

**AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 11, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeremy Wehby, Chair	A
Eric Swalley, Vice Chair	P
Dr. Philip Busey	P
Adrienne Kaltman	P
Anthony Rodriguez	A
Cynthia Schaefer	P
Scott Weinstein	P

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT

Lise Bazinet, Planner II
Lorraine Robinson, Secretary

Acting Chair Swalley called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 April 4, 2019 meeting

Dr. Busey asked to make a minor correction on page 3 – *Dr. Busey wants to avoid duplicating efforts that the County ~~was~~ has already done.*

Motion made by Dr. Busey, seconded by Ms. Schaeffer, to approve the minutes with the correction. In a voice vote, with Chair Wehby and Mr. Rodriguez absent, the motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Staff asked to move up item 5.3.

5.3 Community Garden Update

Jeffrey Pohlman, Parks & Recreational Director

Mr. Pohlman provided an update on the progress of the community gardens at Robbins Preserve since his presentation in April to the committee. He stated that there were (9) community gardens presently installed. His department was able to find some funds in the operating budget to help implement an upgraded plan. They will be upgrading the existing beds, adding irrigation with a hose bib set up, redefining the bed space with 15 plots (two of which will be teaching plots), banana circle, butterfly garden, ADA accessibility, information kiosk and compost/manure bins.

Mr. Pohlman said they were looking at local sources for donations and the assistance of volunteers.

Ms. Schaefer thanked Mr. Weinstein for his generous compost donations at Marando Farms. She asked Mr. Pohlman if there was anything that the committee could do. He responded that the support of the committee was welcome in any capacity.

Mr. Weinstein asked what the budget was. Mr. Pohlman stated it was around \$5000. Mr. Weinstein said that the committee should ask Council to provide more funds.

Ms. Schaefer said there was a very strong volunteer base working with the food banks and plans on having teaching events at the gardens. She would like to see donations of plants and soil.

Dr. Busey asked if the water supply would be from a well. Mr. Pohlman was unsure if it was city water or a well.

Dr. Busey asked what the rent rate was. Mr. Pohlman said it was \$30 annually per plot for Davie residents only. Dr. Busey recommended speaking to other communities with successful gardens for any feedback.

Ms. Kaltman appreciated the presentation. She frequently visits the park.

Mr. Weinstein asked who the point of contact for the teaching boxes was. Mr. Pohlman said it would be someone from the Special Events Division and reiterated they would be relying on the large volunteer base. Ms. Schaefer said there were 900 members in the Meet Up group and felt confident there would be a high number of volunteers.

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 Presentation on Solar Energy

The presenter was unavailable

Ms. Schaefer referred the committee to the two links she had sent via Ms. Bazinet; Ten Ways Your City Can Go Solar.

Mr. Weinstein read them into record:

1. Set ambitious goals for solar energy adoption
2. Lead by example with solar installations on public buildings
3. Develop and publicize local financing options
4. "Solarize" your city
5. Encourage community solar projects
6. Eliminate red tape
7. Guarantee solar rights
8. Be "solar ready"
9. Partner with utilities
10. Support strong state-level solar policies

Ms. Schaefer stated that the Town could improve the permitting process for solar. She wasn't sure what kind of incentives the Town could offer such as funding or tax breaks.

Acting Chair Swalley said there were some existing programs like GoSOLAR. Ms. Bazinet stated the County was involved on those programs.

There was a discussion on the Town's facilities usage. Ms. Bazinet said she would speak with the Public Works Director and coordinate him attending the next meeting to discuss energy use on Town facilities.

Dr. Busey wasn't in favor of tax breaks. He asked if they could have solar powered pumping stations at the community garden. Ms. Bazinet said there is a cost to the Town for that and would have to be budgeted.

Ms. Kaltman asked if solar experts could be invited to the next meeting to speak.

Ms. Schaefer commented that wind energy was getting more affordable. Acting Chair Swalley discussed the benefits and efficiency of hydrogen energy producing electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 2019 Sustainability Awards – Status Update

Ms. Bazinet provided the committee with the nomination forms received. She stated the next step was to vote on them at the October 3rd meeting. Acting Chair Swalley recommended the committee members visit each site.

Dr. Busey pointed out that Trees Amigos nomination form had a lot of pictures but lacking a detailed description on how they contributed to sustainability. Mr. Weinstein recommended the applicant update their submission.

5.2 Straws Ordinance – Public Outreach

Ms. Bazinet informed the committee that there were (2) public participation meetings scheduled for local vendors and that notices would go out 2 weeks prior to the first meeting.

Mr. Weinstein asked if at some point the use of alternatives would be mandatory. Ms. Bazinet that there would be one year from the time it was passed by Council. She would like to encourage businesses to volunteer prior to implementation.

Dr. Busey asked if they were going to have a plastic bag ban. Ms. Bazinet said the State didn't pass any legislation during this last session.

5.3 Community Garden Update

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

5.4 Committee Goals Action Plan

Mr. Weinstein stated that items are added to the list, but nothing gets completed. He was looking to work the Chair Wehby on yard waste. He'd like to see the Town make it mandatory to separate lawn debris from other bulk trash.

Ms. Schaefer said that she had been working on the community gardens with Parks and Recreation which was discussed earlier in the meeting. She would like to ban leaf blowers because of noise pollution and the effects on insects. She will look up resources for different engines and present at the next meeting.

Ms. Kaltman was disappointed that Council didn't support Resolution HR763 The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act despite the committee's support. She would draft a motion for the next meeting with information to present to Council and ask to reconsider.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Plastic Bag Resolution

Discussed earlier in the meeting during the straw ordinance.

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Solar Presentation
- Resolution HR763
- Committee Goals Action Plan
- Sustainability Awards
- Leaf Blower Alternatives- 2 Stroke Engines
- Yard Waste
- Town Buildings Energy Audits

8. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS – N/A

Ms. Kaltman attended a special workshop with an expert from the Netherlands speaking on the impacts of climate change. She said the County was looking at a 50-year solution.

Acting Chair Swalley mentioned there was an event on Friday, July 12, 2019 and to check the site ThisZeroHour.org related to climate change.

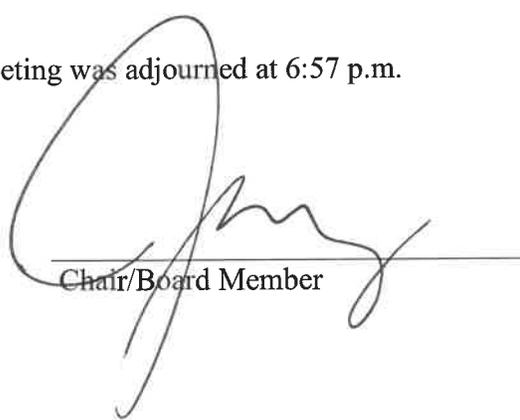
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – N/A

10. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

10/3/19



Chair/Board Member