

**TOWN OF DAVIE
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
6591 ORANGE DRIVE
JANUARY 11, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Dave Parrish, Scott Weinstein and Julie Aitken. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Campbell recording the meeting. Sam Scott was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 November 16, 2011

Approval of the minutes was tabled to February.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Preparing for January 17 Workshop

Mr. Weinstein stated he had been in touch with Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky and they would proceed with the workshop as recommended. He said they would discuss the location, possibly the Farm Park. Mr. Weinstein said Linda from the Parks and Recreation Department had written an agenda for the workshop. Chair Hurley recalled the Board had recommended to the Town Council that the AAB should host the workshop, but he had received no feedback. This frustrated Chair Hurley; he said someone should have made them aware that the Parks and Recreation Department would be involved.

Mr. Weinstein listed the topics Linda had listed for discussion:

- Introduction to community garden programs
- Potential garden sites
- How to organize a garden in your area
- Grant funding options

Mr. Weinstein said this was not a bad start, but it was not what the Board had recommended. He agreed to work with Dr. Scott regarding the workshop.

3.2 Discuss New Proposed Conceptual Site Plan for the Farm Park

Chair Hurley said this was the first he was seeing this site plan. He recalled the Board recommending this as a site for the community garden, but did not know if this site plan would alter that. Mr. Weinstein stated the site plan was years in the future and reserving a section for a community garden would not affect the plan. He also wanted to see the scale and a more detailed site plan.

Chair Hurley was concerned that the new site plan would take the Farm Park off the table as one location for a community garden. He said his discussion with Mr. Andresky had led him to believe that Robbins Lodge would be the location the Town utilized for a community garden.

Regarding the site plan, Ms. Aitken was disappointed at the lack of trails for public access. Mr. Weinstein reiterated he would like a larger, detailed version of the site plan and asked for this to be provided at their next meeting. The Board discussed the site plan.

Ms. Aitken thought there should be representations of different types of agricultural uses, which were not on this site plan. Trails should also be through the interior of the park.

Mr. Weinstein stated they should discuss this at their joint quarterly meeting. He said they needed to see a key and legend for the site plan. The Board found an area on the plan designated for crops, but it appeared to be inaccessible to visitors. Mr. Weinstein wanted to be sure the community garden would still be located in the area proposed on the site plan.

Mr. Parrish stated Dennis Deveaugh had cattle on the site now, and he had an agreement with the Town that he would take care of the property and pay taxes and a lease on it. The Board agreed that a small section of the property for the community garden should not interfere with what Mr. Deveaugh was doing.

Mr. Weinstein said he needed to visit the site with the people who would be in charge of distributing the money to make the Farm Park happen. He pointed out that there was a bridge on the site plan that must be built. The Board discussed ingress and egress, and said there should be parking for community gardeners. Mr. Weinstein asked for a copy of the Power Point presentation.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Revisit Recommendation Made at November 16, 2011 Meeting Regarding Property Taxes

Chair Hurley said there had been no movement on their recommendation regarding Leroy Collins Park or their recommendation to investigate the tax liability. Mr. Weinstein asked for the final draft language of their recommendations to discuss with the Town Council and Ms. Campbell agreed to forward it to him. Ms. Aitken noted they were trying to protect the Town. Mr. Weinstein recalled that the Urban Farming Initiative Task Force had recommended making the lessee responsible for the taxes. Chair Hurley felt this would present a “crushing blow” to Dr. Scott’s operation at Batten’s Farm. Dr. Scott had told Mr. Weinstein that he was anticipating a full agricultural assessment on the property. Mr. Parrish said he had not seen an application yet. Ms. Aitken felt the buildings could never be tax exempt. This was a different application that the Town should be making.

Chair Hurley suggested the Board recommend Town Council direct the Town Attorney to prepare an application to the Property Appraiser regarding Batten’s Farm.

Mr. Weinstein recommended AAB members attend a Council meeting and raise this issue with Council in a public forum.

Ms. Aitken wanted to recommend immediately that the Town Council direct staff to make whatever applications were appropriate to assist the North South Institute with the Batten’s Farm Farmers Market to ensure there would be no negative impact on Dr. Scott or the taxpayers. This should be done before the March 1, 2012 deadline and should include the entire Batten’s Farm property. The Board voted unanimously to forward this recommendation to the Town Council.

4.2 Annual Report

Chair Hurley agreed to work on the report.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Ms. Aitken asked that the Power Point regarding the Farm Park site plan be shown at the joint meeting. She also requested a status update on the Board's previous recommendations, with emphasis on the recommendation made this evening.

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Weinstein said the Landscape Department had performed nice improvements on the trees that had been incorrectly planted at Arrowhead Golf course.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member