

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
AUGUST 10, 2011

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Dave Parrish and Julie Aitken. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Campbell recording the meeting. Sam Scott and Scott Weinstein were absent.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Friends of the Farm Park – Mayor Judy Paul

Ms. Aitken indicated that there had been concerns among members of the task force regarding the site plan for the Davie Farm Park. She explained that all the boards wanted to review the site plan and have an input before the final version was completed.

Mayor Paul advised that the site plan was being worked on with the hope that it would be finalized by October. She indicated that Jeff Evans had volunteered to complete the site plan; however, his idea was based on his vision from a farm park that he had visited in Ohio and it did not have all the required elements for this area.

Mayor Paul explained that Deputy Planning and Zoning Manager David Abramson worked on a revised site plan to include all the elements that were necessary to meet the grants. She suggested that a miniature version of the site plan be submitted to the various boards for their review and placed on the agenda for all boards at the next quarterly meeting. Ms. Aitken indicated that in addition to having input concerning the site plan, the consensus at the last quarterly meeting was that everyone wanted to see the funding requirement. Mayor Paul responded that the revised site plan included the required elements for the different bonds, and the management plans had to be completed and kept current. The management plans were renewed periodically by Intergovernmental Affairs Manager Phillip Holste.

Mayor Paul spoke of informal discussions with a number of individuals and it was felt that until the site plan was completed it would not be profitable to spend time discussing fund-raising. She referred to commitment made by individuals to complete the ground work at the farm park, but this could not be accomplished before completion of the site plan. Mayor Paul mentioned that the survey would be completed by Scott McLaughlin but not before completion of the site plan. She indicated that a topographical survey would be good but that was expensive.

Mayor Paul presented a brochure from Asthor Agricola a greenhouse company based in Venezuela, that was considering donating a greenhouse to the Town. She explained that the greenhouses came in all different types and sizes and were temperature controlled, and once the site plan was completed with everything in place, there could be a number of things taking place in the greenhouse. Mayor Paul explained that this would be a demonstration because there was none in this part of the country. She indicated that Asthor conducted business with major companies in Central and South America. Mayor Paul provided a lengthy discussion on the project based on discussions she had with the Asthor representative who approached her because they had heard of the Town's initiative. She expressed being excited about the project. Ms. Aitken commented that this type of sponsorship would enable Asthor to show their product.

Ms. Aitken commented that if a barn was to be built at the farm park, maybe a barn building company might also show some interest. Mayor Paul commented that for the education building, a log cabin company in northern Florida had been contacted and they had shown some interest; however, the interest died due to the economic down-turn. Mayor Paul indicated that she had been prepared to fly to Missouri to meet with Purina based on a package that she had sent to them that was compiled as part of the Town's grant application. She suggested that boardmembers visit the Asthor website to review the information given and provide her with feedback.

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
AUGUST 10, 2011

JULY 22, 2003

Mayor Paul spoke about a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as it related to the Farm Park and added that she had to be very cautious and she would be recusing herself from voting on the MOU. Although she had received an opinion from the Town Attorney that it was not necessary to recuse herself, she was not comfortable with the ethics issue. She felt there was a conflict of interest with her being Mayor and also President of the Friends of the Farm Park. Mayor Paul commented that if she remained she might not be able to vote on any issues relating to the farm park. However, once the MOU was approved, a meeting would be held at which the by-laws would be adopted and there would be an election of the board of directors. Following Ms. Aitken's question concerning the MOU, Mayor Paul explained that there was a requirement by the task force in writing that the Friends of the Farm Park would be assisting the Town with the Farm Park.

Ms. Aitken expressed concern that if the organization Friends of the Farm Park was not subject to the Sunshine Law or the Public Records Act and if they were the driving force behind the farm park, then there would be no public scrutiny. Mayor Paul responded that the Friends of the Farm Park could not do anything unless it was through the Town, and one of the items in the MOU was clarification of the public access to all of the programs and the facilities at the Farm Park.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding tax implication as it related to a 501c(3) designation, scrutiny by the Property Appraiser's Office, and the assumption that the Friends of the Farm Park was automatically tax exempted. Ms. Aitken expressed concern regarding this assumption. Mayor Paul explained that the Friends of the Farm Park did not yet have the 501c(3) designation and highlighted some problems relating to the issue.

Ms. Aitken spoke about the Davie Area Land Trust and questioned whether it could be merged with the Friends of the Farm Park since it already had the 501c(3) designation. Mayor Paul commented that this appeared to be a good idea.

Further discussion on the site plan resulted in Ms. Aitken suggesting that the miniature site plan be sent to the Board Secretary for discussion at the next meeting. Mayor Paul commented that she would check into the overlay for the topographical map.

There was a brief discussion about Batten's Farmers Market with Vice-Chair Parrish commenting that he has been happy with all the items he has purchased to date. Mayor Paul indicated that she had been there once and planned to visit more frequently.

Discussion resumed regarding the greenhouse with Vice-Chair Parrish commenting that it would be good if the greenhouse being donated could be more than 1,000 square feet. Mayor Paul indicated that additional information could be acquired on-line; additionally she would be receiving another package from Asthor. Mayor Paul mentioned a pending meeting with the Asthor representatives and a meeting with someone from Brazil who was looking for some involvement in Davie.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion commenced regarding the community garden initiative with Chair Hurley presenting a letter for boardmembers' approval before submission to the Town Council supporting the community garden. (Attached hereto and made a part hereof is the letter submitted to the Town Council).

4. NEW BUSINESS

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
AUGUST 10, 2011**

JULY 22, 2003

Chair Hurley asked that the Parks and Recreation Department be contacted to find out the date for the next quarterly meeting.

Vice-Chair Parrish provided the board with his new email address – davejparrish@yahoo.com.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

- Discuss Farm Park Site Plan provided by David Abramson
- List of Prerequisite for Bond Funds and Land Trust

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestion.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member