

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 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, Julie Aitken and Scott Weinstein. Also present was Board Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Further Discussion on Report from Task Force

Discussion commenced regarding issues involving the Urban Farming Initiative Task Force relating to meeting dates, dates for sunsetting the Task Force and recommendations made by the Task Force and presented to the Town Council.

Ms. Aitken spoke of the two recommendations that were rejected by the Town Council and that she did not believe that the Task Force minutes accurately reflected what its action had been. She indicated that she and several Task Force members recollected that a new motion had been made and that the previous motion should have been stricken.

A lengthy discussion was devoted to the issue of a recommendation made by the Task Force relating to the Sunshine Law and Public Records Act, with Mr. Weinstein commenting on his attempt to provide clarification and the Task Force's effort to make sure that an oversight committee would be in place when the Task Force sunsetted. He felt that whether or not the board was governed by the Sunshine Law it was important that there be an oversight committee in place. Ms. Aitken who preferred that the Task Force be governed by the Sunshine Law indicated that although the presentation was prepared by staff, it appeared that there was some confusion and the recommendation as it was intended by the Task Force was not clear. She explained that the recommendation was clarified at the following meeting but the final wording was not in place yet.

The Board discussed voting issues relating to the Task Force and the general confusion on a number of other problems. Ms. Aitken spoke of the oversight committee and added that however this committee was made up, in order to save money for the Town, meetings would be held four times per year. Mr. Weinstein suggested that this Board could make a recommendation to the Council to create the oversight committee since it was not in the scope of service initially for the Task Force. His recommendations were 1) to specify the monitoring of the new committee; 2) the number of boards contributing to the Task Force; 3) alternate members; and 4) that the Task Force meet every three months.

Ms. Aitken commented that Janette Smith would be sending the rewritten recommendations to the Task Force which would be resubmitted to the Town Council. The question was asked whether or not this Board would make a formal recommendation, with Ms. Aitken commenting that she would rather wait to see the final recommendation from the Task Force and decide at the next meeting whether or not to endorse it. Chair Hurley commented that a follow-up of the recommendation made by the Task Force would be the first item on the agenda for the next meeting of this Board. Ms. Aitken suggested that Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky be contacted to find out if Ms. Smith had submitted the final wording changing recommendations six and seven.

2.2 Further Discussion on Request for Proposal Regarding Battens Farm

Chair Hurley had hoped that Dr. Sam Scott would be at this meeting and suggested extending an invitation to him to attend the next meeting to discuss the Battens property.

Vice-Chair Parrish commented that Dr. Scott had informed him that he would be receiving the keys to the property by February 1st. Boardmembers spoke of vandalism which had occurred and it was the consensus that this would change once the property was occupied.

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

Mr. Weinstein questioned why this Board could not oversee the Task Force recommendations coming to fruition. Chair Hurley indicated that this had been discussed with this Board which was willing to pick up any items that Council wanted to assign to this Board or items that were left pending by the Task Force. Mr. Weinstein suggested having further discussion on the issue once the draft on recommendations six and seven were received from Ms. Smith. Ms. Aitken agreed stating that this Board had always set its own agenda and mentioned the number of items that had been undertaken by this Board.

Discussion continued with Mr. Weinstein asking if a recommendation could be made to Council to appoint this Board as an oversight committee or recommend other committees that this Board felt should be involved. Ms. Aitken referred to the issues that were created when Boards overlapped.

Vice-Chair Parrish referred to the number of conducive parks from a list received from Mr. Andresky and Battens was one of the properties listed. He advised that the Van Kirk property was awarded unanimously to Dr. Scott as a farm property by Council at a December meeting. The taxation issue and the agricultural classification was briefly discussed by the Board.

Regarding the Battens property, Chair Hurley reiterated that Dr. Scott be contacted and asked to attend the next meeting to discuss Battens and to find out if he was satisfied with the progress and if there was any assistance that this Board could offer.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary – Dave Parrish

Vice-Chair Parrish explained that there was a request for proposal (RFP) to have invasive exotics removed from Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary last year. The Australian Pines were removed incorrectly by the contractor and dropped on native Pond Apples. He believed that some of the Pond Apples could have been saved through corrective pruning; however, after cutting the Australian Pines in an unsafe manner, the contractor decided to “clear cut” the remaining Pond Apples. Vice-Chair Parrish explained that he found out about the issue after attending a Council meeting.

A lengthy discussion continued with Vice-Chair Parrish explaining who was in charge of the project and that the project had been stopped. He added that the issue had been resolved with the contractor indicating that he would replant the Pond Apples at his expense. Vice-Chair Parrish explained that in making inquiries concerning the issue, he spoke with Procurement Manager Herb Hyman who referred him to Public Works Director Manny Diez’s office who then referred him to Project Manager Keith Purcell. Mr. Purcell informed him that the Pond Apples had been replanted by the contractor, but he had not inspected the site or accepted the project yet. Vice-Chair Parrish believed that there were some other issues involved. He indicated that the residents other concern was the remaining Australian Pines being clear cut, something that they did not want to happen for now.

Mr. Weinstein commented that request for proposal should have been more detailed explaining that the job was a hazardous tree removal to be handled as a selective clearing and grubbing project rather than a land clearing project. There were questions regarding a bond on the project and whether or not the contractor had been paid.

Vice-Chair Parrish highlighted the issues involved with the project, and believed that the residents should be happy with the way things were moving forward to remedy the situation.

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Discussion continued regarding the location of the project, and the cost involved for the proposed trees for re-landscaping of the project, irrigation and contracts. Vice-Chair Parrish outlined contracts relating to other municipalities.

There was discussion regarding the type of trees with Ms. Aitken expressing surprise that the trees being replaced were non-native trees. Mr. Weinstein commented if he had it his way, he would make it a requirements that ninety percent of all the landscaping should be native plant material. Vice-Chair Parrish commented that that was not always a good thing because there was not a lot of native soil left and the trees should match the soil.

In response to Chair Hurley's question regarding how to move forward on the issue, Vice-Chair Parrish suggesting inviting Mr. Diez or another staff member from Public Works, who had been involved with the project, to attend the upcoming meeting to provide an explanation to the Board as to what went wrong.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

- Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary
- Discussion on Battens Farm and Van Kirk Property

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member