

**TOWN OF DAVIE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.
ROBBINS LODGE, MAIN HOUSE
4005 HIATUS ROAD, DAVIE, FLORIDA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathy Cox, Chair
Linda Greck, Vice Chair
Wayne Arnold
Donald Burgess
Donna Evans
Christine Pellicane
Mark Sierens
Toni Webb

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Pence
Paul Greenbaum

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Phillip Holste, Program Manager
Keith Pursell, Project Manager
Amanda Lebofsky, Prototype, Inc.

MOTIONS INDEX

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1. ROLL CALL

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Following a roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 May 23, 2011 Minutes

Chair Cox brought up the last sentence on p. 6, and noted that the chain had been removed, but she does not think they talked about the fence being removed.

Mr. Burgess noted on p. 6, paragraph 2, under Item #7 on p. 6, "West Ridge" should be "Westridge." Also on p. 6, in the last paragraph under Item #7, "Forrest" should be "Forest."

Motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Sierens, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2011 meeting as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. LIAISON UPDATE

C-11 Project. Mr. Pursell reported that the project will be going before Central Broward at their next meeting. He said there are four or five different designers working on the project.

Devine Parcels. Mr. Holste reported that staff met with Central Broward, Councilmember Starkey and the design engineer to review drawings on site. The design engineer has taken the comments from this Committee and is preparing revised drawings for submittal to Central Broward. Mr. Pursell added that the item should be ready by Central Broward's August meeting.

Sunny Lake Expansion. Mr. Holste said they are in the design phase of expansion, and a bid recently went out to remove invasive vegetation. He noted the expansion area is southwest of the primary 17 acres.

Batten's Farm. Mr. Holste said the Farm is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 – 5.

Old Davie School Addition. The town just awarded the bid for site construction to Bejar (\$608,000). Mr. Pursell said it will go to the next Town Council meeting (July 27) for contract approval.

Arrowhead Golf Course. Mr. Holste said the Town Council had their bid selection at the June 15 meeting and selected the Arrowhead Golf Group. Staff is currently negotiating a contract with them.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary

Mr. Holste explained that in the past, all the invasive vegetation on the western side of the property was removed, and there is a phased five-year removal for the eastern side of the property starting from north to south. Ms. Pellicane recalled the concern about birds not being able to find a place to roost if the invasives were removed. Mr. Holste clarified it is not a time-sensitive item and nothing will happen soon.

Mr. Pursell said they are in the process of the roadway base approved. As soon as that happens, they will get the paving done. Then they will install dirt and sod, and plant the trees within the next month. Chair Cox thought that was supposed to be finished in April. Mr. Holste responded that they got the grant portions done in time (end of April) and have received reimbursement from the State for that park and Liberty Park (\$135K for Sunny Lake and \$81K for Liberty Park).

4.2 Urban Farming Joint Task Force

Mr. Holste reported that the Open Space Advisory Committee is supposed to look at two items: first was the Farm Park trail layout, which is currently in design. The second item was trees and shrubs for Town park restoration projects. Mr. Burgess thought the intent of the second item was to use the site as a nursery to grow trees and shrubs (especially hard-to-find varieties) which could then be relocated to other sites.

Chair Cox asked if there was a specific site in mind, and Mr. Burgess said it was the Farm Park. Mr. Holste stated that nothing formal has been determined. Since staff has to be checking on the nursery, it

would not be productive to have it very far away from Town Hall. He mentioned that irrigation is also a factor. Analysis is underway to see how beneficial this project will be.

Mr. Holste said the next joint meeting is scheduled for September 26 before the OSAC meeting. Chair Cox asked if the Committee wanted to host the Task Force on that night. Mr. Sierens remarked the Task Force usually only meets for an hour, so their meeting would be at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Burgess commented that when the Task Force was looking at a mechanism to continue to meet, they preferred to keep the Task Force as it was for the first year, so the specific members of each Advisory Board and Friends of the Farm Park and the Farm Bureau could provide continuity. However, with the new style, it is members of every sub-committee who attend, and they may have limited knowledge of the subject. This style overlooks some key members such as those from Friends of the Farm Park, who cannot vote on issues now. Mr. Burgess found the structure to be confusing and wondered what would constitute a quorum. Mr. Holste remarked that he would have to speak to Mr. Andresky about it.

