



TOWN OF DAVIE

Davie Town Hall: 6591 Orange Drive, Davie, Florida 33314 Phone: (954) 797-1000

**OPEN SPACE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL MAY BE PRESENT**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Chair Oliveto-Davis, Michael Bartlett, Michael Paesani, Shelley Dagen, Donna Evans, Toni Webb, Dr. Christina Pellicane and Jared Blaut. Also present was Chad Pezoldt, Assistant Director of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department and Kevin Favata, Recreation Coordinator. Frank Steward was absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 12, 2019 and November 13, 2018

A Motion was made by Mr. Bartlett and seconded by Ms. Webb, to approve the February 12, 2019 meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Ms. Evans and seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to approve the November 13, 2018 meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND UPDATES

a. Director of Public Works

The Committee reviewed the report and there were no questions regarding the Public Works memo.

b. Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

The subject of the cancelled fireworks was discussed. Mr. Bartlett commented the fireworks is an event of enormous popularity and a traditional American celebration for many years. He asked for the background regarding the decision to cancel the fireworks and why this item did not come before the OSRAC as it has in the past.

Mr. Pezoldt provided a time line from the Director's Report on March 6, 2019 where it stated that at the direction of Town Council, the Town of Davie will no longer launch explosive fireworks during Town events.

On March 13, 2019 the Town staff expedited an RFP for a synchronized drone display. On March 20, 2019 the Town Council provided direction to staff for the following options: A. Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate the procurement process for a synchronize drone display, not to exceed thirty thousand (\$30,000.00) dollars B. The Town Council directed staff if a drone display could not be secured, to work with Broward County at Vista View Park for a co-sponsored event. If option A and B could not be secured, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department would continue with the day time activities at the Bamford Sports Complex without fireworks. On March 28, 2019, no bids for a synchronized drone display were received, so staff extended the submission period for two additional weeks. On April 12, 2019, no bids were received.

Because of these sequences of events, the Town of Davie executed an agreement with the Broward County Parks and Recreation Department to co-host an event on the 4th of July merging the Town of Davie's Fun on the Fourth with Broward County's Annual Red, White and Blue at Vista View Park. Activities will start on 5:00 p.m. and fireworks viewing will start at 9:00 p.m. Each organization will be responsible for the cost to operate their portion of the event. Broward County will keep revenue from the gate and the Town of Davie will keep all revenue from sponsorships, vendor fees and food and beverage sales. The Town will re-evaluate the cost and revenue sharing.

There will be some daytime activities at Davie's Pine Island Aquatics Center from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. including the Fire Department foam spray, free swimming and water safety education.

Mr. Bartlett asked why the Town Council brought this up as New Business without any agenda item on the Council's agenda. In the past, a major change to such an event would come up before the community and specifically, this Committee. Mr. Bartlett expressed his curiosity as to why a decision was made to change one of the signature events of Davie, which is also a celebration of American history and culture, in front of an empty audience without the item on the agenda.

Mr. Pezoldt advised there were concerns for the wild life, horses and residents with PTSD. Mr. Bartlett replied that Davie, being in the flight path of the airport, is used to elevated noise levels and that noise is not only an issue dealt with on July 4th, but is an issue the residents deal with every day. Mr. Bartlett was aware that animals and people do not like noise, but to have the event cancelled in the manner previously noted was concerning.

Chair Oliveto-Davis asked if any alternatives were discussed, such as fire works without noise. Mr. Pezoldt replied that the Town looked at other options such as silent fireworks, but the visual effect and height would be compromised. Drones were also a consideration however, the Town was not able to secure the drones for this year. The Town will be looking into using drones next year.

Dr. Pellicane commented that Vista View Park may have burrowing owls, which are endangered, and would be disturbed by the fireworks. Dr. Pellicane then asked if the decision was based, in part, by budget concerns. Mr. Pezoldt replied the budget was not a factor in the decision to move the fireworks. The wildlife was the concern of Council. In addition, no fireworks will be launched from Vista View Park. Due to the higher elevation, the park is merely a fireworks viewing location for the fireworks displays from other municipalities.

Chair Oliveto-Davis asked if the traffic and parking issues, historically experienced at that park, had been discussed. Mr. Pezoldt replied that a shuttle system from surrounding areas will be used to alleviate the traffic issues, along with the assistance of the Police Department.

