

AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 7, 2022

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ROLL CALL

Dr. Philip Busey	P
Adrienne Kaltman	P (via Webex)
Cynthia Schaefer	P
Eric Swalley, Vice Chair	P
Jeremy Wehby, Chair	A

STAFF PRESENT

Lise Bazinet, Planner II
Chad Pezholdt, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Sussette Rodriguez, Public Relations Coordinator
Lorraine Robinson, Secretary

Vice Chair Swalley called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 January 6, 2022 meeting

Motion made by Ms. Schaefer, seconded by Dr. Busey, to approve the minutes. In a voice vote, unanimously. (3-0 with Mr. Wehby absent and Ms. Kaltman remote)

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 Sustainable Davie

Lise Bazinet

Sussette Rodriguez

Town of Davie Public Relations Coordinator Sussette Rodriguez and committee liaison Lise Bazinet presented the Town sustainable webpages. The main page has multiple subpages that is a source for a large amount of information of sustainable related topics and interest.

Ms. Rodriguez said they will be launching a weekly featured called ‘Sustainable Sundays’ on the Towns Facebook and Instagram pages. She outlined the process of submitting content sources, deadlines and how to submit. A handout was provided to the committee for social media post submittals.

3.2 Ryobi Lawn Equipment

Christina Cantelmi

Ms. Christina Cantelmi, Ryobi; provided a presentation comparing electric and gas lawn equipment. The benefit of using electric has zero emissions, quiet, and light weight. The 40v rechargeable battery is compatible with other Ryobi lawn equipment. Leaf blowers come with (2)

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40v batteries and provide up to 2 hours of power per battery and have rapid chargers available. Pricing is dependent on the volume ordered.

There was discussion if the Town could offer incentive programs for residents and how existing equipment could be recycled.

Ms. Schaefer wanted to make a recommendation to Town Council to do a pilot test program on electric grounds maintenance equipment specifically leaf blowers, string trimmers and pole saws. After discussion, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Chad Pezholdt said he would work directly with Ryobi if equipment can be provided to test.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was discussion about coal tar. The committee will contact each councilmember that appointed them and voice their concerns.

4.1 Sustainability Education (Ms. Schaefer) - NA

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Homeowners Incentive Program – Electric Lawn Equipment (Ms. Schaefer) - NA

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

5.2 Cool Roofs (Ms. Schaefer)

There was discussion about black roofs and the impact on causing heat within structures. Ms. Kaltman mentioned that cool roofs are being used to reduce extreme heat. She mentioned that Miami has the world's first chief heat officer, Jane Gilbert. Ms. Kaltman will contact her to attend a future meeting.

6. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

1. Electric Lawn Equipment Pilot Program
2. Cool Roofs
3. Sustainability Sundays

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There was discussion on drainage.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jessie Bastos commented that the changes recommended at the last meeting were implemented and was appreciative. She had a meeting with Nova Southeastern University. The course offered at the university is Transforming Public Administration for Sustainable Development. There was discussion on how interns could assist with the Town's sustainability programs.

Mr. Jason Long, Tree Amigos Growers; was seeking guidance from the Town for food security. He pointed out that a majority of farmland in Davie is now dedicated to tree farms. He formally ran an organic farm until the land was sold. He discussed how agriculture land leases could assure that land remains dedicated to farming.

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Ms. Shiren Rattigan, Colossal Academy Director; a microschool that is teaching their students where food comes from. She indicated that there was concern that the parcel on the northeast corner of Flamingo and Orange Drive will soon be sold and land used for farming will no longer be available.

Barbara McKenzie, BM Vine, is an elder farmer leasing that parcel for the past 15 years. She would like the Town's assistance in relocating her farm. Ms. Schaefer would like her to be a part of the Davie Farm Park.

There was discussion for all to contact Mayor Paul and Assistant Town Administrator Phillip Holste on how the Town can assist.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member