

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)  
MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.  
DAVIE TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM  
6591 Orange Drive, DAVIE, FLORIDA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kathy Cox, Chair  
Linda Greck, Vice Chair  
Wayne Arnold  
Donald Burgess  
Donna Evans  
Barry Mowell  
Charlene Murray (arr. 7:40 p.m.)  
Toni Webb

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christina Pellicane

**STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT**

Councilmember Susan Starkey  
Mitch Taylor, Administration  
Keith Pursell, Public Works  
Barbara Hartmann, Prototype, Inc.

**MOTIONS INDEX**

<b>Motion to approve May 21, 2012, minutes</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
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**1. ROLL CALL**

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Following roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**2.1 May 21, 2012**

Vice Chair Greck pointed out that the fifth bullet point on p. 5 should read “Majestic Groves” instead of “Majestic Rose.”

**Motion** by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Vice Chair Greck, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2012, meeting as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cox invited Mark Sierens to speak. Mr. Sierens said he has enjoyed working on the Open Space Committee, but had to resign due to a “political” conflict.

**3. LIAISON UPDATE**

[Councilmember Starkey arrived at 7:38 p.m.]

**C-11 Equestrian Bridge.** Mr. Taylor reported on the permitting progress.

**Pedestrian Bridge at Hiatus.** Public Works met with Councilmember Starkey to consider possible relocation of the bridge due to problems with embankment and concerns running along Griffin Road. The project went to bid and the bid opening was set for June 5, 2012.

**Robbins/Majestic Groves Fence.** Mr. Taylor said that staff will meet with the homeowner to discuss concerns during the next week. Vice Chair Greck asked Mr. Taylor to elaborate on the items to be discussed, and Mr. Taylor said the homeowner was concerned about security - if the fence were to be removed, the homeowner feared that people would be walking along his property line. They did explain to the homeowner that the gate would be opened by either a park ranger or Town staff.

Vice Chair Greck pointed out that there used to be a fence separating the homeowner's property from the trail. She elaborated that when the trail was established, GL Homes constructed a fence that marked the trail from the eastern side of the easement. There was a chain link fence and the homeowner removed the fence and planted trees in the easement. Mr. Taylor remarked that remnants of the original fence are still there.

**Trail Maps Quote.** Mr. Taylor reported that the quotes came back lower than expected. A quote of \$1,785 (from Vision Printing) was given for 5,000 copies of a 32-page publication similar to the Town's Park and Recreation Guide.

**SW 118<sup>th</sup> Street Trail.** Mr. Taylor noted a concern was raised in regards to a fence along 26<sup>th</sup> Street and 118<sup>th</sup> Street. Code enforcement has looked into it, and none of the owners of the adjacent area claim ownership of the fence. There are no pending issues on the fence, so the Town can either remove it, or all locks can be removed and new locks put on so that the Town can make sure it is opened or closed for trail users.

Mr. Pursell brought up the C-11 and 14<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian bridges, noting that they both went out to bid. The bids were reviewed and the engineer has just submitted a recommendation. Chair Cox pointed out that this bridge goes across the C-11 canal and connects United Ranches to the trail system. Mr. Pursell continued that the project should be ready to begin shortly.

Councilmember Starkey remarked that she met with staff at the site because there were several issues, one being a steep slope on the embankment that prohibits a safe way for people to walk onto the south side of the C-11 canal. They looked at other possibilities such as moving the bridge farther to the east to line up with an existing light at 106<sup>th</sup> Street. Since there has been difficulty with FDOT permitting equestrian/pedestrian crossings, this solution might work out better. The contractors said that would be possible, and if this Committee agrees, then that is the course of action they will take.

Mr. Pursell concurred that getting approval from FDOT and Broward County for the crossings has been a major problem.

Chair Cox wondered if they could get a pedestrian crossing light at the intersection, and asked Mr. Pursell to ask FDOT to put the button on the canal side and not on the street side, to avoid having to go out into the street to hit the button.

Vice Chair Greck was curious about having the crossing further to the west, perhaps at 118<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pursell said that location is in Cooper City. Vice Chair Greck asked if 106<sup>th</sup> would be directly aligned with the light, or offset. Mr. Pursell it would be slightly to the west. Councilmember Starkey added that the west side created a nice fit for the bridge to be between the trees, and Mr. Pursell added that the elevation is perfect.

Vice Chair Greck also asked if the bridge would be similar to the metal drop-in bridges, and Councilmember Starkey replied it would be similar to the Old Davie School Bridge, but maybe a little wider. Mr. Pursell confirmed it would be made of steel.