Mr. Burgess reiterated that they need representation from the Friends of the Farm Park (a non-Town entity) to complete their site plan so that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends of the Farm Park and the Town can be completed.

Mr. Arnold thought it made sense to have two people from each Board on the Task Force. Mr. Burgess remarked there were over 20 people at the last meeting, and Mr. Sierens said there seemed to be a lot of uncertainty at the meeting. Vice Chair Greck thought there was no clear cut objective for the meeting, and people were asked to share their opinions on items on the agenda. She pointed out, though, that they had no advance knowledge of the background of items on the agenda. Mr. Holste wondered if the Committee thought the meeting should be structured better ahead of time. Mr. Sierens recommended sending out the agenda so that the Committee can discuss the items before the Task Force meets. Mr. Arnold commented that he did not see any specifics on the agenda as to what was going to be discussed. Mr. Holste said he would talk to Mr. Andresky to find out how to make the meetings more productive.

Vice Chair Greck said she got the impression that the Urban Farm Initiative is looking toward the open space inventory to do urban farming. She thought the Committee might want to begin thinking about which parks are appropriate for that purpose. Chair Cox said that in order to do urban farming, there has to be irrigation, a pump and a well. If the Committee wanted to allow gardening in a DRC, they may want to speak directly to that, as to where and under what circumstances it would be allowed.

Mr. Sierens relayed that another emergency access to Robbins Park was also brought up at the Task Force meeting.

Mr. Burgess remarked there were other sites specifically mentioned in the Urban Farming Initiative as sites to look at for community gardening, and he would attempt to find that list for the next meeting.

Mr. Arnold said that Dr. Scott reported that they were \$30K over budget already, and Mr. Arnold hoped that could be rectified. Mr. Sierens thought the overage was due to longer hours when they first opened, repairs, and an issue with the roof.

Chair Cox suggested agendaizing the Task Force for their August meeting. Mr. Holste said he would also have more information on the nursery by that time.

4.3 Proposed Peaceful Ridge Trail

Mr. Pursell reported they were looking at "other options" as far as where it will be located. They looked at SW 121st Avenue but he didn't think that was a viable solution - they would have to remove trees and make the side of the road useable as a trail. Another option was filling the canal (on 118th behind Robbins) which would cost around \$60K, providing Central Broward would allow that. The third option was possibly going around the residences along 118th Terrace. They would have to use the utility company easement as well as getting approval from residents.

Vice Chair Greck brought up erosion along the edge of the canal. She thought that might be a long-term concern. Mr. Pursell replied it would be more of a concern to residents than Central Broward. Vice Chair Greck pointed out that the residents feel there would be more water on their property if the canal is filled. Mr. Pursell explained that the residents there built so long ago that they did not build at the elevations required to build at this time. Mr. Holste added that the residents are concerned that if the canal is filled, they will lose "flood storage." Vice Chair Greck also mentioned the possibility of trying to go around the access/frontage road for the trail, and Chair Cox said that it is basically already a trail.

Mr. Pursell clarified that the right-of-way is already established as far as filling the canal is concerned.

Chair Cox said the Committee needs to decide if, and which, avenue to take. She thought using the Peaceful Ridge Road would be out of the question.

Motion by Ms. Pellicane, seconded by Vice Chair Greck, to recommend to the Town Council that they explore filling the original canal right-of-way that is there and the trail. In a vote by roll call, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Holste said they have funds for the project through District #3 Open Space bonds. Mr. Pursell said they would have to get a fill permit. Chair Cox asked how much of the canal would be filled, and Mr. Pursell said it would be 10-15 feet.

Chair Cox confirmed that it would fill the section starting at the Lychee Grove and going all the way to Robbins. Mr. Pursell added it would be "right there before Robbins where the existing trail is right now, where you go up over the bridge." Chair Cox asked if the part just north the bridge would get any wider, and Mr. Pursell said it would not.

Mr. Sierens wondered if the residents were in favor of any of the three alternative plans. Chair Cox answered that two residents and the owner of the Lychee Grove were not in favor of any of the plans. Ms. Pellicane said they had two issues: personal security and flooding. She thought the flooding could be addressed with a statement from the Water Board in terms of it not creating more of an issue for their property. As far as personal security goes, she thought they could be dealt with by directing them to publications that dispel the myth of "not in my backyard."

