

**DAVIE WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY BOARD
AUGUST 16, 2005**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Board members present were Vice-Chair Don Zane, Paul Cirinese, Marlana Mosby, Donald Prichard and Susan Vaught. Also present were Utilities Director Daniel Colabella, Town Engineer Larry Peters (departed at 5:55 p.m.) and Assistant Town Engineer Le Nguyen (departed at 5:55 p.m.) and Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Chair Tom Green, Gary Gaffney and Hans Murzi were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 15, 2005

Mr. Cirinese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Prichard, to approve the minutes of February 15, 2005. In a voice vote, with Chair Green, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Murzi being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 Engineering – Clearing and Grubbing

Mr. Nguyen briefly outlined the requirements for an engineering clearing and grubbing permit as well as the process involved. He indicated that there were items that related to developers only, while other items related to homeowners. Mr. Nguyen distributed handouts which provided detailed information concerning the acquisition of a permit.

Vice-Chair Zane posed several questions regarding the wildlife issue, particularly how the Town intended to handle the issue. He indicated that he was aware that a survey had to be completed to determine what type of wildlife was on the property. Mr. Peters referred to Article I, Clearing of Potential Wildlife Habitat of the Town Code and briefly explained the requirements for wildlife protection. A brief discussion ensued with Vice-Chair Zane referring to a particular site where a developer cleared invasive species of trees with wildlife in them from the site and caused the wildlife to move into other areas. Mr. Peters indicated that whenever a property had to be developed, a study was conducted and submitted to the Town for review. He advised that there were three licensed professionals approved by Town Council, who reviewed wildlife studies that were submitted by developers.

There was brief discussion regarding the relocation of endangered species and non-endangered species with Mr. Peters explaining the relocation process. Mr. Peters indicated that there had been instances when developers had done clearing and grubbing on a holiday weekend without a permit. He commented that in that instance, the developer was fined substantially by the Town. Mr. Peters explained that the fines levied against developers were substantial enough to be utilized by the Town to conduct its own wildlife survey. He indicated that the appropriateness of the survey was ensured when conducted by the Town, and it also showed the Town's proactive stance on the issue.

A lengthy discussion was devoted to the wetlands issue. Mr. Peters explained that developers were only interested in having properties clear, and there had been instances where there were wetlands in areas and those wetlands no longer exist. He added that this was a very sensitive issue. Vice-Chair Zane asked if wetlands could be identified by aerial with Mr. Peters responding in the affirmative.

Mr. Peters spoke of wetlands investigative reports that stated that at the time of the investigation, there were no wetlands despite the Town's knowledge to the contrary. He added that if the Town was proactive in doing its own investigation in advance, it would prevent clearing of wetlands. Vice-Chair Zane commented that if wetlands could be identified by aerial, they would be on record. Mr. Peters added that it was probable that the locations in question were on an aerial. He commented that wildlife and trees were being destroyed like the wetlands and discussed action that could be taken by the Town to save oaks within a specific area. Mr. Peters indicated that the preservation of trees was important and reiterated that proactive measures were needed by the Town.

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Mr. Peters indicated that engineering issues included the control of flood water, drainage and elevation, however, wildlife and trees were not included. He added that there was no one on staff to handle the animal issue.

Ms. Mosby asked if it was possible for the Town to develop a department for preservation of the trees under the scope of engineering and to deal with and identify animals. Mr. Peters commented that the Town did not have to develop a department, the work could be contracted out or a consultant could be hired to identify each parcel in order of priority.

Following reference to the bond issue, Vice-Chair Zane asked which piece of property besides the farm park was included in the bond issue, and whether the Engineering division had any input into the bond issue. A lengthy discussion ensued with Mr. Peters advising that in his position, he had input concerning the bond issue, however, he did not know what additional property would be included in the bond issue. He explained that the Planning and Zoning Division was on the land preservation board as well as members from the Open Space Advisory Board. Mr. Peters indicated that his department's interest was in trying to connect various recreational and equestrian trails to parks. He added that with the bond issue, land would be purchased to make the connections; however, he was not aware of specific parcels.

Mr. Peters referred to rights-of-way and explained that attaining this was difficult because property owners wanted compensation from the Town. He believed that the bond issue could be used to pay for rights-of-way.

Discussion continued regarding the bond issue with Vice-Chair Zane commenting that this was a "hot" issue in some sections of Davie since residents were already paying for Broward County's bond. Vice-Chair Zane commented there had been recommendations against the bond issue by several boards but the issue was still being pushed.

Mr. Peters explained that connectivity between the parks was needed as Davie was known for its equestrian lifestyle.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Wildlife Issue

Vice-Chair Zane asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the October meeting. He commented that he did not know who on staff could address the issue but it was quite serious, not just on the preservation of rare species but because of new development. Vice-Chair Zane indicated that animals were being "pushed" into the communities where they did not belong. He advised of the different type of animals as well as the rabies issue in the County. Vice-Chair Zane commented that someone on staff should be found to address the issue.

Brief discussion ensued on the animal issue with Vice-Chair Zane commenting that western Davie was inundated with various "noxious" animals. He indicated that there was too much misunderstanding as to the handling of noxious creatures. Vice-Chair Zane commented on action taken in the past by the police in the illegal removal of animals. He indicated that the issue needed to be discussed in a public forum so that Council could make a resolution and advise the entire Town what to do about the situation. Vice-Chair Zane referred to rabid animals and the potential danger in a neighborhood with a large number of children. Mr. Prichard suggested that the Florida Wildlife Commission be contacted to have a representative attend a meeting to provide information on State law with regard to wild animals, nuisances and safety issues.

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5. NEW BUSINESS

A lengthy discussion was devoted to agenda items for the October meeting. Mr. Prichard suggested inviting staff from Code Compliance, Police and Fire to discuss the possibility of an enhancement program in the Town as it related to abandoned vehicles, swales, garbage, which was in violation of Town and County ordinances and some State laws. He expressed the opinion that bringing all the departments together to formulate one enhancement plan to enforce the clean up of some houses in east Davie that were unsafe was a good idea. Mr. Colabella commented that there was cleanup enforcement. Mr. Prichard commented that it was an environmental issue and that with an enhancement plan and the departments working together, the cleanup would be better than it has been.

Vice-Chair Zane suggested inviting Code Compliance Official Daniel Stallone and Deputy Planning & Zoning Manager Marcie Nolan to the October meeting to discuss the enforcement issue and the wildlife issue.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments or suggestions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member