

**DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MARCH 14, 2012**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. Board members present were: Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Dave Parrish, Julie Aitken, and Scott Weinstein. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Campbell recording the meeting. Sam Scott was absent.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Agricultural Classification and Taxes on Properties Owned by Town of Davie - Jason Curtis, Agricultural Analyst, Broward County Property Appraiser's Office

Ms. Aitken described the lease agreement at the Van Kirk property for 55 acres for agriculture. She stated Mr. Curtis had inspected the property and discovered that 15 -20 of the 55 acres had not been cultivated yet. Since agriculture classification was made on a per-acre basis, this could result in a substantial property tax liability. Ms. Aitken had calculated there could be a \$3,000 to \$24,000 tax liability per year.

Ms. Aitken stated the property had been municipal/exempt for 2011 because the agreement had been signed in January 2011. As of January 2012, 55 acres was leased and therefore taxable.

A Board member asked if anyone had contacted the President of the Broward Farm Bureau. Ms. Aitken said this was the Property Appraiser's purview, not the Farm Board. The Board member suggested the soil could be prepared for sowing. Ms. Aitken stated it was too late to change the tax assessment for this year. She showed photos to Board members and they discussed activity on the property. Ms. Aitken thought that the property should have been leased incrementally as it was used to avoid this tax issue and she wanted to make a recommendation to the Town for future enterprises such as this.

Mr. Weinstein suggested making the recommendation that any leases considered for agricultural uses come before the Agricultural Advisory Board first. He said Batten's Farm would be a model for some of these other properties. Ms. Aitken felt the RFP was a key component.

Mr. Weinstein made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Parrish, to recommend to the Town that future agricultural leases be brought to the Agricultural Advisory Board for input and recommendation prior to execution of the lease. In a voice vote, with Dr. Scott being absent, motion passed unanimously. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

Mr. Parrish said he had worked with a property owner who wanted to put a working nursery on his property. The owner had contacted Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Curtis had informed Mr. Parrish that if there was a trailer loaded with plants on the property on January 1, this would be considered for the tax exemption.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Alternative Meeting Days

The Board discussed meeting on the first or fourth Monday of the month and left it to the secretary to decide.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Those items would be: 1) Results of the Joint Quarterly Meeting discussion; and 2) Tax issues for leased Town Land.

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**6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

Mr. Parrish said he had been helping people working on Berman Park to plant trees there. Chair Hurley requested an update for the Board's next meeting. Mr. Weinstein suggested inviting these people to the Board's next meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair/Board Member