

**TOWN OF DAVIE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6591 Orange Drive, DAVIE, FLORIDA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathy Cox, Chair
Linda Greck, Vice Chair
Donna Evans
Charlene Murray
Christina Pellicane (arr. 8:18 p.m.)
Toni Webb

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wayne Arnold
David Oakes

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Susan Starkey, Town Councilmember
Emilio DeSimone, Project Manager
Mitch Taylor, Administration
Todd Evans, guest

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1. ROLL CALL

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. Following roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 March 25, 2013

Ms. Evans noted the following:

- p. 2, 7th paragraph, 2nd line, “does not any funding” should be “does not have any funding”
- p. 5, Section 8, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, all instances of “Ms. Evans” should be “Ms. Webb”

Motion by Ms. Webb, seconded by Ms. Evans, to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. LIAISON UPDATE

Mr. Taylor presented his update as follows:

Devine Parcels. The contractor is working on installing sod, pouring a concrete slab for the picnic area, and performing general cleanup of the site. This should be completed by the end of May.

C-11 Extension (United Ranches Bridge). Staff is awaiting direction from the Town Council and OSAC regarding the bridge design and specifications before proceeding on the project.

Sunny Lake. Solar site lighting is currently being installed; funding for the lights came from the Broward County Parks for People grant program. The removal of invasive vegetation is on hold, awaiting further direction.

Walmart Crossing Light. FDOT will re-examine the intersection now that Walmart is open to see if it warrants a pedestrian or trail crossing. Mr. Taylor will follow up with Engineering to make sure that is done.

“Just Desserts” Volunteer Recognition. The Town will be awarding certificates and pins to its volunteers and Advisory Board members at the Rodeo Arena on April 25, from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.

Chair Cox requested sufficient advance notice of events, such as the ribbon cutting at Devine Parcels.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 C-11 Culvert Extensions

Mr. DeSimone reported there is insufficient funding to do the project. Chair Cox said the Committee was curious if could they build only one of the bridges if they had some money left. Mr. DeSimone replied that was possible, but there would be additional expenditures for redesign and re-permitting. He explained that it is permitted to go as it is (three culverts) with the South Florida Water Management District. If anything is altered from those approved drawings, another permit modification will be required. Upon a comment by Chair Cox, Mr. DeSimone said he could try sending the District a letter explaining the situation and see if they would allow the building of one bridge at a time.

Vice Chair Greck noted there is \$170,000 left of the money that was originally earmarked for the bridges, and the cost is \$524,000. She wondered if there was ever an answer as to what happened to the money.

Councilmember Starkey commented there had been a motion made by Councilmember Hattan to allow some of the money to be used for the bridges. Any surplus beyond that in the District II money would go toward the golf course purchase. She remarked there should have been enough for the bridges. Councilmember Starkey continued that they need to find out how much the Council allocated, how much was estimated for the two projects, and what amount of money was set aside. She said that the situation “doesn’t sound right.”

Vice Chair Greck recalled they put in their Capital Improvement Plan to encumber the funds so they would not be lost to some other project during the permitting phase. Mr. Taylor stated \$321,000 was included in the 2009-2013 CIP for the “C-11 Canal Equestrian Crossings.” He added that it appears to be a combination of Parks and Open Space Bond, District II.

Chair Cox mentioned that the money for re-engineering came out of the \$321,000. Mr. DeSimone stated that the original engineering was done by Miller Lake. The project did go out to bid, but the budget was not accurate - the cost assessments were "way off." Mr. DeSimone added that saving money and reducing maintenance costs is what steered the project towards the culvert extensions in lieu of the bridges. The South Florida Water Management District and Central Broward also favored the culvert extensions versus bridges due to storm situations and general maintenance. Mr. DeSimone said he will look into the matter.

Councilmember Starkey was curious if the money taken from District II for the golf course could be returned to the District now that the golf course is an Enterprise Fund. Mr. DeSimone said he would check with Mr. Holste.

Mr. DeSimone asked which one of the three bridges the Committee would want first. Vice Chair Greck wondered if there was any chance they could get additional funding before deciding how to move forward.

Councilmember Starkey was curious why there were so many re-engineered and redesigned projects and suggested staff look into that.

Discussion ensued as the Committee looked at an aerial map of the area.

Vice Chair Greck proposed a phased construction program. Mr. DeSimone remarked that the project will expire and would need to be extended for a year. If they do not extend it, the entire project has to start from the beginning.

