

## Captiva Community Panel

# MINUTES

*April 9, 2013*

Attending: Mike Mullins, Mike Kelly, David Rohn, Jay Brown, Sandy Stilwell, Susan Stuart, Jerry McClure, Paul McCarthy, Robert Baugh

Audience: 8

The meeting convened 9 a.m. Introductions and roll call preceded unanimous approval of the March 12 minutes motion Stuart, second Brown).

**Captiva Fire District:** Chief Rich Dickerson said construction of the temporary quarters was coming along well, would be behind Starbucks with staff moving in 4-8 weeks. He noted that the old CFD building had too many problems to put money into. The district moved into temporary administrative offices next to the LCSO office last week. They would park an engine at that lot, and move the trolleys to the Shirley's lot temporarily. The district was holding an open house at 2 p.m. today, with the architect, engineer and builder for the new station on hand to discuss preliminary plans. The plan was to break ground September or October, after the rainy season and hurricane season ended. The permit for the new station will be turned in next Monday, expect 4-8 months to secure approval. They have had several meetings with county building and zoning, since this will include rezoning two lots. Once permits are in hand, expect it will take 10-12 months to complete construction.

**CEPD:** Mullins reminded those who may not have heard that the district received \$7.7 million from the Corps for beach nourishment. Administrator Kathy Rooker said it took a team to secure this funding, and relied on a good relationship with Corps HQ and the Jacksonville District office. State and federal funding for the next project is now in place, still working with Lee County on its share. Negotiations continue, and we may need public's help to lobby commissioners when we get the final figure in place. Project funding now was \$7.7 million federal, \$3 million state, ?? from Lee County, and property owners for the balance. There would be a project meeting 5 p.m. tomorrow at Tween Waters Inn in the Wakefield Room, a time to answer questions and get into specifics. Right now, it looks much better in terms of the local owners share. Kelly asked if there was an estimate vs. what we paid last time. Rooker said if you looked at the preliminary assessment we send out with the referendum, that we're at the low end of that right now – very close to where you were last time. Mullins said it would be very dependent on property appraiser's valuation, which has a great impact on what you'll ultimately pay. District also paid from its own reserves last time post-Charley to help Captivans, but we've restored those funds in time for this project. Rooker said they hope to start putting sand on the beach Aug. 1. Mullins said the island will need a good show for the county, that's the funding question mark right now.

**LCSO:** Deputy Mike Sawicki noted that no new is good news, we've had a drama-free season. He urged property owners to update homeowners' authorization letters for hurricane season if any information had changed. Mullins asked about the status of Lt. Joe Poppolardo, can we get an official word from LCSO? Sawicki said Poppolardo was now working downtown, and is a lieutenant again. Deputies on the island report to Lt. Corkhill based on Boca Grande, who is now the immediate supervisor for the islands. Above that are Capt. Dobson and Major Riordan. Mullins offered Sawicki to extend an invitation for them to come introduce themselves to the island at an upcoming panel meeting. Rich Stegmann asked about how islanders could update hurricane passes. Dickerson said to send requests through the CFD, who also distributes the authorization letter? Stuart asked if the panel should

write a letter to Poppolardo to thank him for his service to the island and invited him to the upcoming golf tourney (Kelly second), which was unanimously approved.

**Communications:** Start said that as requested she had written a letter to Tween Waters to thank them for putting their power lines underground.

**Planning:** Planner Max Forgey offered some background and staff response on the current grant proposal for the next phase of Lee Plan work. He met with county planners Kathie Ebaugh and Matt Noble Monday to review their changes. They want to omit the reference to community services, but he expects it will come up during community meetings. Everyone wanted to make sure we left the public input meeting process open to reflect possible topics from the community. Proposal would include updating the Lee Plan, economic and demographic changes, the Village, landscaping, historic preservation and bike/ped safety, among other issues. Mullins said based on discussions over the past year there are numerous topics to be considered within this window of opportunity. Gooderham said that a Lee Plan update is the primary county focus, but we'll hear all topics when we solicit public comments and we need to save those to be implemented later. Mullins reminded everyone this was Round 2 of Lee Plan revisions, and it was in the very early stages with plenty of opportunities to get involved. Kelly asked where the county plan update stood, and if there was anything in it that could impact Captiva and the status of the barrier islands. Gooderham said planning staff would discuss the county update at the May meeting.

**Financials:** Gooderham introduced the monthly summary report, and said the final decision on the grant proposal and a county reimbursement schedule would necessitate a new cash flow analysis with income from "Monday After The Masters" and other fund-raising efforts also in place. The panel has been able to secure grants for trees, road, water quality and planning in the past, and we appreciate any help we can get to keep paying the bills.

**Fund-raising:** McCarthy said the panel represents the island, so we need to generate the political and financial support from the island, to reach out to the property owners for support. We have to introduce ourselves and show that this organization has value. We need funding that's more membership than crisis-driven, funding from a broader base by reminding people that the panel was sought by the community to better interact with the county. Mullins reminded that the panel was a 501c3 tax exempt organization, so we are a charity. He asked how many have given previously. Gooderham estimated around 100. Brown said most island STRAP number holders are not aware of the panel, and that a vast education effort was needed. McCarthy said communication also needed. Mullins asked about reaching rental properties on island, to consider going to the rental agencies, HOAs, etc. Stuart said the panel needed a basic informational piece. Mullins said he thought there was one that needed to be updated. McClure asked if there would be a schedule for fund-raising solicitations by the next meeting. McCarthy said he wanted to send something in the fall, say October. Stuart and McCarthy agreed to develop a brochure, explaining this is what the panel does, this is what we've done, and this is why you should support us. Mullins said we get a good turnout to panel meetings which makes people more informed, but they may or may not get involved. Mullins said that the response to Monday After The Masters had been good so far this year. Baugh said nine foursomes were signed up, PFG is in as master sponsor and Nike will raffle off a set of golf clubs as well as being a sponsor. The April 15 event would have a shotgun start at 3 p.m., and they expect 20 tents around the ninth hole and will include an announcer. He thought that volunteers should show up by 1 p.m. Discussion of event. Mullins offered thanks to South Seas Island Resort again for doing the bulk of the work. He said golfers also welcomed, we have open foursomes.

