

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
OCTOBER 13, 2010

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Dave Parrish, Julie Aitken and Jacque Daniels. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Sam Scott was absent.

2. DISCUSSION

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

Deputy Planning and Zoning Manager David Abramson thanked the Board for their input. He stated three recommendations had been presented by Code Compliance Official Danny Stallone. The first was removing landscape contractors from the residential districts matrix. This would now require a home occupational license, and the business must conform to regulations regarding commercial vehicles, and employees would not be permitted to the property. The second suggestion was to edit the language regarding pigs and hogs. The last recommendation was to amend the agricultural and plant nursery definitions.

Ms. Aitken asked if the Local Planning Agency was happy with the definition of landscape maintenance contractor. She wondered if they should include that the contractor might also sell nursery plants. Mr. Abramson stated plant nurseries were already permitted in residential districts. A Board member mention that this process had begun in order to differentiate between landscape maintenance contractors and nurseries. The Board agreed to Mr. Abramson's language.

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, to recommend the ordinances be adopted as amended. In a voice vote, with Dr. Scott being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion passed 4-0)**

2.2 Discussion Regarding Biodigester Tour

Ms. Aitken remarked that the demonstration was "smoke and mirrors." She felt it was silly for the Town to spend \$300,000 on something that she doubted would work. The Board discussed the logistical issues, and Vice-Chair Parrish felt that if this were a profitable idea, a private company would have done it and exceeded at it. Chair Hurley had done research and determined that bio-digesters were legitimate, and one was powering a dairy farm in Lake Okeechobee. The machine they had seen was made to be used at a water treatment plant and to handle food waste. Chair Hurley said he did not think the Town should purchase this for the Farm Park.

2.3 Request for Proposal Regarding Battens Farm

Ms. Aitken felt staff was leading the Urban Farming Task Force and were bringing up recommendations she would not favor, such as moving Project Stables to the Farm Park and allowing the Farm Bureau to locate their office building there. She noted there was nothing in the Memo of Understanding that would permit this. Ms. Aitken wanted opinions determining if program proposals and uses would qualify for tax exemption or reduction, so there would be no financial impact to Town taxpayers, and also to determine that no use or program would violate any provision of the Town's agreements regarding the property. Ms. Aitken also thought it would be extremely irresponsible for the Task Force to recommend hiring a new employee to operate the Farm Park when so many Town employees had been let go. She said taxpayers should not be subsidizing private entities, no matter how noble they were.

Vice-Chair Parrish thought they should wait and see how Battens turned out. He said he had attended the bid opening the previous week and there were only two proposals.

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Ms. Aitken remarked that the idea to hand this over to Friends of the Farm Park was the result of the Town not having money to do anything with the Farm Park right now. She said someone believed that the Friends of the Farm Park would be receiving lots of donations, but she doubted they would receive sufficient donations to run the park.

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, to recommend that the Urban Farming Task Force obtain opinions from all relevant attorneys: the property appraiser's attorney, the County attorney, the Florida Communities Trust attorney and the Town attorney, to make sure they established the parameters of what could be done regarding the financial impact of any of their recommendations. In a voice vote, with Dr. Scott being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion passed 4-0)**

Ms. Edwards agreed to email the Board members when the bids became public record.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

- Further discussion of the biodigester if it is presented at the Urban Farming Task Force meeting
- Agricultural Advisory Board report from the Urban Farming Task Force meeting
- ZB (TXT) 6-3-08 Agricultural Definitions follow-up
- Further Discussion of the Battens Farm RFP proposals

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member