Chair Cox thought the bridge at 70 Avenue might be the preferred one to start with, because it would allow the people on Davie Road and the residents on 70 Avenue to access the trail and get to 73 Avenue.

Mr. DeSimone suggested that the Committee members look at the areas and then come back at the next meeting with their priorities.

Councilmember Starkey remarked that the pedestrians can also use the trail on 70 Avenue - it would be multipurpose. Chair Cox said it might even accommodate bicycles.

Councilmember Starkey suggested that the Committee pick one bridge as their priority, and the consensus was to start with 70 Avenue. Vice Chair Greck reiterated her earlier idea to phrase it as a "phased project" with the bridge at 70 Avenue being the first phase, and Mr. DeSimone commented that is how he is going to phrase it.

4.2 Robbins Lodge Management Plan

There was discussion on whether to proceed with the project when the Committee merges with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Chair Cox mentioned that since the entire Committee is very familiar with Robbins, she would like to see it finished. She added that the Parks and Recreation Board has a very different orientation, and it would be instructive for the other Board to see the difference in focus. Ms. Webb felt they should get it done in case the Parks and Recreation Board wanted to make it into more of an active park.

Ms. Evans was opposed to the Committee working on the Plan, noting that ultimately it would not change anything. Vice Chair Greck also commented that she did not think it was the purview of an Advisory Committee, but should be carried out by staff. Mr. Taylor remarked that the original idea was to move the finished product on to staff, who would put the final version together.

[Ms. Pellicane arrived at 8:18 p.m.]

Ms. Murray and Ms. Pellicane were in favor of finishing the Plan and having a completed product when they merge with the other Board.

Chair Cox directed the Committee's attention to page 6 of the Robbins Management Plan, Item #4.

[See attached for revisions to the plan.]

Mr. Taylor explained the provisions of Chapter 267, Florida Statutes Sections 267.061(2) (a) and (b) as referred to in Section 4.1.

Regarding archaeological excavations, Chair Cox explained that the current thinking by archaeologists is to leave sites undisturbed until better technology is discovered to make the excavation worthwhile.

During discussion of the document, there was debate about the process of trail repair. Mr. Quigley noted it would be unlikely that they would excavate down to the lime rock base.

Motion by Ms. Evans, seconded by Ms. Webb, to move the document on to Town staff with noted corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Faulk Property

Mr. Taylor reminded the Committee they had discussed incorporating the Faulk property into the Robbins Plan. It was noted there is a lot of exotic/invasive vegetation on the property, and it is difficult to hike.

Mr. Taylor said that the County had an eradication program, but the Faulk property would not have been eligible since the grant was specific to the Parks and Open Space bond that was used to acquire Devine Parcels, Sunny Lake, and others.

By consensus, the Committee decided to re-title the Robbins plan: "Robbins Lodge and Faulk Property Final Resource Management Plan."

Chair Cox informed the Committee that she gave Mr. Collins two options to explore for trail surface protection for the steps and trail areas that need repair. One is called Drivable Grass, which is square concrete stones on a mesh. The other is rubber restaurant matting, which comes in a 7500 foot roll; it holds the sand and protects the ground. Discussion ensued about the merits of each type of protection. Chair Cox said they would not make a decision until they had seen samples.

4.4 Trail Map

Mr. Taylor reported it is still a “work in progress.”

4.5 Capital Improvement Plan Wish List

Mr. Taylor stated that the C-11 Bridges discussed earlier in the meeting continue as a carryover item.

Chair Cox suggested Joy Yoder Park drainage and maintenance as an item for the list, as the area is “like a pond” when it rains. There was discussion that building up the ring and providing grading to the southwest corner might be helpful.

Ms. Evans said the trail from 130 Avenue to Flamingo (east of the bridge) is in need of repair. Councilmember Starkey reported that Mr. Collins informed her that the trash has been removed (or will be removed) from that area.

Ms. Evans mentioned when you come out of the canal area, behind the expensive homes, the trail/road is very gravelly. Councilmember Starkey said that base has to be stabilized for emergency vehicles. She said that if they want to add a tree line or something similar, District III still has the money to complete/improve the trail systems.

Councilmember Starkey continued that the spending priority is to finish the last two projects. She said that when the bridge is fully funded, the leftover monies can be assigned to extras like trees and improvements on the trails. She mentioned that Devine Parcels has trees that are going back into District III and could be used to shade the trail.

