

**TOWN OF DAVIE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
6591 Orange Drive, DAVIE, FLORIDA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Pence
Toni Webb

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Phillip Holste, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager
Mitch Taylor, Administration
Amanda Lebofsky, Prototype, Inc.

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1. ROLL CALL

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Following a roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 November 28, 2011 Minutes

Mr. Burgess noted one correction on p. 8, 4th full paragraph, 2nd and 3rd sentence: at the end of the existing 2nd sentence, delete the period and add, “(although it is not impossible to use it another way).” This would eliminate the existing 3rd sentence.

Mr. Holste had a correction on p. 8, 3rd paragraph: change “Ms. Sierens” to “Mr. Sierens.”

Ms. Pellicane said her first name is misspelled on the first page and should be “Christina.”

Chair Cox said the Mayor called her about Mr. Hurley mentioning that she boarded horses at her property. The Mayor said she does not board horses at her property.

Chair Cox also mentioned that on p. 5, 3rd paragraph, Mr. Hurley mentioned that another party used “the ring” on the Robbins property, and Chair Cox did not know what he meant by that, noting there is no ring on the property.

Chair Cox commented that when she spoke of Project Stable on p. 6, 6th paragraph, she recalled saying the program is brought to “Old Davie School,” not “schools.”

Chair Cox noted on the top of p. 7, “MOU” should have a bracketed explanation – “(Memorandum of Understanding)”.

Motion by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Mr. Sierens, to approve the minutes of November 28, 2011, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. LIAISON UPDATE

Mr. Holste reminded the Committee that they had requested a legal opinion, and the letter (from the attorney) is in their packets.

Motion by Mr. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Sierens, to recommend that the Town Council forward a copy of the attorney’s letter to Mr. Hurley, asking him to put the hold harmless sentence in his agreement. The motion was amended by Vice Chair Greck, asking that the Town Council send a letter to Mr. Hurley, asking him to add the Town to his hold harmless agreement. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Sierens accepted the amendment. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary. Work is continuing on the installation of the North Parking area. In addition to asphalt pavement, there will be green areas, sidewalks, landscaping and sod installed. That will complete Phase I of the Park Construction. Mr. Holste clarified this is not the Sunny Lake Addition, where vegetation has been removed and they are waiting to go to bid for asphalt removal, installation of turf and sidewalks. No opening date is known.

C-11 Equestrian Culverts (Griffin Road between Davie Road and University Drive). Staff is verifying the execution of the hold harmless agreement between the Town and Central Broward, and the environmental engineer is completing the environmental permit with Broward County. When these two items are complete, staff will submit to Engineering for a permit.

SW 14th Street Trail.

a. Trail behind Scarborough. Staff is talking to the property owner to the east of Scarborough to get them to allow a CBWCD easement on the south side of their property. This would allow for completion of the trail from the east corner of Scarborough to Bright Road. The Scarborough HOA had comments pertaining to the placement of the trail behind their property (such as security and privacy), and staff is responding with resolution of the issues. They should have consensus with the homeowners prior to initiating the project.

Ms. Pellicane wondered why members of that HOA had not come to a Committee meeting, and Chair Cox responded that Councilwoman Starkey was more interested in going to them. Mr. Holste added that they had not originally anticipated any issues with the HOA.

b. SW 130 Avenue Bridge. Mr. Holste said the drawings have been submitted to Engineering for approval. Once approved, they will go out to bid for construction. Chair Cox requested a timeline.

c. Flamingo Road crossing signal. FDOT rejected the crossing signal, so that is not proceeding further.

d. Culvert Crossing over the N-17 Canal. The crossing (canal east of Bright Road and west of the new warehouses) is complete. To get to it from the Scarborough connection, one could come down Bright Road. It is also possible to walk to it from the “back of Scarborough” as there is a stabilized area, even though it is not paved. Vice Chair Greck asked if there was northbound travel along the canal from Northstar, and Mr. Holste recalled there is no right of way available.

C-11 Bridge – Connect United Ranches with Davie proper. The drawings should be ready this week to submit to Engineering for review.

Old Davie School Addition. Construction is on schedule and about 45% complete.

Peaceful Ridge Trail (Harmony 118th Avenue Trail) – Variance request. The drawings and variance were submitted to the Central Broward engineer for review, and they returned a request to the Town to prepare a biological study of the filling of the canal. Staff has contacted the design engineer, received a proposal to prepare the study, and sent a Memorandum of Understanding to the Town Administrator’s office for approval. Once the Memorandum is approved, staff will receive the P.O. and the engineer can start the study. The biological study will be included as part of the resubmitted variance request. Mr. Holste did not have a cost estimate at this time.

