

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
JUNE 3, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Board members present were: Chair Dave Parrish, Julie Aitken, Jason Hurley, and Sam Scott. Board Secretary Janet Gale was also present to record the meeting. Vice-Chair Scott Weinstein was not present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 6, 2013

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hurley, to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2013. In a voice vote, with Vice-Chair Weinstein being absent at that time, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0.)**

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Davie Farm Guide

Ms. Aitken reported that publication of the Davie Farm Guide is awaiting the resolution of two State Statutes. The Governor had signed the agricultural classification statute into law; however, the proposed amendment to Statute 604.50 has not yet been signed. Ms. Aitken advised that all other work on the draft farm guide is complete and can be sent to Mayor Judy Paul once the final language of HB 203 is available for inclusion.

She added that copies of the draft farm guide will be emailed to the board members.

Dr. Scott asked if HB 203 would require farmers to seek permits in order to erect certain structures. Ms. Aitken clarified that this would only affect non-commercial farmers, but pointed out that the Town is more generous to small farmers than other municipalities within the area.

3.2 Review Farmers' Progress at Coffee Plantation

Dr. Scott stated he was pleased that these farmers were allowed to relocate to the coffee plantation, which he felt was a more manageable area than the previous Town parcel(s) on which they were allowed to farm. The coffee plantation is a semi-commercial space, less prone to flooding, and is surrounded by a residential area with proper planning and land use. He felt this agreement would produce positive results for urban farming within the Town, and thanked the board for their support of the project.

Dr. Scott continued that the farmers on this land have entered into a standard agreement with the Town, and are not required to provide any additional services other than farming on the property. The lease is expected to commence upon signing, and will be good for two years, with a one-year option to renew. Ms. Aitken noted that this will allow the farmers sufficient time to qualify for an agricultural classification on January 1, 2014.

3.3 Trail Markers

Chair Parrish stated that he had followed up on the issue of trail markers on Town trails, which will be handled by a liaison from the Town's public safety department. Plans for the markers are currently "in the works."

Dr. Scott asked if existing markers at the trails' entrances would be used. Ms. Aitken explained that the new markers will serve a similar purpose to highway mile markers, as they could be used to direct emergency personnel to a GIS location if a trail user is injured or requires other assistance.

Ms. Aitken commented that some of the Town's trails, particularly equestrian trails, are less visible than others, as they may or may not intersect with nearby roads or neighborhoods.

Leaving them unmarked could prove to be dangerous if it resulted in a slow emergency response. She advised that a lack of adequate markers could result in a legal issue for the Town if an individual was seriously injured on a trail and emergency personnel could not locate that person in a timely manner.

Dr. Scott asked if the Town's trails have been surveyed so markers can be placed on the trails. Chair Parrish said he was informed that the survey will begin at Robbins Lodge. Ms. Aitken added that fire and rescue services would need to be provided with the markers' coordinates in order for the program to be successful.

Mr. Hurley said the markers would need to be placed on the trails, and then Town personnel would map the markers using GIS coordinates, which would then be provided to the Broward Sheriff's office and/or other emergency dispatchers.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Scott asserted that he has enjoyed his time on the board, and would remain in touch with his fellow members, as the North-South Institute remains actively engaged in three to four agricultural projects within the Town. He concluded that this board has been one of the more rewarding advisory entities on which he has participated.

Ms. Aitken recalled that the board members were asked to submit their names for consideration if they wished to be appointed to the Town's Green Energy and Environmental Committee, which will be merged with the Agricultural Advisory Board. It was suggested that the board members remain in touch in order to continue to promote agricultural interests within the Town. The members briefly discussed previous and ongoing agricultural issues that have arisen since the inception of the Board.

5. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None.

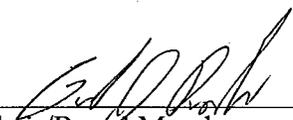
6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Date Approved: _____



Chair/Board Member