Mr. Pursell stated there was one other affected resident who did not attend that meeting, who lives to the north and he did not know their stance on the issue.

Chair Cox mentioned that she had spoken to the person who leases the property north of the Lychee Grove for cattle, whose concern was how she would deal with the fence.

Ms. Pellicane thought the filling of the canal would provide protection against erosion, and that would be a bonus for the residents.

Chair Cox asked how the bank would be stabilized, and Mr. Pursell said it would probably be stabilized with "geo-web."

Mr. Arnold asked what the sea level was there and if it had any bearing on flooding. Mr. Pursell thought it was about five or six feet above sea level. Chair Cox added that the drainage is controlled by Central Broward, and Mr. Arnold confirmed that they have some way to hold the water back before it goes into C-11.

Mr. Holste mentioned that the staff would wait for Town Council direction before pursuing a permit.

Chair Cox mentioned another option that involved going through the Hurley property.

4.4 Draft Declaration of Restrictive Covenants – Pine Island Park

Mr. Holste requested tabling this item until the next meeting as he has more preparation to do.

Motion by Mr. Sierens, seconded by Ms. Webb, to table Item 4.4 to the next meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4.5 Carbon Emissions Offset

Mr. Holste believed this item was a follow-up from the last meeting. He wondered if the Committee wanted to recommend this item to the Green Energy and Environmental Committee or if this Committee wants to look into it as it relates to a landscaping project.

Mr. Burgess reminded the Committee that he had suggested a take-off on what Broward County is presently doing at the Broward County Convention Center, where the carbon footprint is calculated per visitor and then offset by planting trees in Markham Park. He also mentioned there is a program at Signature Grand, and suggesting working with them to try to offset their emissions by contributing landscaping. He thought such a program would be better received by Signature Grand if the proposal came from a representative of the Town Council, rather than from a volunteer.

Ms. Webb asked about the cost per tree, and Mr. Burgess answered the average 12-foot tree is about \$100, and if installed is almost double that. The Town could save money by installing the trees themselves. He said the carbon offset would be calculated to cover the life of the tree.

It was noted that publicizing the program would be essential to its success, as the benefit to the hotel would be in publicity.

Mr. Burgess noted there are at least 40 hotels in Broward County that are "Florida Green" lodging.

There was a short discussion about how the money coming in for the trees would be accounted for in the Town's funds. Theoretically, Mr. Holste said the money would be perceived as a donation, but he did not

know how it would be handled. He was not sure if it could be considered a tax write-off, and said he would look into that.

Vice Chair Greck thought the Signature Grand might see it as a way to give back to the Town of Davie or have it as part of their marketing budget. She did not think that people using the hotel would be willing to donate the money for the trees. Ms. Evans suggested that Signature Grand might market it as small fee ascribed to every event (everybody would pay for it).

Chair Cox suggested that Mr. Burgess continue working on the idea, and Mr. Holste said it would be best to work with the Green Energy and Environmental Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Declaration of Restrictive Covenants – Westridge Park

Mr. Holste began by discussing wetland restoration on the site. He said the Town Council had approved that about six or seven years ago, but never moved forward on it. They wanted it on the east side of the mound area, between the residential property and the mound area. It was noted that is where it “naturally occurred,” flooding the sidewalk.

Mr. Sierens suggested doing what Plantation did at Volunteer Park, and build a raised trail going through the wetland.

Chair Cox remarked that at the back of the houses there is a stabilized and raised road right-of-way, the old 100th Avenue right-of-way. It is a dedicated horse trail. The ground naturally drops down the whole length of the ridge, and the lowest part is on the north end, where the sidewalk is. She said that the residents did not want a wetlands there when she served on the Town Council. Objections ranged from mosquito breeding grounds to potential drowning.

Vice Chair Greck noted that in the past, this Committee had met with residents and brought out the positive aspects of a wetland. She thought it never went forward because of lack of funding.

Ms. Webb thought the language should be clear as to where the location is and Chair Cox suggested that it be on the east side of the ridge property. Chair Cox noted there are also low areas on the west side, and wondered if they wanted to incorporate both areas. Mr. Burgess remarked there recently was a proposal for wetland on the west side, but it was rejected because the Town did not want to remove trees there.