Devine Parcels. Staff submitted drawings to the Building and Engineering departments for review and received comments that needed to be addressed. The design consultant is responding to the comments and should have the drawings ready for resubmittal by the end of the week.

Mr. Holste announced a meeting of the Urban Farming Task Force on February 22, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Pine Island Park Multipurpose Center.

Vice Chair Greck verified that the bridge over the C-11 canal will not be a vehicular bridge, but is being designed for pedestrians/bicycles/equestrians. Mr. Holste did not know the type of structure. Chair Cox noted the span will be long, and Mr. Holste said he will find out if it will be a concrete span. Chair Cox said it can be complicated trying to meet the requirements of the South Florida Water Management.

Mr. Burgess asked about the turnout for the recent Community Gardens meeting, and Mr. Holste reported that two residents attended. Mr. Holste said he would email the minutes of that meeting if they exist, and in the same email, he will address the other follow-up issues from his report.

Vice Chair Greck reminded Mr. Holste of her request for more information on one of the trails. Mr. Holste said he put together a timeline for the Town Administrator to approve on the Long Lake Ranches Trail (north from Robbins Park where the residents took down the fence). Letters will be sent to the property owners giving them four weeks to remove the fence. If they do not, the Town will remove the fence as part of a Code Enforcement Action and will install a new gate between the trail segment and Robbins Park. He said they have to reactivate the Code Enforcement case in order to proceed.

Mr. Holste mentioned that Mr. Taylor will run the next two meetings with Mr. Holste present, and then in April, he will take over as Liaison.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 2011 OSAC Achievement Report

Under “Accomplishments,” Chair Cox mentioned that the Old Davie School Addition is requiring a lot of work due mainly to drainage issues. She remarked that the long range plan is to install an educational gazebo/classroom at the back of the property and a new entrance. A lift station is going in to hook up to the sewer line. She said the school is doing very well and generating a lot of income. The Town maintains the property even though the Foundation runs it.

Under “Capital Improvements,” Chair Cox asked if the trees for the Imagination Farms trail were forthcoming. Mr. Holste said that up until this year, the plan had to be cost feasible. However, the State has now eliminated that requirement, so projects can be included which are considered more conceptual than previously. He continued that they typically produce a five-year capital plan, but he is now looking at a ten-year plan. The trees on the Imagination Farm trail do not have funding at this time.

Chair Cox brought up the recommendation regarding the N-20 canal. Vice Chair Greck verified that Peaceful Ridge Road would no longer be the designated trail when that section is relocated for safety. She and Chair Cox proposed the following addition to the recommendation: “to fill in a portion of the N-20 canal to relocate the Peaceful Ridge Trail to improve trail safety.” The Committee agreed by consensus to that change.

There was discussion on whether to strike or reword the 4th bullet point under “Recommendations” about the user fees related to the use of Town trail facilities by commercial users (since they did not come to a firm conclusion on the matter). The Committee agreed by consensus to strike the 4th bullet point.

The Committee discussed the 5th bullet point under “Anticipated,” regarding a trail crossing at Nob Hill and Westridge Preserve, wondering if that would ever come to fruition. Chair Cox suggested saying a “marked trail crossing area” instead of “trail crossing.” She explained that a marked crossing would be marked on pavement.

Mr. Arnold brought up their effort to have an updated Town trail map, and wondered if that could be considered part of the accomplishments. The Committee agreed to put it on their “wish list” for the coming year.

Motion by Mr. Sierens, seconded by Mr. Arnold, to approve the 2011 Achievement Report with the corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Batten’s Farm

Mr. Holste stated that he provided a copy of the agreement per Mr. Sieren’s request at the last meeting.

Chair Cox understood that the lessee is forgiven \$1,000 a month up to 18 months, which can be extended for up to six months. This is to help with the upfront costs and improvements.

Chair Cox suggested discussing the item at the next meeting under Old Business, since Mr. Sierens had not had a chance to read the agreement.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 FY 2012-2017 Capital Improvement Program Recommendations

Mr. Holste said two items yet to be submitted are the Imagination Farms Trail and the SW 76th Avenue Trail. He said they will be submitting a draft Capital Improvement Program in March and wanted to ensure adequate discussion. Mr. Holste said they are looking for any new projects the Committee wants to recommend through 2022.

Vice Chair Greck asked if there was anything relating to the portion of the trail by Flamingo Gardens (where the steps are), not only where the step-ups are where the bridge goes to the park, but also the entire section of trail from 121st Avenue to the end of the N-20 canal. Mr. Holste said there is no project currently under consideration for that area.