Councilmember Starkey also commented there was a code enforcement issue with a person putting his trailers in on the trail, and she said the simple solution is to keep the gate locked. If the resident cuts the gate, they will address that.

Ms. Evans brought up the rebar fence that was put in at Flamingo Road Nursery, noting it is a liability issue. It is on the Town trail, but on his property. Ms. Evans noted she had contacted Code Enforcement and now wants the matter investigated further. Discussion ensued about the situation. Mr. Taylor and Chair Cox will meet on the next day to set a plan in action.

Chair Cox suggested another item for the CIP: securing the fence line on the northwest side of Robbins and replacing the fence with a “real fence” (on the back side of Majestic Groves).

Chair Cox wondered if they could put in a round pen in at Robbins, outside the Equestrian Parking Area. Councilmember Starkey said that next to the corral would be a good location. Chair Cox said the community garden is going in north of the washstand outside the parking area, so they could go east for the round pen. She thought the Trail Riders might participate.

Chair Cox stated that the gate going into the arena at the Equestrian Park (Oak Hill) is falling off, and she requested that item be put on the CIP.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Bridges

Mr. Taylor handed out a document about the bridges. He directed the Committee's attention to the picture in the middle of the second page of the handout. He said that bridge was installed at the N-20 at 14th Street. Mr. Taylor understood another bridge would be going in as part of United Ranches, and staff is looking for recommendations from this Committee with regard to a desirable bridge design.

Chair Cox described the structure of the bridge (at 130 Avenue and 14 Street), and noted there was some objection to the size of it.

Councilmember Starkey explained that the bridge was approved during the "transition," and she had never signed off on it. She said it was not intended to be 12 feet wide or completely encaged. Since it is there, some softening of the effect might be made with landscaping. Councilmember Starkey mentioned that another bridge is in design by the same bidder, and the Mayor requested feedback from this Committee about an improved design.

Ms. Evans thought the bridge was supposed to look like the one at Robbins, which it does not. Ms. Pellicane wondered if they could have a vegetative awning (a native vine of some type) growing on it to make it look less like a "trapeze." Chair Cox suggested planting vegetation on the approaches. Councilmember Starkey said that there would be caution tape across while the stabilized base was installed. Once the bollards are in, the tape would be removed.

Vice Chair Greck feared that the bridge presented an opportunity for people to jump or climb on it.

Ms. Pellicane stated that they do not want a covered bridge, because the roof might not be high enough if a horse rears. She added it would be a possible attractive nuisance, and the Committee can specify how wide they want the bridge to be.

Chair Cox mentioned that equestrians have to train their horses to go on the trails and bridges, it is a dangerous business, and accidents happen. If there is graffiti, it should be painted over the next day.

Mr. Taylor presented different bridge designs from Pioneer Bridges for consideration. Staff can look into different models to see if they would be feasible for United Ranches. He eliminated the Guardian and Cornerstone models. There was discussion about the remaining models, with the comment being made they may want more width than normal because there is not a lot of holding area on either side of the bridge. Vice Chair Greck said the C-11 canal is about 120 feet across, and a wider bridge might make sense in case the horse "freaks out" in the middle.

Ms. Evans wondered if they could exchange the bridge that is already built. Councilmember Starkey pointed out that staff signed off on it, and then there are installation costs to consider. Mr. Taylor pointed out the bridge is prefabricated and custom.

By consensus, the Committee said they preferred the vertical rails, and the Crossbow model was their first and only choice. All the other models had horizontal rails, spaced too far apart. A horse could get their foot caught in the horizontal rails, or use it as a step.

Ms. Pellicane was curious if they were limited to this particular company. Mr. DeSimone said that Public Works has already specified they want that particular bridge manufacturer, and they may be too far along to change. Mr. Taylor will check the wording in the RFP.

Councilmember Starkey explained the process involved in selecting the bridge at 14 Street, and mentioned that the process should have had a design coming back to Town Council for approval, and it did not. She pointed to a lack of communication which left Committees and the Town Council out of the loop. Projects like this should be coming back to the Committee for design before finally going forward. Councilmember Starkey said there should be a better policy in place, and suggested that the Committee discuss what they would recommend for that.

Chair Cox expressed the Committee's appreciation for being allowed the opportunity to provide input on the new bridge.

