

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MAY 11, 2011**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley,(arrived at 6:46) Vice-Chair Dave Parrish, Julie Aitken and Scott Weinstein. Also present were Interim Assistant Town Administrator Phillip Holste, Project Manager Keith Purcell and Board Secretary Jenevia Campbell recording the meeting. Sam Scott was absent.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 9, 2011  
March 9, 2011

Mr. Weinstein made a motion, seconded by Ms. Aitken, to approve the minutes of February 9, 2011 and March 9, 2011. In a voice vote, with Dr. Scott and Chair Hurley being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

**3. DISCUSSION**

3.3 Arrowhead Golf Course

Vice-Chair Parrish posed questions regarding the Arrowhead Golf Course relating to the landscaping and trees that appeared to be dying. Mr. Holste indicated that the Town was aware of the issue and a few weeks before closing, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was told not to replace the trees until the Town actually owned the property. The Town wanted its landscaping division to oversee the property as well. He added that the Town's final bid was accepted by FDOT on October 1st, 2010 and the due diligence document was submitted in November 2010 to the Town Council outlining problems with the trees and plants which included the dead trees, dead shrubs and the problems with the ants.

Mr. Holste explained that the property was purchased in March and some of the issues were addressed through credit at the closing; however, the remainder would be addressed through warranty which was being dealt with by the landscaping division. He added that there would be replanting on the golf course but the Town wanted to have a management company in place because of the uncertainty that there was a staff member with the expertise to make sure that the trees were planted correctly as thought had to be given to course play. Vice-Chair Parrish commented that trees were placed on golf courses for a reason.

Mr. Weinstein questioned the need for a management company, with Mr. Holste responding that the Town was looking for a company to manage the golf course that would pay revenue to the Town. Mr. Holste indicated that the management company would handle everything on the property, keep the revenue, pay expenditures and pay a fee to the Town. He added that vendors would make their presentations, Council would be asked to rank the vendors and the highest ranked vendor would negotiate and try to bring a contract to the June 15th Town Council meeting. Mr. Holste indicated that the Town had hired a golf consultant from the National Golf Foundation that was analyzing the bid and would provide an objective summary of the bids.

Ms. Aitken asked if the successful bidder would be required to pay the property taxes. Mr. Holste responded that this would be included in the contract negotiation. Ms. Aitken questioned if there would be public access to the golf course with Mr. Holste responding that the Town would be liable if someone got hit by a golf ball; however, the vendor should their own insurance.

Mr. Holste advised that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was the oversight Board responsible for the golf course. He commented that some municipalities had golf advisory boards, however he was not sure if Davie would create another advisory board; but in the meantime the PRAB would be serving in that capacity.

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3.2 Proposed Plan for the Van Kirk Property

Discussion was centered around the lease agreement between North South Institute and the Town. Mr. Holste indicated that the portion of the property that was leased by the Institute was cleared. In response to Mr. Weinstein's inquiry regarding power lines; Mr. Holste responded that the property was owned by the Town however, there was a Florida Power and Light professional easement on the property.

Ms. Aitken questioned if the lessee would be responsible for the taxes with Mr. Holste responded in the affirmative, adding that this stipulation was part of the contract.

Mr. Weinstein questioned if the lease on the Van Kirk property was open-ended. Mr. Holste responded that the lease was for a one year term with a mutually agreed upon renewal each year up to two or three years. He added that there was no date as to when the mitigation would move forward.

3.1 Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary

Mr. Purcell advised that the pond apples were growing back; and the contractor had originally put ten gallons in but these did not do very well. The contractor would be adding another 25 gallons in six to eight weeks at his expense. Regarding the ongoing debate concerning Australian Pines, Vice-Chair Parrish indicated that there were different varieties and they became stronger as they got older.

There was a lengthy discussion on Australian Pines, the removal issue and the concern of the residents. Mr. Purcell indicated that any decision made concerning removal had to come from someone above him because he did not want the State to come back to the Town sometime in the future asking for a refund of the funds that was used to purchase the property.

Discussion continued regarding the tree removal issue; Mr. Weinstein commented that understanding what went wrong on this project was not necessarily a concern, but preventing it from happening on future projects was now the issue. Chair Hurley asked what recommendations the Board could make that would be helpful to the Town. Suggestions were made to have an on-site inspector from the Town be on the site; additionally to emphasize in the bid specifications that no native flora or specimens were to be damaged.

