

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

June 14, 2016

Attending: David Mintz, Peter Koury, Dave Jensen, Jay Brown, Jack Cunningham, Sandy Stilwell, Mike Boris (phone), Mike Kelly (phone), Mike Mullins

Audience: 10

Meeting convened 9 a.m. Introductions and May 12 minutes, two changes noted (typo and erroneous attribution) motion to approve (Stilwell/Mullins) unanimously approved.

CEPD: *Kathy Rooker:* Week of June 20, engineers will be on the beach and survey boats in water, doing year 2 post construction monitoring to see how successful the project, look at historical hot spots, protecting the environment and animals and infrastructure. Went out pre and post TS Colin, impressed with how things were looking. Historical hot spots post Colin, came through fairly well except near Sunset Beach and South Seas. Look to see how much the sand recovers. CEPD meeting is tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Wakefield Room at Tween Waters.

CFD: *Chief Rich Dickerson:* June-August getting to be as busy as January-March, 108 calls last year, this year 109 – very busy. About even summer and winter, April the highest month. Brought All Hazard Guides to hand out, just out from Lee County. Have more at the station. Deputy Chief Pawul sent out a homeowner's letter in late May, encouraging people to prepare for storm seasons. Plan to use social platforms to inform residents about conditions during and after storm. *Mullins:* Durign Hurricane Charley the county could not differentiate between Captiva and Upper Captiva. Media as well, very confusing for people not here. *Dickerson:* Average storm season expected, only takes one. *Mullins:* All hazards cost on tax bill, goes to Emergency Operations Center? *Dickerson:* Yes, among other, but not to special districts.

LCISO: *Deputy Joe Caiazza:* Call volumes also up in summer. Parking issues a problem, when we move them out of one place they move to another. Arrested two people in home break-ins. As a result, a major felon turned himself in last night; had been after him for a while, he was working Upper Captiva and Pine Island among others. A lot of night patrols for turtle season. We tag items left on beach and ask that they be moved. Discussion of arrest.

LCEC: *Mullins:* Outage caused by bird, saw one LCEC truck respond first and more later. Saturday 6 p.m. to midnight. Spotty losses. How hardy is this system if one osprey can take it down? Very vulnerable. *Brown:* Have committee to work with LCEC, need to engage them. Much longer term issue here. *Koury:* Live on an island up north, look to coordinate with them? They installed heavier duty lines to reduce outages. *Stilwell:* LCEC said if we all had generators we would not have a problem. Discussion.

Planning: *Max Forgey:* In 2011 the Captiva Plan amendments in process raised the issue whether we or the county could regulate septic systems or require annual inspections or more often? We were told state law was against it. With help of an attorney, we did an analysis of Florida Statutes to see if there are any loopholes or exceptions. *Mintz:* Thanks for this language... assessment not annually, clarify. Means county could have an inspection program every five years? Pumpout and other aspects? *Forgey:* County

could implement program every five years on Captiva or countywide? Big step forward if possible.

Brown: As part of wastewater treatment alternative study, could we require inspection every five years?

Forgey: Yes. *Cunningham:* First-magnitude springs an influence? Local government is county? *Forgey:*

No such springs here, county would be enactor. *Brown:* Entire county would have to be under this

program? *Forgey:* Could designate areas of concern. *Koury:* Two standards, one if you have spring, one if

you don't. *Forgey:* Lee County does not have one that I am aware of. *Brown:* Will be fully explored as

part of Sewer Committee work. *Cunningham:* Tank has to be empty to inspect, but cannot force them to

empty tank. Conflicts. *Brown:* Might be a glimmer of hope. *Mullins:* Make this part of negotiation with

county about what rules to put in place.

John Riegert: Electric trolley service to start. Electric vehicle, automatic rickshaws, fully electric. Island

Shuffle Service, advertising local businesses and free shuttle for participating businesses to South Seas to

Lazy Flamingo. Holds six passengers, top speed 25 mph. Order by phone call, or can hail us in the

Village. Starting with one vehicle, hoping to expand, hopefully all day service eventually. Free service to

sponsoring business, or \$5 a head on island and \$10 to Lazy Flamingo. Insured. Formed LLC, worked

with Sanibel and county. Can go 70 miles on a charge. *Stilwell:* Charging station at Lazy Flamingo?

Mullins: Take calls from Santiva? Discussion. Voucher system ties to businesses, plan to expand to move

vehicles. *Mintz:* Hoping to take vehicles off the road, not add more. *Riegert:* Intent on making this a free

ride with sponsors. *Mintz:* Also look at Anna Maria trolley, encourages car-free life. *Cunningham:* Are

you tracking trips, would help us see how it's helping island. *Julia Davis:* Anna Maria Island trolley

funded through state grants. Statistics great to help seek grant funding. Discussion. *Cindy Brown:* South

Seas access? *Riegert:* Have to be guests to enter gates, we can enter if guest or owner calls guardhouse.