Chair Cox noted Committee consensus for a preference for the wetland on the east side.

Chair Cox brought up Item #2 (a), and wondered if they wanted to add parking lots in order to limit accessibility to neighborhood residents or access by foot or horse. Mr. Holste said he would add it. Mr. Burgess noted there is a right-of-way along the front of the park where people presently park. People could also park at Bergeron Park and walk down.

There was discussion about adding urban gardening but the Committee did not want to do that. It was noted the park basically had historical and archaeological value, and farming did not fit into that. There

was a discussion about the differences between an active cultivated garden, community gardening, natural landscaping, habitat enhancement, ecological restoration and a butterfly garden.

Mr. Holste asked the Committee how/where they wanted to express that, and the consensus was to add an Item (j) under Item #2 which would say that farming and gardening are prohibited.

Under the second WHEREAS, Mr. Burgess thought there used to be a residence at the south end of the park, but he did not know if it was significant or not. He noted at this time that it is a foundation slab. The Committee decided to not have any wording in there referring to the residence.

5.2 SW 14th Street Trail (south of Scarborough)

Vice Chair Greck said that she had received a message from Councilperson Starkey that she had wanted to attend the meeting for this matter, but would not be able to do so.

Mr. Pursell reported that about 20 people attended a community meeting with concerns ranging from additional noise, dogs barking, kids drowning in the lake, doing drugs, etc. They asked staff to look into other options, such as going through Scarborough on the north side of their wall. He did not think that was very feasible.

Mr. Holste thought Councilperson Starkey wanted to contact some residents to come out and provide feedback. Mr. Pursell said that the residents asked her to attend their HOA meeting this Wednesday, which she will try to do. Vice Chair Greck relayed that she got the impression that Councilperson Starkey had already contacted the residents, and Vice Chair Greck said she was surprised nobody showed up.

Mr. Pursell thought the residents were not thrilled about the project, but were perhaps resigned to it happening. He said there were also concerns because the HOA owns part of the property and they were worried about liability issues. The access still belongs to Central Broward East and the Town can use it. Mr. Holste said perhaps the Town could put the homeowners onto the insurance policy as an "additional insured."

Vice Chair Greck asked if the original intent of the trail was communicated to the residents, the intent of getting access to the school off of SR 84. Mr. Pursell replied that their first reaction to that was that a child would drown in the canal.

Chair Cox wondered how the Committee wished to handle the item. Mr. Holste said he would double check with Councilperson Starkey and see if she did contact the residents. Chair Cox thought a few Committee members could attend the HOA meeting to support Councilperson Starkey when she attends.

It was noted that the trail area is 15-20 feet wide, but Vice Chair Greck said it does not "get you where you want to go" if you are on horseback. Chair Cox said it is "ok" for multi-use, such as bikes and walking.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Burgess suggested DRCs for Joy Yoder and Shenandoah. Chair Cox asked to be provided with aerials of those parks. Chair Cox proposed Sunny Lake and Pine Island Park as agenda items. Mr. Holste also mentioned Urban Farming Task Force.

Vice Chair Greck asked if there had been progress on the trail that comes out of the north side of the Robbins Lodge and the easement in Long Lake West. Mr. Holste said he was asked to postpone that item until it "died down." Vice Chair Greck noticed that there are trees now planted in the easement. She also said the fence has not gone back up.

Chair Cox noted there is a meeting July 25, and asked the Committee if they want to take one meeting off in the summer. Mr. Sierens said that if they go dark in August, they will not have enough time in the July agenda to discuss items in preparation for the joint meeting in September. There was another suggestion to go dark in July instead.

Motion by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Ms. Webb, to cancel the July 25, 2011, meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee. In a voice vote, the motion passed (7-1), with Mr. Sierens opposed.

There was a discussion about moving the date of the August meeting from August 22. Mr. Holste will check on August 15.

Motion by Mr. Sierens, seconded by Mr. Arnold, to move the August meeting from the August 22 to August 15. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Holste will advise the Chair if there is a change in venue.

8. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Sierens, seconded by Ms. Webb, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved



Chair/Committee Member

8/15/11