

TOWN OF DAVIE
AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 7, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Parrish,	A
Adrienne Kaltman, Chair	P
Eric Swalley	P
Cynthia Schaefer	P
Stephanie Munson	P
Scott Weinstein	P
Dr. Philip Busey, Vice Chair	P
Ron Fore	P

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Lise Bazinet, Planner II
Mona Laventure, Prototype, Inc.

Chair Kaltman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Busey requested a review of the agenda and allocation of minutes per item since Chair Kaltman had to leave early. Hearing no objections, Vice Chair Busey read the list of agenda items and assigned time limits to each item.

3. MOTION TO EXCUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Motion made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Ms. Schaefer to excuse Mr. Parrish from the meeting. In a voice vote, with Mr. Parrish absent, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 July 2, 2015 Meeting

Motion made by Vice Chair Busey, seconded by Ms. Schaefer to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2015, meeting pending the following correction:

- Pg. 2, Item 8.3, 4a, the first word in the sentence “Distributed power takes” should be “Central power takes”
- Pg. 2, Item 8.3, 4a, at the end of the item, replace the words “much more efficient” with “whereas distributed power generation is one unit used when and where”

In a voice vote, Mr. Parrish absent, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Solar Energy by George Cavros

Chair Kaltman stated that Mr. Cavros was probably not going to appear.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Farm Guide Update

Ms. Bazinet explained that staff wants to add updates at the end of the original document. She wanted to add agro-tourism as part of the definitions part (included in the Code but not the document), 2014 Farm Bill highlights, and a tractor safety checklist. It was noted that the Town Ordinance may have been superseded by the Florida Law on Beekeeping, and Ms. Bazinet was asked to check into that.

Ms. Munson reported that Jason Curtis (Property Appraiser) is no longer with Broward County and his name needs to be replaced with his successor; Vice Chair Busey questioned only Lori Parrish photo appearing on the Guide. Mr. Weinstein suggested referencing this Committee by its proper name, but noted it was not necessary to omit historical information, such as the original name of the Board.

Ms. Bazinet clarified that the modifications will have to be approved by Town administration.

Mr. Weinstein asked to add a document that defines bona fide commercial agriculture, since he has become aware of confusion on the matter.

6.2 GMO Resolution

Vice Chair Busey provided a document regarding labeling status of GMO foods. Personally, he said he wanted food to be labeled so he would have a choice as to what he eats. However, he felt the issue was beyond the scope of this Committee because of its complexity.

Ms. Schaefer mentioned an activist in Fort Lauderdale who might be a possible speaker – Trish Sheldon. Ms. Schaefer believed several other municipalities had passed resolutions and thought they were more of a gesture than anything.

Ms. Munson suggested inviting the Mayor back for additional direction on the GMO resolution that she had asked the Committee to create for the national Mayors' Conference.

Mr. Swalley pointed out that even if a food is labeled “natural,” it could still be GMO. He also said that the GMO plant as food is not bad because it is hybridized; however, a GMO plant is modified so that it can handle more poison.

Vice Chair Busey mentioned that plant modification has been going on for thousands of years and is not necessarily bad. He thought there was reason for fear of transgenic manipulation, however. Regarding the ability to handle poisons, he said that there is an argument for some GMO plants because they can use fewer pesticides. He did not agree that a person would automatically be eating more pesticides if they were eating a GMO food.

Mr. Swalley stated that another danger associated with GMO foods are policies such as Monsanto's that rely heavily or allow only one crop to be grown.

Chair Kaltman shared a resolution from Minneapolis, which says that all GMO food should be clearly labeled, that all genetic engineering material should be thoroughly researched and regulated, that liability should be assigned to the commercial developers, and until materials are proven safe, that the EPA and USDA should establish a moratorium on the products.

Chair Kaltman reported that Representative Mike Pompeo from Kansas introduces a bill every year to prevent states from labeling foods as GMO or genetically engineered. She thought it was wrong for Congress to prevent states from having the authority to oversee food/safety issues.

Vice Chair Busey thought the Minneapolis resolution went too far because they cannot prove an item is unsafe. He also believed the federal government should pre-empt State authority in protection of its citizens.

Mr. Weinstein read more details from the Minneapolis resolution which indicated a much more restrictive approach.

Motion made by Vice Chair Busey, seconded by Ms. Munson, to extend the conversation for five additional minutes. Motion not brought to vote.

Ms. Schaefer suggested extending the discussion to the next meeting, by which time they will have more information. Discussion ensued on how to proceed.

Ms. Munson thought consumers should have the choice to eat what they want to eat and know what they are eating, and Ms. Schaefer added that is particularly important for people who have food sensitivities.

Vice Chair Busey stated that he leans toward labeling and full disclosure, but said there are complexities involved in the labeling program (natural, organic, GMO, etc.).

Chair Kaltman mentioned what some countries have done regarding GMO labeling food legislation.

Ms. Bazinet offered to bring a framework/document as a basis for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Weinstein said there is a federal Senate Bill 2080 (Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act) and a House Bill called the Genetically Engineered Food Safety Act.

Motion made by Vice Chair Busey, seconded by Mr. Fore, to extend the discussion for an additional five minutes.

Mr. Swalley noted that the Town has wanted to encourage the growth of legacy crops in the Town.