Mr. Purcell provided information regarding the bid and what was included in the bid documents. The question of what went wrong was again asked and also whether the contractor was watched. Mr. Purcell explained that at the time the job was assigned to the contractor there were only two project managers, and unfortunately for a low bid occasionally things went wrong due to lack of attention. He believed there was either a lack of communication between the contractor and his crew or lack of attention.

Mr. Weinstein questioned if the next project was similar to the Sunny Lake with Mr. Purcell responding that the Rose parcel located directly behind Sunny Lake was the proposed project. Mr. Purcell explained that there were some exotics that the Town wanted to save on this project. There was the question whether this would become part of Sunny Lake with Mr. Purcell responding that initially that was the idea. Vice-Chair Parrish inquired if Town staff would be performing most of the work on this project. Mr. Purcell responded that only the side work would be completed by staff.

Discussion on landscaping ensued with Vice-Chair Parrish asking about the relocation of Royal Palms. Chair Hurley reiterated what recommendations the Board could make to the Town Council to make the staffs' job easier and to prevent this type of accident from happening in the future. He

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indicated that some of the Board members had expertise in certain areas and were willing to volunteer their time because they had their own businesses which allowed them flexibility with their time. Mr. Purcell was not sure what kind of recommendations would help.

Vice-Chair Parrish highlighted a number of previous tree removal that his company had carried out and the success that was achieved. Chair Hurley inquired about the job at Robbins Lodge and whether or not Mr. Purcell was happy with it; to which Mr. Purcell responded that he did not know too much about that project.

Questions arose regarding security deposit and whether the contractor of the Sunny Lake project had already been paid. Mr. Purcell responded that indicating that the contractor had to pay a fee of ten percent in case of damages and the contractor for Sunny Lake had not yet been paid. There was the question regarding the name of the contractor and sub-contractor; with Mr. Purcell responding that the contractor's name was Angel's Landscaping and the sub-contractor was Tropical Touch.

Vice-Chair Parrish asked for the amount when a contractor had to be bonded. Mr. Purcell responded that there was no bond unless the contract was over \$100,000. Vice-Chair Parrish questioned if there was any assistance that the Board could give with Mr. Purcell commenting if Board members arrived at any ideas they could call him and he would be happy to add more information to the bid documents.

Vice-Chair Parrish questioned if there had been a tree survey on the latest project with Mr. Purcell responding in the negative. A brief discussion ensued as to how the tree survey was conducted with Mr. Purcell providing an explanation to the Board.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Aitken inquired if there had been any feedback from the Town Council as to what they would like this Board to do. She questioned whether there was anything that would prevent the Board from having a brainstorming session at the next meeting. Chair Hurley suggested that the Board should review how it wanted to move forward, look at the issues and discuss what to "take on".

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the old coffee plantation, which was out for bid, the recommendations that were made by the Urban Farming Initiative Task Force, and direction from the Town Council to move forward with the farming initiative. Mr. Weinstein suggested that if Council agreed to let this Board move forward, then it might put some "horse power" behind some of this Board's ideas. He mentioned being on the Board of the Friends of the Farm Park with Ms. Aitken inquiring if the Board met on a regular basis. Mr. Weinstein responded in the negative and added that the Board had six members and was planning to begin meeting regularly.

Chair Hurley commented that there might be business owners in Davie who were interested in expanding their operation by utilizing some of the unused properties. Mr. Weinstein knew of corporate sponsors who had pledged time and material for the development of the infrastructure of the Farm Park. He added that even with this Board's recommendation, unless Boardmembers were willing to donate some of their time beyond the third Wednesday of every month to take the tasks and move forward in

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their spare time, it would be tough to get anything going. Mr. Weinstein commented that unless there was at least one person spearheading this urban farming initiative, it would be tough for anything to move forward. He added that this could not be a staff member but a full-time volunteer.

Chair Hurley indicated that Dr. Scott was hoping that the North South Institute would have some educational programs at Batten's for individuals interested in farming, and this might provide an opportunity for some community gardens to move forward with some assistance and expertise from NSI. He commented once Dr. Scott's operation was moving forward it would provide some opportunities for community gardens to get interested clients. Chair Hurley commented that this Board had been most successful when there was someone to assist ideas to move forward.

There was a brief discussion regarding the opening of Batten's Farm with Mr. Weinstein indicating that he had received an invitation stating the opening was May 16th. He questioned if other Board members had received an email. Vice-Chair Parrish indicated that the opening dated was May 27th. Mr. Weinstein advised that he would forward the email to other Board members.

**6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

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

- o Urban Farming Initiative
- o Brainstorming Session (Areas of Task Force)

**7. 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 7:36 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member