

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
JANUARY 12, 2011

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Dave Parrish and Jacque Daniels. Also present was Board Secretary Lorraine Robinson recording the meeting. Dr. Sam Scott and Julie Aitken were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 8, 2010
October 13, 2010
November 10, 2010

Ms. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Parrish, to approve the minutes of September 8, 2010, October 13, 2010 and November 10, 2010. In a voice vote, with Ms. Aitken and Dr. Scott being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Further Discussion on Report from Task Force

Vice-Chair Parrish reported that there was no meeting held in December 2010; however, at the January 5, 2011, Town Council approved Dr. Sam Scott's bid to operate a farmer's market at the Batten's property. He provided minutes from the Urban Farming Initiative Task Force and indicated that the recommendations were discussed and voted on and according to his email, there would be further discussion in two weeks at another task force meeting. Chair Hurley questioned whether all the recommendations were approved by the task force, to which Vice-Chair Parrish responded in the affirmative. Vice-Chair Parrish highlighted the recommendation relating to Leroy Collins Park, stating that he and Julie Aitken voted against an item; however, there was an error which showed that he had abstained and that was incorrect.

Ms. Daniels questioned how so many non-Davie entities were involved in issues relating to the park. Vice-Chair Parrish explained that this might be because of how the resolution governing the task force was written. He added that the task force was made up of members from several other boards, as well as from the Friends of the Farm Park and the Broward County Farm Bureau. Chair Hurley commented that the Friends of the Farm Park was formed as a non-profit fund-raising entity when proposal for grants were being solicited to purchase the park. He commented that they would have to wait to see how things progressed, and it would be some time before any funds available for Leroy Collins Park. He believed that everything depended on the progress of Batten's Farm project. Vice-Chair Parrish believed that Batten's Farm should be up and running soon. Chair Hurley asked about the process involved now that the request for proposal had been accepted. Vice-Chair Parrish explained that the contract between the Town and the North South Institute was already in place as it related to the Batten's property. He stated that Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky spoke at the November 2010 Town Council meeting, recommending the North-South Institute.

Vice-Chair Parrish stated that at the meeting Mayor Judy Paul asked that the final contract negotiations be expedited with regards to the timing of crops. He added that the issue was not mentioned at the December meeting which he attended; however, Dr. Sam Scott received approval to form operations at the Van Kirk property. A sum of \$100 would be paid into the Town's general fund monthly.

A brief discussion ensued regarding recent thefts at the Batten's property which Vice-Chair Parrish explained took place before Christmas. Vice-Chair Parrish said that there has been no implementation of police presence on the property and the north side of the property was well hidden which would allow for break-ins. Chair Hurley felt it was a shame that the Town had not leased the property to keep it occupied until it was determined how it would be used.

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Vice-Chair Parrish indicated that he had the agenda for the next task force meeting which would be held on January 26th with further discussion of recommendations #6 and #7.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the sunseting of the task force. Ms. Daniels commented that upon sunseting of the task force the Community Gardens would be handled by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. It was felt that it would take more than that board to handle the issue. Vice-Chair Parrish commented that at every meeting it has been stated that the Town would not be hiring any more staff; however, Chair Hurley felt that the Town would be losing more staff over the next year or two.

The board reiterated that it would be willing to move forward on any items left when the task force sunsetted.

3.2 Further Discussion on Request for Proposal Regarding Battens Farm

This item was discussed under item 3.1.

Vice-Chair Parrish commented that he was happy that Dr. Scott had been allowed to have a farming operation on the Van Kirk property because there had been no cattle operation there for some time. Discussion ensued regarding the Griffin Nursery that was part of the property. Discussion continued regarding past issues relating to the Van Kirk property.

Following the question of clarification of the agenda by Ms. Robinson, Chair Hurley indicated that they would be the same as this meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Following a brief discussion the following items were suggested for the February 2011 meeting:

- Further Discussion on Report from Task Force
- Further Discussion on Battens Farm and Van Kirk property

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Vice-Chair Parrish spoke of residents comments made at the November Town Council meeting concerning the removal of exotic invasive trees at the bird sanctuary at Griffin Road and the Florida Turnpike.

A lengthy discussion ensued with Vice-Chair Parrish speaking about the problem, and explaining how the removal could have been accomplished. Vice-Chair Parrish explained that Mayor Paul suggested that the Audubon Society be contacted for their input on the issue. He added that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission had jurisdiction over that area, and they had a different opinion.

Chair Hurley asked if Vice-Chair Parrish would like to discuss the issue at the next meeting, and if this should be an item on the agenda. Ms. Robinson asked for clarification of the item.

Vice-Chair Parrish stated that following conversation with area residents, he offered to provide an arborist report if they wanted one. He added that a resolution to solve the issue was whether the homeowners association of the surrounding neighborhood could “work out” the purchase of that piece of property or to maintain the property. In responding to Ms. Daniels question, Vice-Chair Parrish stated

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that there was no homeowners association. Some of the residents wanted to form a homeowners association.

Vice-Chair Parrish commented that it would not take a long time for a canopy to come back, and with the present state of the economy, it was inexpensive to purchase replacement trees. He was not sure how the contractor “got away” with what he did, and wondered if it was because of staffing issues.

A brief discussion ensued with Ms. Daniels asking if there was a way to find out what happened. Vice-Chair Parrish responded that the contractor claimed there was no other way the trees could have been removed; however, the issue should have been discussed prior to any work being done.

Chair Hurley suggested that the issues surrounding the removal of the trees at the bird sanctuary be placed on the agenda for discussion. Following Chair Hurley’s suggestion, Vice-Chair Parrish indicated that he would contact Urban Forrester Tim Lee to find out if would attend the next board meeting to discuss the issue.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member