Chair Oliveto-Davis also asked if the Town had investigated having a laser light show in lieu of the fireworks. Mr. Pezoldt stated there were a few obstacles to overcome with the lasers. The biggest obstacle was seeing the laser's effect. In order to see the lasers, there would have to be a fog or mist in place. With the wind and weather, that obstacle proved too big to overcome.

Ms. Webb commented the noise from the Davie Pine Island Park fireworks is not an issue for the equestrian areas on the west side of Davie. The concern for western Davie is the neighbors that use illegal fireworks. Ms. Webb said the Town had made great strides in curbing that type of activity. Mr. Pezoldt assured the Committee that the signs would be display again this year reminding residents of the ordinance prohibiting the use of fireworks in equestrian areas.

Mr. Bartlett advised that he would like to make a stand for the traditional fireworks and would like to make a motion. **A Motion** was made by Mr. Bartlett, to recommend to Council that traditional fireworks be restored to the Davie Pine Island Park on the 4th of July. Chair Oliveto-Davis asked for a second to the motion but was not received. The Committee continued to discuss the subject without a second motion.

Chair Oliveto-Davis noted that if the fireworks viewing at Vista View Park was a trial, as Mr. Pezoldt suggested, would an alternative will be discussed for next year's celebration. Mr. Pezoldt added that different alternatives may be implemented at Vista View, however, at direction from Council, the Town would be moving away from traditional fireworks in Davie and make efforts to securing a drone presentation for next year.

Mr. Paesani asked if was too late for the Town to secure traditional fireworks at Davie Pine Island Park. Mr. Pezoldt replied that it would be too late.

Chair Oliveto-Davis wanted to amend the motion recommending silent fireworks be considered for next year if the viewing at Vista View was not a success. Ms. Webb advised the Chair that discussion and amending the motion would not be allowed without a second motion. Mr. Paesani then offered a second to the original motion.

Chair Oliveto-Davis clarified the motion to add “silent fireworks would be considered if Vista View was not favorable to the residents”. Mr. Pezoldt reiterated that traditional or silent fireworks were no longer being considered by the Council, with direction to move towards drones.

Chair Oliveto-Davis asked if the Committee was in favor of rewriting the motion to consider silent fireworks next year. The consensus of the Committee was to amend the motion to read, “recommend to Council to restore traditional fireworks with consideration for silent fireworks”. Mr. Bartlett again stated that in the past, these types of major changes would have come before the community and this Committee, and not be passed as New Business at the council meeting, as this was. Mr. Bartlett felt the residents should have a voice in the matter.

A Motion was made by Mr. Bartlett and seconded by Mr. Paesani, to restore traditional fireworks,

or use noiseless fireworks for the 4th of July celebration. In a voice vote, the motion passed as follows:

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| Shelly Dagan.....yes | Toni Webb.....no |
| Donna Evans.....no | Carolina Oliveto-Davis.....yes |
| Dr. Christina Pellicane.....no | Michael Paesani.....yes |
| Michael Bartlett.....yes | |

Ms. Dagen advised that Festival.net on the web, showed the fireworks festival will be held in Davie, and also lists the times of the firework presentation. Mr. Pezoldt said they Town would be putting out the corrected information.

c. Town Code Amendment

Mr. Pezoldt handed out an excerpt from the Town of Davie list of ordinances, specifically Sec. 2-72 – Committee Membership, with a summary of the proposed changes of the Town ordinance. The Committee was allowed a moment to read the proposed changes and was advised the item had already gone to the first Council reading on May 1, 2019 and will be going to the second reading on May 15, 2019.

Mr. Bartlett spoke about the lack of notice of this Committee change, with the exception of the Council meeting’s agenda. He advised that if any of the Committee members have comments

for the Council, they would have to speak with their district's council member tonight or tomorrow.

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The Committee discussed the logistics of implementing a new Committee in August of 2019 and the disposition of the existing Committee members. Dr. Pellicane was discouraged that the continuity, historical memory, and the ability getting items accomplished, including the trail plan, which has been so drawn out, has been dealt yet another stumbling block. She was concerned that the gap between meetings, and now the implementation of new committee members without the background knowledge, would impede the ability to move these items forward.

Mr. Paesani advised the current committee members, regardless of who the new Committee members may be, some of the current members of this Committee should continue to be involved with the unresolved issues. As a resident of the Town of Davie, Mr. Paesani felt very strongly about that statement.