**Motion** by Ms. Evans, seconded by Ms. Webb, to put the bridge at 106<sup>th</sup> just west of the light, a pedestrian/equestrian bridge to get across the C-11 canal. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**14<sup>th</sup> Street Trail Bridge.** Mr. Pursell reported that the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Trail Bridge went to bid, and the bid awards will go to the Town Council in July.

**118<sup>th</sup> Avenue.** Mr. Pursell also reported that the 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue variance was approved by Central Broward on June 13. The engineer is working on incorporating comments from the Committee into the drawings.

At this point, Chair Cox opened the floor for questions on the matter of 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Danny Massa said they have concerns regarding the project related to the N-20 canal, but would like to hear the presentation first.

Chair Cox asked the Committee if they wanted to discuss the item under New Business at this time, and the consensus was to do that.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS (taken out of order)**

### **5.1 Trail Discussion: SW 118th Avenue and SW 26th Street**

Councilmember Starkey noted that the Town has made efforts for 20 years to get the trail system functioning. She said that the process has included public as well as staff participation. Councilmember Starkey added that the trails are meant to connect the parks and also be contained within the Town so that residents can use them. Multipurpose trails on the outside of Town are for everyone to use.

Councilmember Starkey showed several trail maps, old and current. The missing links in the trail system are what the Town is going forward on at this time.

Councilmember Starkey acknowledged that residents have concerns about safety and the trail's proximity to their properties. She pointed out that the trail being discussed at this time is now strictly for equestrian

use to provide relief for the alternate trails in the area. She assured the public that their considerations for safety, security and encroachment are taken into account during the planning process. She explained that there is a fence in the Town's proposal, and noted that a gate would be closed dusk to dawn. Councilmember Starkey also brought up concern about graffiti on the trails and did not foresee graffiti on this trail. She reported when it has occurred, the Town staff has addressed it promptly.

Joann Massa brought up flooding, noting that making the canal smaller would worsen the situation. Mr. Pursell responded that to his knowledge, they will be working on the bank on the north end.

Chair Cox displayed an aerial view of the site.

Councilmember Starkey asked Danny Massa how long he has had flooding on his property and he replied almost a month.

Phillip Garnto, who owns a Lychee grove, said the canal is not working now and will not work, because there is no pump system. Chair Cox explained they will dig out dirt and move it down so the canal will be more even.

Mr. Garnto stated he has already lost trees from flooding, and expressed his anger about that. Councilmember Starkey acknowledged that flooding was his biggest concern, and Mr. Massa also said it was a concern for them.

Mr. Massa said he has nothing against horses, and brought up the point that safety had been raised as an issue regarding the possibility of horses getting hit by cars. He said there had never been a documented accident between a car and a horse for 28 years. He said nobody drives on the road there except people who may be lost or should not be there. Mr. Massa suggested planting speed bumps to solve that problem: it would save the Town money and the canal would not have to be touched. He further suggested having a bridge across the N20 canal connected to the other trail at the end of the canal.

Mr. Massa emphasized that their concern is the flooding. He asserted the water table is unchangeable, and the only way more water can go in the canal is to widen it. Moving the dirt from one place to another does not change the amount of water. Mr. Massa said he looked at the prints for the project, and said that his property slopes so that run-off goes into the canal. A trail there would create a dam effect which would in turn create lakes on his property. He said that sometimes his back yard is under three feet of water, and the water was level with the street. Some people have brought in tons of dirt to build up their yards.

Mr. Massa continued that he did not agree with the findings of the environmental study. He said that wildlife has disappeared over time and will get worse.

Mr. Massa said one more concern is the fence, and he wondered if each property would have access to the canal for pleasure, or if they want to clean the area. He relayed that prior to gates being installed on both ends of the canal, there were numerous break-ins to all houses in the area (during the daylight hours). After the gates went in, there has only been one break-in.

Mr. Massa went on to say that he has talked to people who use the trail and they told him they would probably use the trail from time to time, but prefer the Peaceful Ridge Trail because it is shaded. He also

spoke to "horse experts" who said it is not preferred for the horses to ride on hard surface, although it does not hurt them.

Mr. Massa urged the Committee to keep the existing trail.

Carolyn White Cioeta, from 118<sup>th</sup> Terrace, said that her main concern besides safety and flooding, is the question of who is going to maintain the trail. She said the multipurpose trail at the north end of Flamingo is "filthy." Chair Cox said the Town would maintain it and it would be a horse trail, not a walking or bike trail. Ms. Cioeta said she had heard it might be a multipurpose trail, and she was afraid it might not be kept clean.