Vice Chair Busey asked Ms. Bazinet for a template of items they could agree or disagree with to help in crafting a resolution. He noted they would be interested in things that would help locally. Ms. Bazinet will bring more information and a sample resolution to the next meeting.

6.3 Committee Goal Setting and Priorities

Chair Kaltman reported that the Broward County Climate Action Plan has been updated and is comprehensive. She passed around a copy of the report, noting it had some good examples of things the Committee might want to do with regard to sea level rise. She recalled that the Committee had discussed giving an award for institutions and buildings in Davie that were either LEED or Green Globe certified. She liked the idea of an award and thought they should go forward with that. Ms. Bazinet will talk to Administration about it and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Bazinet suggested dividing the awards into categories and creating applications for schools, farms, etc.

Vice Chair Busey commented that the Broward County Nature Center has awards every year – it includes businesses, schools, public buildings and private homes. He said Diane Guidry might help the Committee set up an awards program. Ms. Bazinet will speak with her for ideas.

[Chair Kaltman left at 5:56 p.m. and handed the gavel to Vice Chair Busey.]

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Electric Vehicle Charging

Ms. Bazinet indicated that the Town is looking into creating some time of requirement for new construction to provide charging stations as part of their requirements and needed the committee input.

Mr. Swalley asked if the charging stations would be using solar energy, and Ms. Bazinet answered in the negative. He said the Green Energy Committee discussed having the stations close to the building entrance, like a handicap parking space.

Ms. Bazinet stated it is not currently a requirement in Davie to have a charging station.

Mayor Paul joined the meeting at this time.

It was noted that the technology related to charging stations is not yet completely defined, and Ms. Bazinet said she could arrange for a speaker on charging stations, perhaps from FP&L.

Acting Chair Busey advocated for a vision for the future before deciding on proposals or plans for action. Education about solar power and charging stations was also encouraged.

Ms. Bazinet stated that the Town of Davie is part of Go Solar for Broward County, a fast track for permitting for solar.

Mr. Swalley suggested a future presentation by Jim Moore, who has a company that does solar collectors and has a solar-powered charging station.

Acting Chair Busey asked the Committee what they wanted to do on the subject, with Ms. Munson saying she did not see anything the Committee needed to involve itself with.

Ms. Bazinet requested input on how many charging stations and their locations the Town should have.

Mayor Paul commented that when someone comes to the Site Plan Committee, it is hard to do something like a charging station after the fact, so when new development comes in, they are asked for a certain number of charging stations. There will be a formula in the Code to specify how many stations should be installed based on various factors.

Since the Committee seemed positive about the charging stations, Acting Chair Busey suggested giving awards to businesses that have already installed charging stations.

Mayor Paul brought up a topic not listed on the Agenda – Hobby Farm Complaints. She reported that the complaints are coming from new residents moving next door to people with established farmettes, but who do not have an agricultural classification. She asked that the Committee review the Town's Hobby Farm regulations and the application packet. Mayor Paul said people with farmettes need to apply for the designation, and they may not be aware of it. The designation would protect them from nuisance complaints from neighbors.

Mr. Weinstein stated that the applications are ready, but “nobody fills them out.” Mayor Paul says the farmers do not know what to do with the application. She thought the applications went to the Code Office, but they need to be activated or certified. Mayor Paul asked that the Committee make a recommendation to the Mayor to take to the Town Council that the applicants get a certificate or a dated document of designation.

Motion made by Mr. Weinstein, seconded by Mr. Swalley, to ask Town Council to solidify a system to track Hobby Farmers using the already in place application form.

Mr. Weinstein amended his motion as follows: to ask Town Council to implement a system to track Hobby Farmers using the already-in-place application, including an approval process; and

the approved should receive notification as well as an official looking document. Mr. Swalley accepted the amended motion.

In a roll call vote, with Mr. Parrish and Chair Kaltman absent, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Bazinet said she would send the motion to the Mayor as a recommendation.

7.2 2016 AEAC Meeting Calendar

Ms. Bazinet advised the members to check their emails before the meetings and respond to her – she needs to know if there will be a quorum.

Ms. Schaeffer asked if the July meeting could be moved to a different date, other than the July 4th week. Ms. Bazinet will email an optional date.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The following items were suggested for the next agenda:

- Awards and categories
- GMO resolution and options
- Farm Guide updates with suggestions
- Electric vehicle Code amendment drafts
- Goal setting

9. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Weinstein announced the following:

- Orange Blossom Festival on February 27-28
 - The Farm Bureau will share a booth with the Davie Farm Park
 - Have information on upcoming legislation and Hobby Farm applications
- St. Patrick's Day parade in Fort Lauderdale on March 12
 - Friends of Davie Farm Park will have a float and horses in the parade
- Fundraiser March 13 for Friends of the Davie Farm Park at Bob Ross New River Grove

Acting Chair Busey suggested educating the public on the Hobby Farm program.

Mr. Swalley wanted to add a few items to the Committees' year-end report:

- He did a hydrogen demonstration at the 4th of July event at Bamford Park
- He did a presentation at the Green Fair

Acting Chair Busey distributed copies of "At Your Service" by Broward County.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Schaeffer, seconded by Mr. Fore, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, Acting Chair Busey adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm

Approved

Chair/Committee Member