydrogen energy systems. He thought implementation of hydrogen energy systems could make an impact on sea level rise mitigation and also resiliency. He offered to also talk about solar and wind energy experiments that he has done. Mayor Paul suggested that the Committee have a booth/demonstration at the July 4 festival at Bamford Park.

**Motion** made by Mr. Swalley, seconded by Mr. Busey, to have Mr. Swalley give a presentation at the July meeting and have a booth at Bamford Park on July 4. Mr. Busey recommended a time limit on presentations. In a voice vote, with Vice Chair Kaltman absent, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Horse Feed Contamination**

Ms. Bazinet mentioned that Ms. Stadlander (who attended last month's meeting) could not attend this meeting, and wondered if the topic could be moved to the next agenda.

Mayor Paul reported that she had been in touch with the State Department of Agriculture and with Washington, D.C., via a lobbyist. She said the only time a contamination issue came up was when they alternated bins between cattle feed and horse feed. A Davie company that did that admitted they did not follow protocol and shut down their horse feed operation. The company has reached a settlement with the farm that had horses that died or needed care.

Mayor Paul continued that the Department of Agriculture offered to share findings about the contamination and assured her the situation was "under control." Mayor Paul wondered if they need to have more inspections, ban cross-methods, etc.

Mr. Busey apologized for missing the January meeting and for having to leave this meeting early since he has two other meetings to attend. Even though attendance is a problem for him, he hoped to be reappointed since he felt that the marriage of agriculture and the environment is good. However, he expressed concern about the Committee's effectiveness, particularly the length of some presentations. He said that, at the least, the Committee should set a timed agenda at the beginning of each meeting. Mr. Busey suggested setting priorities and recommended that the Town have a matrix of priorities so the Committee can see where their ideas fit in. Mayor Paul commented that the agenda is set in advance in case there are any backup materials needed to be sent.

Ms. Munson said the Committee lacked goals, and Mayor Paul provided two suggestions:

- Upgrade the Farm Guide to conform to State laws
- Send a recommendation to the Town Council to codify the hobby farm ordinance so that people who want to have a hobby farm can do so following a defined process

Discussion ensued on the origin of the hobby farm designation/application. Mayor Paul recommended that they review the hobby farm application at the next meeting and suggest improvements. The current application will be emailed for pre-meeting review. By consensus, it was agreed to review the application at the next meeting. It was noted there were changes in the State law pertaining to hobby farms.

Mayor Paul stated that presentations should be directly related to something the Committee is working on, or be something the Committee has requested.

Mr. Busey returned to the topic of controlling the agenda. He suggested that if there is something a member wishes to bring up during the meeting that the Committee assigns a time for it under New Business. It was recommended that the Committee spend equal amounts of time between environmental and agricultural concerns.

Dr. Scott suggested the following:

- Design a strategic framework set up so there is no randomness of the agenda
- Chair should make sure discussions are fruitful within a time limit

Discussion ensued on how they should set up the agenda, noting that they should have the flexibility to move items on the agenda if someone has to leave early. In addition, items that are time-consuming could be deferred until later in the agenda.

Dr. Scott suggested taking the Sustainability Plan, the Farm Guide, and the ordinance for the hobby farms and creating a matrix for the year – just to focus on those three items for the year. A desired outcome should be established to be used as a guide for discussion.

Ms. Schaefer suggested each person bring back their top three goals for the two guides. Dr. Scott said they could discuss renewable energy, for example, in light of agriculture and the environment in Davie. Discussion continued on the subject, with Dr. Scott elaborating on the interrelatedness of agriculture and the environment. Mr. Weinstein explained that his objection to the previous

recommendation was not necessarily agricultural or environmental in nature - it was that he did not feel that they need to bring a recommendation to Town Council at this time. He thought they needed to get more focused first about what they are doing as a Committee.

Dr. Scott pointed out that some countries have published literature about sea level rising, water usage for farming, contamination of the soil, etc., for “hundreds of years,” and he thought the Committee should be recommending that body of knowledge to the policy makers of the Town of Davie. Discussion ensued about water levels in Florida, ending with a general consensus to return to establishing a framework for discussion of the Sustainability Plan, the Farm Guide and the hobby farm issue.

## **7. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

It was suggested that the Committee members ask their Town representative for ideas on what the Committee could work on. There was discussion about how to focus the efforts of the Committee, resulting in the following items for the next month’s agenda:

- Hobby Farm application
- Farm Guide update
- Presentation by Mr. Swalley re: hydrogen energy (10 minutes + discussion time of 5 minutes)
- Help on finding a starting point for the two (previous) committees working together
  - Goal Setting/Priorities

## **8. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

Mr. Swalley commented on the die-off of dolphins from the Horizon Deepwater event. There was also mention of sea lions dying in California due to warmer waters.

Dr. Scott pointed out that, as a positive, strides have been made in alternative energy production.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS - none**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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Approved

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Chair/Committee Member