Gary McGoron, 3300 SW 188<sup>th</sup> Terrace, commented that he would be amenable if it is only going to be a horse trail. However, he has trees behind his house which he said he had been told to plant on the canal bank to keep it from eroding. He relayed the effort he went through to plant and care for the trees, which have been there for 30 years. He asked the Committee to take that into consideration and not cut his trees down.

Chair Cox asked Mr. Massa if he wanted a gate if the Town did put a fence along the trail, and he replied in the affirmative. Mr. Massa proposed that every property owner should have his own lock and be responsible for it.

Councilmember Starkey thought each property owner might need a gate so that they could take care of maintenance (clearing) along the fence. She said the Town would maintain the trail to a certain standard, but perhaps the owners could do their own maintenance.

Chair Cox said it appeared that almost everybody wanted a gate and asked for a vote from the Committee if gates for residents were acceptable. The Committee agreed unanimously that each resident should have a gate.

Mr. Massa asked who was responsible for the gates at the ends of the trail, and Chair Cox said the Town would be responsible for them. Mr. Massa pointed out that there is a large gate near Flamingo which is kept locked most of the time, and the smaller gate opens and closes with the park hours. He wondered if it would be the same type of gate at the end by 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Pursell said it is typically a six-foot fence with a step-through, and a gate over the step-through.

Councilmember Starkey said there would be bollards to prevent ATVs from going through, and the gates would be open during the day. She further said that some people are using bolt-cutters to break open the gates, so the staff is looking into a stronger type of lock, which would be opened only by maintenance. Councilmember Starkey commented perhaps several residents could have key access to it, but they would not be allowed to store trailers or vehicles behind it.

Mr. Arnold asked Councilmember Starkey who monitors the trail and maintenance. Councilmember Starkey replied that if there is a complaint, someone will go out, but there is not enough cash in the budget to monitor it on a regular basis. She said it is "ride at your own risk" and any complaints or emergencies should be reported to the police.

Vice Chair Greck mentioned that she lives on the other side of Majestic Groves, and she has historically had problems with flooding also. She recently attended a meeting of Central Broward Water Control District and understood that if they improve the canal, the excess water should flow to C-11. However, if water is flooding properties now, it is probably coming from "everywhere." Improving the flow of the canal might improve the situation, and should not make it worse.

Mr. Massa concurred that the water is not coming from the canal, but compared the canal to a full bathtub with a small pipe (drain), so nothing is going out. He stated that Central Broward Water Control District had said they were not going to do anything about the pipe at the end. Mr. Massa remarked that they depend on the canal to take their water, but it does not go anywhere. He asked the Councilmembers to look at the area.

Mr. Garnto commented it is important for every homeowner to have a gate so emergency vehicles could get through in the middle or elsewhere. Chair Cox stated she does not have a problem with gates, but it is a budgetary matter.

Mr. Massa remarked they want gates, but a gate is the "last thing" he worries about.

Councilmember Starkey asked Mr. Pursell to address the safety issue of the trail, commenting that she feels safer with the activity being behind her home. Mr. Pursell acknowledged he had studies confirming the added safety provided by trails.

Mr. Massa commented some people just come to fish, but others take items from his back yard.

Mr. Arnold stated that the C-11 is controlled by South Florida Water Management District. There is a pump at 441 in the canal, and Central Broward Water Control District was correct in saying they could not do anything about the drainage in the canal. However, it is central to the operation of the entire canal system - they all interconnect to C-11.

Councilmember stated that west of Nob Hill is a lock, and the water ships east and goes to the Everglades. She remarked that after some storms, Weston refused to allow them to open the locks. She said the Town is aware of that issue and it will not happen again. She has seen the volume of water that can be pumped out with the motors there. She said she will visit the area where Mr. Massa and his neighbors live. She believes that the engineers are right when they say the changes will improve it and not make it worse.

Mr. Massa brought up a problem at a park with sand washing over the bike path, and he thought it was the same cause of the problem in his back yard. Chair Cox noted that at the park there is an incline and the sand washes out from an incline, and it is a different problem. Vice Chair Greck added that typically when areas are wet, equestrians take care to choose trails that are not going to be underwater.

Mr. Mowell wondered how often the flooding is as bad as it is presently. Ms. Massa said that occurs whenever there is heavy rain. Councilmember Starkey remarked that when there are heavy rains, she drives out through her district to look at the water elevations, and said the older communities have more problems because the homes are built on lower pads. The newer homes are built on fill and have to meet standards of a 100-year storm.

Vice Chair Greck commented that it was helpful to put berms around her property to keep water from flowing into her property from neighboring land. Councilmember Starkey commented that they pushed for French drains in the area. She said they can do those projects if it benefits a series of residents (rather than just one or two).

