

**DAVIE WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY BOARD
APRIL 20, 2004
5:30 P.M.**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Board members present were Chair Tom Green, Timothy Fulton, Idalberto Clark, Gary Gaffney (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Jeffrey Harrod, Ronald Phillips and Don Zane. Also present were Utilities Director Daniel Colabella and Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Barry Mowell and Gail Ling were absent.

Chair Green asked if there were any other items to be added to the agenda. There was no response from the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 17, 2004

Mr. Zane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to approve the minutes of February 17, 2004. In a voice vote, with Mr. Mowell and Ms. Ling being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 7-0)**

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 Trees, Shrubs and More – Michael Orfanedes, Urban Forrester

Mr. Orfanedes distributed handouts, one of which provided information about the Naturescape Gardening Workshop. He spoke about the workshop as being part of an outreach program within the Town, the most recent of which was held at the Pine Island Community Center. Chair Green indicated that Naturescape was a project of Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs and involved Town officials, educators and many different groups. Mr. Orfanedes explained that the program emphasized the use of native plant material as opposed to exotics, as well as the certification of a yard as a naturescape Broward certified property. He indicated that this required heavy use of native adapted material which required a minimum amount of care to keep them healthy.

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of articles in the Davie Update which had been placed in every issue since he joined the Town. Mr. Zane commended Mr. Orfanedes for the articles; however, he indicated that it would be great to have the Davie Update delivered in west Davie. Mr. Orfanedes commented that he met with Public Information Specialist Braulio Rosa and there were plans to make fact sheets from the articles in the Davie Update.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding tips for palms trees, planting and maintenance, and hatracking of trees some of which were on Town properties. Mr. Orfanedes explained that there were many complaints received from residents concerning hatracking; however, there was no penalty for hatracking. He indicated that trees that were not remediable had to be replaced at the owner's expense.

The tree preservation ordinance was discussed, with Mr. Orfanedes indicating that the ordinance was being revised. Mr. Gaffney asked that a draft of the revised ordinance be submitted to the Board before the revisions were passed. A brief discussion ensued regarding the timeframe for the removal of diseased trees and Code Compliance fines with Mr. Zane commenting that fining procedures should be included in the revision.

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of the tree give-away taking place on April 24th at Robbins Lodge which would include proper planting details as required by the Town's landscape plans. He added that

this was based upon the University of Florida model. Information was provided regarding the time and the limit to the amount of trees that a resident was allowed.

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A lengthy discussion was devoted to the proper and improper tree planting, and planting the right tree in the right location, with Mr. Orfanedes highlighting the common reasons for inspection failure. Mr. Orfanedes referred to an FPL brochure which provided information regarding proper tree selection and proper location, adding that any professional arborist or nursery person should be aware of the FPL "right tree right place" campaign.

Mr. Harrod asked if it was a requirement of the Town ordinance that live oaks be planted along drainage swales in new developments. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that the requirement was for canopy trees, but not necessarily oaks. Chair Green asked if the planting of oak trees was still allowed in the middle of shopping center parking lots. Mr. Orfanedes responded that the new Code requirement was that the islands be increased 10 feet in diameter. A brief discussion followed with Mr. Orfanedes providing information on additional requirements.

Following a brief discussion on ordinances, Chair Green commented that the Board was glad to see ordinances relating to trees passed by Council; however, he questioned why the Board had never been asked for input on any of the ordinances. Vice-Mayor Paul commented that the issue had been discussed by Council and directions were given by Mayor Truex that certain items should be presented to the various advisory boards prior to being presented to Council for discussion. Mr. Phillips indicated that this issue had been discussed on numerous occasions and it did not relate to a particular ordinance but to everything. He added that Boardmembers volunteered to become active and each person had something of value to offer; however, if there was no contribution to whatever the document or proposal was, without that contribution one could feel useless.

Mr. Gaffney commented that a motion had been made by the Board that a resolution be sent to Council through the Town Clerk's Office, that staff be directed to present items before individual Boards for comments before the item was presented to Council. He added that to date, no directives were given on the issue.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding various ordinances with Vice-Mayor Paul commenting that she had asked on several occasions for the Board to look at, and put some more "teeth" into the Town's wildlife identification ordinance. She referred to several unfortunate experiences in the Town concerning wildlife, expressed the opinion that she did not feel there was enough "teeth" in the ordinance and it needed to be addressed. Mr. Gaffney commented on the problems with wildlife ordinance and indicated that the problems could have been resolved had members of the Board been involved.

Mr. Orfanedes asked if a wildlife survey had to be completed prior to the developer getting a clearing and grubbing permit. Vice-Mayor Paul responded in the affirmative, indicating that the individual who did the survey was chosen by the developer which presented the problems.

A brief discussion followed with several Board members expressing different opinions as to how the ordinance should be revised. Mr. Orfanedes spoke on several issues that came under the purview of the Code Compliance Division.

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Mr. Harrod commented that Mr. Orfanedes' expertise was trees; however, there was no one from the Town who oversaw an impact survey for animals. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that no staff was available.

Vice-Mayor Paul advised that there would be a public meeting in late May to obtain public input on the Bamford property on 136th Street. She added that the Open Space Advisory Committee would be invited to participate in the meeting.

Mr. Zane spoke about the land use map which had still not been updated. Mr. Orfanedes advised that the State requirement for submission of the Comprehensive Plan was 2005, and the plan was presently being rewritten.

Vice-Mayor Paul spoke of field trips that she had been taking to observe certain wildlife areas and to get ideas of what existed in the South Florida area. She referred to a trip to Jupiter and explained that she was impressed by what she had observed and would present this information at the meeting in May.

There was discussion regarding adoption of the Broward County's list of criteria for inclusion in the Town Code being developed by the Open Space Advisory Committee. Mr. Orfanedes asked for e-mail addresses of the Board members as the Open Space Advisory Committee wanted to share this information with them as well as other boards. Chair Green indicated that he would like the information to be shared with the Water District as well.

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of wetlands mitigation areas and indicated that they were not appreciated by many people and were viewed by most people as mosquito infested swamps. He added that educating people on the value about wetland mitigation was necessary, but it was hard unless access was provided. Mr. Orfanedes asked for ideas as to how to make these areas accessible and available.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Noxious Tree Ordinance

Chair Green suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting. There was no objection from the Board.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

5. TOUR

Mr. Orfanedes and the Board members toured the grounds of Town Hall. He identified various trees which he named, explaining root problems, why these problems occurred and answered questions posed by Board members.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member

