

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Dave Parrish, Jacque Daniels, Julie Aitken and Sam Scott. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 14, 2010

Dr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Parrish to approve the minutes of July 14, 2010. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Update on Field Trip to Coffee Plantation

Dr. Scott remarked that even though the original announcement was a visit to a coffee plantation, the objective had been to determine whether to move the bio-digester to the Farm Park.

Ms. Aitken was concerned because she did not see how having a Farm Bureau office or arenas and riding facilities for the disabled in the Farm Park were benefits to the general public. She had done some research and determined that in order for municipal property to be exempt from property tax, it must be owned and used by the municipality, or owned by the municipality and released to a non-profit corporation that was using it for a governmental, municipal or public purpose, or the lessee must be serving or performing a governmental, municipal or public service or function, or the property was leased to an organization that used it exclusively for scientific, religious or charitable purposes. The definition of a charitable purpose was: a function or service which is of such a community service that its discontinuance could legally result in the allocation of public funds for the continuance of the function or service.

Ms. Aitken did not see how the Town could legally use taxpayer's funds to build an office for the Farm Bureau. She pointed out that County land was exempt, but the Town must apply for an exemption for municipal land using one of the criteria she had listed.

Dr. Scott said it would be interesting to look at the original proposal the Town had developed and the early plans. He asked what position the Friends of the Farm Park had taken. Ms. Aitken stated, "It seems the people that want a piece of the action for their own operations are the ones talking the loudest and the people who are just volunteers that are just wanting to see the thing get up and running, they don't want anything, are getting all drowned out."

Dr. Scott wanted to know what would be fed into the bio-digester, what the output of the bio-digester would be, and if it would make a profit for the operator.

3.2 Review RFP for Battens

Vice-Chair Parrish reported there had been a mandatory meeting the previous week for prospective bidders and the bids would be collected in six weeks. He said the bidders would give presentations to the Town Council, and Board members could attend those presentations and comment.

Dr. Scott said the RFP requested a business plan and mitigation plans. Vice-Chair Parrish said a contractor could put in a bid and opt out of handling the mitigation. Dr. Scott said another grey area was the purpose of the property. He said his team had looked at the RFP to determine what was wanted, and there were questions raised. Ms. Aitken felt the Task Force must keep an open mind about the profit/non-profit status. Chair Hurley thought staff did not feel that profit/non-profit status was an issue because they had agricultural leases with others that were obviously for-profit businesses. He thought staff was not concerned about securing permission from the County or the Community Land Trust that participated in the purchase of the property because of their experience with the Farm Park and the lessee there. Chair

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

Hurley wished the Task Force members would concentrate on whether this was good for the community instead of whether it operated for a profit.

Dr. Scott reiterated that there were concerns about the RFP, including whether the County would give an agricultural exemption to the six acres, or a non-agricultural exemption for the farmer's market area, even if it operated for profit. Ms. Aitken said the Town Attorney must provide an opinion on this.

Dr. Scott felt this would set a precedent for Town lands. The first question was whether an RFP would be required for all properties; the second was what relationship the Town wanted with a profit or non-profit organization.

3.3 Recommendation on Van Kirk Property RFP

Vice-Chair Parrish referred to a lot of parks that could be used for community gardens or RFPs, but he could not find Van Kirk on the list. He wanted to discuss ideas for the parcels at their next meeting. Vice-Chair Parrish agreed there was "too much talk" by the Task Force regarding arsenic. They also wanted to perform outreach to homeowner associations regarding community gardens, but he felt they should wait to see if Battens would bear fruit because he did not see a community garden taking off. Dr. Scott said there must be a core group of individuals willing to do maintenance on the community garden or it would not work. Chair Hurley thought it was the Task Force's job to get people who were interested in community gardening to attend those meetings. Dr. Scott said he knew of 53 people who were interested in participating.

3.4 Revisions/Final Draft – ZB (TXT) 6-3-08 Agricultural Definitions

Ms. Aitken remarked that this had "sat on the back burner" for some time and she wanted to go back to their original draft definitions for nursery, landscape maintenance, contractor and garden center, which allowed for interpretation by Code Enforcement. Dr. Scott asked the Board which classifications they wished to include for landscape maintenance: RR, AG, S and/or A-1. Ms. Aitken wanted to include R-1. The Board agreed that the original definitions should be circulated to Boardmembers and to the Local Planning Agency, and they could meet with them again in another week or so.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Following a brief discussion, the following items were suggested for the agenda for the upcoming meeting:

- Coffee plantation field trip discussion
- Battens RFP discussion
- ZB (TXT) 6-3-08 Agricultural Definitions- Final Revisions

Regarding the RFPs, Ms. Aitken felt that once they were presented, they should go back to the Task Force for their review and recommendation. Dr. Scott wanted the Board to recommend standard procedure for RFPs regarding how the Town handled these properties.

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Vice-Chair Parrish had recently learned that there was a new threat of white flies that specifically

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**

attacked Gumbo Limbo trees. He informed the Board that approximately one non-native insect per week was introduced to Florida via shipping containers.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member