Mr. Garnto said that his property had berms and culverts put in and he still has problems. He emphasized the water will not go down unless the canal goes down.

Chair Cox stated this Committee does not deal with drainage per se.

Mr. Garnto stated that at the last meeting of Central Broward Water Control District, he thought the canal was going to be at a higher level and slope down to his property. He said they would be in a "bowl." Chair Cox did not think that was correct.

Mr. Arnold commented that Central Broward Water Control District is fortunate that they have an engineer. He said that at the District's last meeting, Commissioner Doug Bell (who is an attorney and an engineer) asked many probing questions. Mr. Arnold continued that the Town has to rely on the knowledge of the engineers in these matters.

Mr. Massa wondered how many people were going to benefit from the new trail. He understood it was to benefit people north of 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Chair Cox remarked that a lot of people who come into Robbins would use that trail. People at Hiatus Road have a lot of horses. She said the loop goes down Hiatus, across 14<sup>th</sup> Street, behind Old Bridge Road, across 26<sup>th</sup> Street, up 118<sup>th</sup> and back into Robbins. She remarked she would rather ride the new trail than Peaceful Ridge.

Mr. Massa proposed putting cameras in the back of his house and monitoring the traffic on the trail. Councilmember said it is hard to judge a good number of users because of the weather and times of year. She said the numbers would be sporadic. What would be measured is the ability of everybody to be out and use the trail.

Vice Chair Greck acknowledged that the course of action will be sacrificing the good of the few for more. She said since 2004, the Committee's goal has been to create a Town-wide system with major feeders and "smaller fingers" to connect to the feeders. This would provide different types of trails and environments. She remarked that the trail that probably sees the most traffic is Linear Park, because it goes from one end to the other. She also commented that the reason for the C11 Bridge is to provide access for riders from United Ranches to the rest of the trail system on the other side of the canal without having to go into traffic. Everything they do to the larger trail system is to create access into the various sections of the trail. Vice Chair Greck hoped that with the gates and changes to the canal, something would be created to work for everybody.

\*Chair Cox closed the floor to public comment at 8:48 p.m.

### **3. LIAISON UPDATE (continued from earlier)**

At this point, the Committee returned to the Liaison Report.

**Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary.** Mr. Taylor reported that two grant agreements had been executed for solar trash compactors, Florida-friendly plantings, and recycled benches. He also reported that at the expansion area at the southwest corner, they will be doing more plantings, solar compactors, benches and a pervious concrete trail. Mr. Pursell said the asphalt bid is out, and is due back on June 28. That is the last item necessary to get the first stage going.

Ms. Webb asked about the bird habitat on the west side and wondered if birds had returned since the Australian pines were removed. Mr. Pursell said that six months ago, there was no activity during the nesting season on the south or west side (birds were alighting, but not nesting). He added that the birds' primary area was the northeast corner, and the workers stayed away from that area.

Councilmember Starkey stated that Audubon said typical birds may be disrupted initially but should find their way back in time.

Ms. Webb wondered if there would be lighting in the park, and Mr. Pursell said there would be solar lighting. Ms. Webb thought that would keep the birds away, and proclaimed that the lights at Long Key chased the birds away. Mr. Pursell said the lights would be on the west side so as not to disturb the birds on the east side.

#### **- 4. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Trail Map**

Mr. Taylor showed a map which was made in 2005, showing equestrian trails only. He also showed a 2008 map with proposed sections of trails, some of which are completed.

Councilmember Starkey said the Committee should be proud of their accomplishments. Each time they redo the maps, the evolution of the trails and parks shows. She noted that District 3 still has funding available for finishing the connections, plus the Owl Park improvements, Phase 1 and 2 of Devine Parcels, and a few others. She said that based on feedback from residents, she felt that they wanted the Town to improve the trail system and connect everything in District 3. She asked to hear from the Committee as to what projects they would most want to see done.

Chair Cox wondered if the Committee could get a version of the current "official" map to help make a decision. Ms. Evans said the map is being worked on right now.

Councilmember Starkey said that District 3 is having difficulties with a few of the links, for example, the Scarborough issues needs to be worked on for the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Trail. The money will be used for that and for any other areas that need improvement or enhancement.

Chair Cox remarked she would also like to see a copy of the "official" map and study it on her own time, and other members agreed they would like to do that also. She noted that Ms. Pellicane could provide perspective on bicycle trails.