Mr. Taylor said the Crossbow model will cover a span from 50 to 200 feet, which is feasible. The Committee said they would want to discuss the width.

Councilmember Starkey recommended that the members of the Committee look at the new (14th Street Bridge) and also at the pedestrian bridges over SR 84. Ms. Pellicane thought the rails on those pedestrian bridges were too low, even for cyclists.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Emergency Markers Update

Ms. Evans reported they will continue the project from Tree Tops to Robbins.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following items were suggested for the agenda:

- Trail Map
- Bridges

Vice Chair Greck asked about the Committee mergers. Councilmember Starkey responded that she thought the merger would start as soon as possible in order to save money. She said the idea is not only to merge the boards, but to also reduce the number of people on the merged boards. For that reason, she has not filled vacancies on Committees/Boards. Councilmember Starkey thought the proposal would come before the Town Council in early May and be implemented in June. She added it was a difficult decision dictated by budget concerns. The last meeting for this Committee as it now stands would probably be in May.

Ms. Webb asked about the selection of the Chairs. Councilmember Starkey explained new mission statements are being drafted by staff, Town Council appoints their board members, and then the new Boards will decide on their Chairs.

Councilmember Starkey stated that the new Boards will meet every other month, but there can be fact-finding subcommittees or comments channeled through staff. Ms. Pellicane said when they had

bimonthly meetings in the past, the continuity of thought was broken and measures got passed without the Committee being able to comment on it. She also felt that joining with Parks and Recreation would require them to do more in a shorter period of time with longer breaks in between. She said the Committee/Board would not be effective.

Councilmember Starkey stated that they need the cost savings right now, and the project will save approximately \$15,000. She explained how they eliminated some boards and combined others.

Councilmember Starkey remarked that as the boards get going in the new schedule, if they perceive a backlog, the boards can move that they need to meet additionally. The extra meetings would be determined on an "as needed basis." Ms. Pellicane reiterated they had gone to bimonthly meetings before, and it did not work.

Vice Chair Greck questioned the value of the quarterly joint meetings. She stated that while OSAC has a different approach than some other Committees, she welcomed the merger as it might promote greater understanding. However, she believed monthly meetings would be more productive.

Discussion ensued about the optimal number/frequency of meetings.

Motion by Ms. Pellicane, seconded by Ms. Webb, to not drop the number of meetings per year for the Open Space Advisory Committee to less than eight per year. Ms. Pellicane amended her motion as follows: consecutive with the exception of holidays and summer breaks. Ms. Webb seconded the amendment. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Starkey advised the Committee they can set their calendar of meetings at the first meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

8. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Ms. Webb mentioned that the County park at Long Key (that is part of the trail system) has been experiencing an issue with locked gates. The County Commission is on "our side," but nothing has happened yet. She wondered if a Town employee, such as a Ranger, could be paid a stipend by the County to lock/unlock the gates. She asserted that the County employees are not interested in tending to the gates.

Councilmember Starkey advised Ms. Webb to ask the County Commissioners if it would be possible for them to pay a Town employee to tend the gates. Chair Cox said there could be a problem with a Town employee being paid also by the County.

Ms. Webb noted that the Trail Riders, who could be bonded, could be given a key to unlock the gates. Chair Cox suggested a card pass system, with a fee paid to the County.

Ms. Webb brought up that people in Oak Hill are landscaping onto the designated horse trail. She said the residents are landscaping perpendicular to the street edge, on 139 Avenue, north of 26 Street and south of 14 Street.

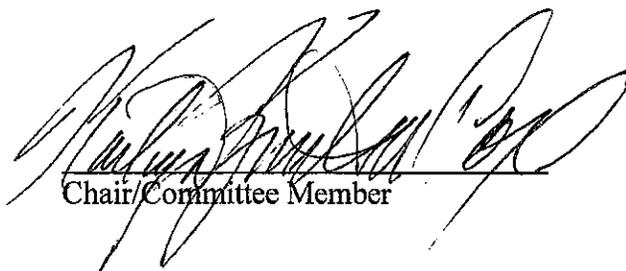
Furthermore, Ms. Webb requested that somebody trim the low-hanging branches on 36 Court, between Flamingo Road and 130 Avenue, and also when coming down to Long Key on 136 Avenue, south of 26 Street.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upon **motion** duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]

Approved



Chair/Committee Member