**Bylaws:** McClure offered an explanation of the Bylaws Committee process, meetings and proposed changes. The committee has proposed eliminating a lot of what the Nominating Committee should be doing on its own. Mullins offered a discussion of the process that led to this proposal. He said a panel vote today starts the clock ticking to an actual vote sometime after June meeting, as required by the bylaws. The panel needed to decide when you want to bring it to a vote, and it will take 7 affirmative votes to approve changes. A discussion of how to proceed with voting and open positions at end of 2013 followed. Mullins summarized that October looked like the consensus month for a vote, as all panel members would likely be in attendance. McClure offered a motion (Brown second) to proceed with bylaws changes as to an October panel vote, and suggested a written invitation to the public to attend the September and October meetings for review to vote at the October meeting. McCarthy asked for a “track changes” version of proposed changes to be emailed to all. Mullins said there would other typos in the bylaws that needed to be cleaned up. Stilwell asked about proxy votes. Mullins said panel members could propose alternate changes to this one. Gooderham said each would have to comply with its own notice period. The motion was approved 6-3 with Kelly, McCarthy and Stuart opposed.

McCarthy asked why this change was needed, to better understand the motivation. Discussion ensued on that issue. McClure said he would send out a redlined version shortly. Brown urged the panel conduct a forum to get everyone's concerns. Baugh asked what was broken here, why is this needing to be changed? McClure said the Nominating Committee last year had very little to do; discussion of last year's process followed. McCarthy said committee members used their discretion and did a good job. He noted that the CPOA nominated McClure and Brown, but not me even though I'm a long-term supporter, so the current process seems to work. McClure said the question was not what is wrong, but is this proposal a better way. He felt the current panel seat assignments create conflicts with island organizations. With this proposal the panel is in charge with finding its own successors, which more consistent of corporate governance. Mullins said he disagreed with that perspective, that this method is not consistent with proper governance. Prior to the panel's formation, no one did surveys and the public was not engaged in island-wide decisions. Things were done in private by a small group. Discussion followed on the history of panel and other organizations. Brown said that every board he had ever been on finds its own replacements, not with some outside organization making appointments. He felt this proposal would eliminate a potential source of friction.

Mullins said the panel has always sought CCA buy-in, but has never gotten a promise to support what the community develops through consensus. Discussion of bylaws and land use process followed. Mullins felt the perception problem is one-sided, and that unless the CCA agrees to one voice there is a risk this group will be undone. He said he got involved because he had more input and information here than with the CCA where he was a governor of the board. McCarthy said the CPOA has even re-nominated CCA nominees over time, specifically Gordon Hullar and Mike Kelly. This process has worked, why change it? Brown said some people perceive that, but others might change. This proposal takes away a possible source of public perception. Mullins said power moved from the closet into the sunshine with the panel. Brown said he didn't want to do anything to undermine the future of this organization; it just seems a whole lot simpler to find our own successors. Mullins followed with a discussion of division issues with the county. He said he voted to move forward today in hopes that Rohn and Jack Cunningham can move forward with the CCA to enact changes over the next six months. McClure said funding is from the panel deciding how to raise money, not from CPOA. We're trying to benefit all Captiva, not just CPOA. Mullins said that's just lately, this panel started with the CPOA board as the spark. McCarthy said there was no bad blood on his part. He likes the way it works now, but there's not the support on the other side to come together right now – a small group of people

holding on to a grudge. Things change, it's gotten better.

Mullins suggested inviting CCA board members to try to create one voice on the island. If we cannot do that, he's not putting this thing at risk. McCarthy said the current way is a little messier, rather than having one committee making decisions, but it works – three different perspectives has made a pretty representative board. Mullins said the panel was spending energy on this rather than the things we need to be working on, and it doesn't help the fundamental problem. Stilwell said if the CCA would change its policy of having a private land use committee out of control of the board of governors, that's the issue. If those decisions would come before the board of governors for a vote, it would better reflect the island – and it would lessen any rift. Kelly said the CCA used to have a business group and membership. Now it was a whole group that was not represented, perhaps a bias against them by the CCA. If we lose people like Dave Jensen and Sandy Stilwell as part of the fabric of Captiva, it's a horrible loss. You need that balance. This panel is the only bastion in terms of land use in this community. Stuart reminds all that the CPOA exists only to keep the panel going. All monies go through the CPOA as the nonprofit that makes this panel exist. As the parent, it is essential it maintain some control of this board.

In other business, Mullins noted that the San-Cap Cares even the prior weekend was a great success. They set out to raise \$1 million, exceeded that and we just took the Children's Hospital fund over the \$20 million total. He offered thanks to all who supported it.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

*-- Ken Gooderham, administrator*