**Motion** by Ms. Webb, seconded by Mr. Arnold, to have staff electronically provide the Committee with a current map of the trails so they can see which trails in District 3 need to be improved or constructed. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cox said she wanted the most updated one, and Ms. Evans wished to see both the old and the new. Chair Cox asked staff to provide both maps.

Vice Chair Greck wondered if they should limit their comments to District 3 trails, even though it is the only District with money at this point. Chair Cox said they could comment on any area.

#### **4.2 Westridge Park Management Plan**

Mr. Taylor said they originally had the okay to move forward providing recommendations to the Management Plan, however, last week the direction changed, and now he is waiting on direction from the Town Administrator.

Noting he was not aware of the Town Administrator's decision, Mr. Burgess said he picked out Robbins Lodge to work on first. He distributed a copy of his document. He hoped the Committee could look at an aerial map and determine which sectors which would be managed differently, then incorporate that into the Management Plan, identifying different sectors for different purposes. Mr. Burgess then described the next few pages showing items pertaining to permitting, schedules and so forth. Items from that section could be picked out if relevant, and applied to the Plan. On pages 13-14, there are charts showing estimated costs.

Chair Cox believed that was a good example of what would be needed for a management plan, and said the Committee would wait for direction from Mr. Lemack.

Mr. Burgess mentioned he also had information on the archaeological study and environmental impact reports. Parts of the archaeological findings for Westridge have to be kept confidential.

#### **4.3 Robbins Lodge Management Plan**

Chair Cox noted that was already covered in the above discussion.

#### **4.4 Walmart Site**

Mr. Taylor noted that an aerial map of the intersection had been provided to all members. Chair Cox noted that one aerial included a bridge on the west side of the Walmart. She asked members to look at that one first, and described the layout of the Linear Trail. She noted there is an historic lock site in the canal which is not going to "go away." Once approaching the traffic light, horse riders "rest" in the area behind the guard rail and then wait for the light to change to get on the east side of University. She hoped that they could make an improvement.

Chair Cox diverted for a moment to allow new Committee member, Mr. Mowell, to introduce himself. Mr. Mowell said he was appointed by Councilmember Caletka, and noted he was on several boards besides this one. He said he lives in East Davie and is glad to participate.

Chair Cox thought Walmart had given some money to the Town to use at their discretion, and she thought Linear Park would be a good project.

Vice Chair Greck asked if University Drive was a State road like Flamingo Road, and Chair Cox answered affirmatively. She thought the intersection was similar to Griffin, Orange and Flamingo, and she thought the same thing could be done at University Drive. Chair Cox agreed, noting that Pine Island is another example. It would be a matter of getting it onto FDOT's calendar of capital improvements, which would involve several years.

Mr. Taylor said he could take a request to Mr. Lemack to approach FDOT to put the same type of crossing at University that is at Flamingo/Orange.

A discussion ensued about other crossings. Vice Chair Greck said that the Flamingo crossing gives the Town a precedent to ask for other crossings.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Greck, seconded by Ms. Webb, to direct the liaison to request the Town Manager pursue FDOT to create a crossing at the intersection of Orange Drive and University Drive similar to the crossing at Flamingo Road and Orange Drive, and, that, if possible, to place the item in the CIP budget. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cox encouraged all members to view the site for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **4.5 N-20 Trail Update**

Chair Cox noted this was already covered.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS (already covered)**

##### **5.1 Trail Discussion: SW 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW 26<sup>th</sup> Street**

#### **6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Evans reported that bids have been sent to see who will do the GIS tracking for the trails. When it comes in, she would be contacted.

#### **7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The following items were brought up for the next meeting:

- Walmart Trail
- Management Plans
- Majestic Groves Trail to Robbins Lodge (gate)

Mr. Burgess asked Councilmember Starkey about a recent Town Council discussion about the Declarations of Covenants that the Committee had proposed (Robbins Lodge, Westridge and others). Councilmember Starkey did not think they had come before the Town Council yet, and thought perhaps Mr. Holste had them. Mr. Taylor will follow up with Mr. Holste.

Ms. Evans noted that, for the record, she is reticent to discuss the Management Plans because the proposals get lost. She hoped that the "left hand knows what the right hand" is doing, and their proposals get their deserved attention.

An update on the status of the DRCs was added to the agenda for the next meeting, under Old Business.

Councilmember Starkey commented that staff is doing more work with less people and a few things may get missed in the shuffle, but they are doing very well. She felt that reminders would work to bring items back to their attention.

Vice Chair Greck was pleased that they have a member (Mr. Mowell) from the east side of Town to represent that area.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Ms. Murray, to adjourn. Hearing no further business, Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

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

7/23/12  
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Approved

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Chair/Committee Member