Ms. Degan voiced her frustration regarding the lack of forward movement with the trail system and equestrian facilities within the Town. Ms. Webb commented the past committees were instrumental in getting things done. With monthly meetings, sometimes lasting into the late night, items such as promoting and ultimately implementing a bond to purchase land to be preserved, allocating the bond money to purchase conservation land, were important issues the committee worked on and was able to affect. Despite not having any bond money left to spend, there are many items relating to the management of the properties purchased with the bond dollars. Chair Oliveto-Davis also agreed that the past committees were very affective in their duties, and also encouraged the committee to talk to their council members regarding these issues. Mr. Pezoldt reiterated that private citizens are welcome to be a part of the conversations regarding the issues that face this committee.

Mr. Paesani proposed the residents from this committee to meet and put together a list of goals to present to the council in an effort to get things done. Dr. Pellicane advised there were many issues discussed and resolved by the Open Space Committee that the council would never have thought of on their own. These would include the restrictive covenants, the bollards to protect the trails, the Davie welcome signs reminding drivers to be aware of residents on horseback and to slow down when they see them, and the trail markers for emergency personnel to find residents that may have been injured while recreating. Dr. Pellicane commented that these issues would not have necessarily been brought up by the council if the Committee had not been meeting on a regular basis.

Dr. Pellicane felt that the reorganizing of the Committee was potentially a mistake. There are many intelligent and motivated people within the Town that may not be able to attend council

meetings due to the responsibilities they may have; the Town would be wasting the human intellectual capital. Mr. Bartlett commented that the press box would not have been realized without the diligence of this committee. Mr. Paesani expressed the value of speaking with the Council. Even if they are predisposed on certain issues, they have been known to change their minds after listening to the opinions of the residents at the council meetings.

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d. The Van Kirk Property

This item was tabled until the next committee meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Oak Hill Riding Pen

Mr. Pezoldt advised the round pen will be advertised for bid on May 2, 2019.

b. Trail Master Plan

Mr. Pezoldt announced the consultant had completed his work on the master plan. Mr. Pezoldt provided a link for an inter-active map for the committee members to give their input prior to the next public meeting on August 13, 2109. The map will show existing multi-use, equestrian, sidewalk and bicycle lanes. Mr. Pezoldt explained the different areas of the map and details as to how to use the map. The link will go live at the next meeting allowing access by the public to add comments. Those comments entered on the map will give the public opportunity to “like” the comment, giving valuable feedback to the Town. Ms. Webb asked if there will be someone monitoring the site, Mr. Pezoldt answered affirmatively.

Ms. Evans spoke about the effort given to research and number the trails in Tree Tops Park for the emergency personnel to locate injured riders. However, without a map, the first responders would not be able to find an injured person. Ms. Evans advised that first and foremost, the purpose of the map is to assist the first responders. Secondly, the map is for the public to utilize for improvements to the trail system. They will be able to provide information the Town can use to improve the trail system, such as additional trails, areas in need of maintenance and safety concerns.

Dr. Pellicane asked if the public can add input before the next committee meeting to increase the effectiveness of that meeting. Mr. Pezoldt replied that the early access to the map is for the Committee in and effort to be prepared and to support the public at the meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Joy Yoder Park

Ms. Webb advised there was a tree down in the park and that off-road vehicles are driving in the dressage ring. She commented that similar to a golf course, the ring needs to be kept flat, raked, and the perimeter fence to be intact. Ms. Webb suggested a chain link fence be installed along the south side of the east/west paved path to restrict access to the dressage area of the park. Ms. Evans pointed out that access would also be denied to horseback riders trying to

access the park from the west. Since the access is already being restricted by the KOA located to the north of the park, the committee agreed a culvert across the canal to the west would provide an answer to this problem.

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- 8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**
 - a. Trail Master Plan Public Input Meeting**
 - b. Update on the Van Kirk Property**

9. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Chair Oliveta-Davis offered her thanks to the other committee members for their work on this Committee, as did Mr. Paesani. Ms. Webb added the upside to the new changes would allow more freedom to discuss issues as a private citizen at committee meetings. Mr. Bartlett hoped these changes were not meant to diminish new goals and future progress. Chair Oliveta-Davis reminded the Committee that the Council had been sound in their decision-making progress and to continue to put faith in them, along with the new Committee.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION

August 13, 2019

11. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 8:16pm.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member