Chair Cox said she met with Mr. Collins (Public Works Administrator) and they discussed filling and stabilizing the ground enough to remove the steps on the west side of the bridge that goes north. She noted the horses have trouble with the steps. She said Mr. Collins discussed putting in road rock and stabilizing it with sand on the top. If that does not work, eventually it would be concreted. Chair Cox said that drainage is the complicating issue, as it washes out the trail.

Mr. Arnold asked if the Town has a continuing maintenance program for the trails, and Chair Cox said they do as part of Public Works. Mr. Holste offered to ask Mr. Collins if there were a capital project that might resolve this issue that could be considered for the capital program.

Ms. Pellicane suggested some type of substrate underneath the steps, such as rubber matting. Chair Cox said they cannot dig there. Mr. Sierens said there are several grades of rubber matting that have abrasive material built in so that it is not slippery when wet. Ms. Evans thought that steel horse shoes would go through the rubber, and going up is not so much an issue as going down. She wondered if there would be a way to do a combination of paving and rubberized strips. Mr. Sierens said it might be cheaper to just install the rubber mats on top of sand. He also commented that the steel shoes would not go through the mats until years had passed.

Ms. Pellicane wondered if the crossings on Griffin Road that look like brick are considered non-slip. Chair Cox responded that the one at 148th and Volunteer was non-slip. She said part of the problem is going to be how to do the substrate on the sand without disturbing what is underneath. Ms. Pellicane suggested installing railroad ties around the rubber mats for stability. Mr. Sierens mentioned that a company called Roppe makes the rubber matting out of recycled tires. Mr. Holste offered to invite Mr. Collins to the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Holste clarified that the items are from 2011-2012.

Ms. Evans asked for more maintenance at Joy Yoder, specifically filling the ring, fixing the collapsed fence, and creating places to sit or use for a mounting block. Chair Cox said they could pass that information on to Mr. Collins. She added the drainage is always an issue there. It was noted there was a problem there from “day one.” A discussion ensued about the drainage problems. Ms. Evans added it is a nice place, but hard to use due to all the rocks.

Vice Chair Greck was curious if they needed to tie funding to the improvements on the Imagination Trail, and Mr. Holste replied that staff would identify the funding sources.

Chair Cox asked where the referenced Robbins Park fencing was, and Mr. Holste did not know the specific location, but said it was “insulation fencing.”

Chair Cox wondered if the new map would be a capital item, but Mr. Holste did not think so, and suggested funding it through the Open Space Bond.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Cox acknowledged there were no subcommittees, and said she was curious to hear about any items that might be of interest to the Committee.

Chair Cox reported that the Town Council will soon consider passing a resolution requiring people who serve on Boards to be residents of the Town. She noted she would be ineligible for Committee membership if that occurred.

Chair Cox said she wanted to set an agenda for the upcoming year of items the Committee may want to do, and suggested the following:

- New trail map
- Develop a management plan for Robbins Lodge property and maybe Westridge Park

Chair Cox stated that Mr. Burgess could provide a sample management plan. Mr. Arnold remarked that Robbins is a large park and may be challenging. Chair Cox said they could make some important decisions, such as if they want to retain the property on the west side as open to horse traffic, or close it off.

Mr. Holste mentioned there was supposed to have been a management plan for Robbins done through the University of Florida, and approved by Town Council resolution in January of 1999. He had never seen the document, but Ms. Pellicane thought it was done. Chair Cox thought she had a copy of the original archaeological assessment. Mr. Holste said he would look for the plan.

Chair Cox also suggested the emergency trail markers as a project.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following items were suggested for the agenda:

- Map
- Management plan

- Mr. Collins with CIP Items
- Batten's Farm
- Update on Long Lake Ranches Trail

Chair Cox brought up the trail on the west side of Flamingo Road (from 36th Court to 14th Street). She said the nursery owner has paved the top of the canal bank and has angled parking up to the fence (7 slots only). He is good about opening the gate in the morning and closing the gate at night. Cars park on the grassy part of the horse trail and drive on the paved part of the horse trail, making it hard to get through. Mr. Holste offered to set up a meeting with the Chair, himself and the Code Enforcement officer to look at the situation.

Chair Cox commented on the trees that have sprung up on the trail along Nova Drive, explaining that they were planted by a homeowner. She said Mr. Lee is asking the homeowner to remove them.

8. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Sierens, seconded by Ms. Evans, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved

Chair/Committee Member