Cindy Brown: Parking at Lazy Flamingo? *Riegert:* Will discuss with Larry Thompson, hope to get local

businesses involved, should not have a problem parking there. Discussion. *Riegert:* Hoping to start by

October, built in Netherlands. *Cunningham:* Effort to convert from gas carts to electric carts. Put on the

agenda for an update? *Jensen:* Rental of carts keep cars off the road. *Riegert:* Hope eventually to get

service all the way to the Causeway, 10K people per day crossing bridge means great exposure for

business. *Mintz:* Music and DVD on carts? Don't need more noise. *Riegert:* Hoped to do music, but can

work with island on that. Discussion. *Nathalie Pyle:* Gas vs. electric carts... issue is charging stations. Is

Bob Walter looking into that? Discussion. *Mintz:* Comprehensive look at all the different pieces of this.

Mullins: CEPD issues as well, shuttles enhance access.

- **ACTION:** Item will be on future agenda for update, check on status of conversion effort to electric carts.

Sea Level Rise (SLR) symposium: *Mullins:* Introduction. *Davis:* Dr. Harold Wanless, University of Miami, authority on SLR. Available dates in October, available Oct. 11 (panel meeting date), penciled in.

Would panel like to have SLR discussion, when and as part of a meeting? Meeting is Tuesday, but we recommend Friday to draw planners, engineers, land use attorneys, etc., since there are fewer conflicts.

October or January, Tuesday or Friday? *Cunningham:* CCA would certainly offer their center. What

would we be getting from him, objective? *Davis:* Education on effects of SLR on island. Define

boundaries of discussion. *Forgey:* Also reached out to Florida Chapter of APA, possible sponsorship.

Good to bring in professionals from other fields to keep conversation lively. *Davis:* Would have other

speakers to fill out symposium, not just Wanless. *Cunningham:* Contact Ann Brady on what

Rauschenberg Foundation recently did. *Mullins*: Background. Ralf Brookes discussed at a meeting last year. Raise awareness to get people involved. *Cunningham*: Direct effect on sewer septic issues. *Boris*: Rising waters important... should it be bigger than Captiva, engage county and Sanibel? *Cunningham*: more focus on Captiva is better for us. *Mullins*: County? *Rooker*: 2010 study done on sustainability, have maps showing SLR impact. Contact still available, good resource. County speakers as well, good resource. *Stilwell*: Wayne Daltry? *Davis*: Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program contacts as well. Discussion of background. *Davis*: SLR impacts are different at different places. *Pyle*: Kristie Anders at SCCF as a resource. *Mintz*: Focus on Captiva so information has local value. *Brown*: Cost and funding sources? *Mullins*: Timing is main issue today. January better choice, consensus agreement. Friday can draw more professionals seeking credits, get date in advance. Honorarium? *Brown*: Friday in January. Work with Julia on more specifics and costs/funding options. Discussion. Report back by August.

- **ACTION**: Put on August agenda for update.

Water quality study: *Mullins*: Just to make people aware of it, James Evans with the City of Sanibel is an incredible local resource.

Sewer Committee: *Brown*: Good progress. Met with Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane, City Manager Judy Zimomra, city staff to update on work. Feedback: Very supportive to look at alternatives, bias towards sewers but happy to support any effort that could improve water quality. Surprised they had not been contacted by the county yet. Keith Williams and James Evans were engaged and informed, supportive. Second development, we received draft scope of alternatives study from Lee County Utilities Director Pam Keyes. Looks like they did not consult with Sanibel. *Mintz* offered his revisions based on committee input, which is included in meeting handouts. Committee needs to review edits, get agreement from panel on direction, acknowledge receipt and share with Sanibel before responding. *Mullins*: Authorize committee to act? *Koury*: I have concerns, should I be on committee to have input that way? We need public input before moving forward. *Mintz*: County did a good job, but we've been working on this longer than they have. Behooves us to include those issues they weren't aware of, structure it clearly to delineate parts. Committee should work on this, Sanibel should have full input before we finalize this. Consider public meeting before this goes back to the county. Not get this back to the county until the fall. *Brown*: Public meeting not necessary for scope, we're not committing anybody to anything. All we're doing is just developing facts, not making a decision. Develop data and then involve community with facts in hand. *Stilwell*: Need to include Sanibel. Comfortable with what you provided us so far.

Koury: Disagree that we don't want public input. Many people would disagree with moving forward. No one has raised questions about water quality except Sanibel. No evidence we have a problem. Also there are people who don't want the county involved in further studies. Have the panel hire experts to keep it in house and control it better. Determine whether Captivans feel a study is needed on wastewater needs and then develop proposals. *Brown*: If starting from scratch, you'd never put septic systems in this geologic system. *Mullins*: Concerned about public input. County does not bring bias, good that they get engaged in this effort. If people have an issue, have them come forward at these meetings. But we need the county to be a partner with this. *Brown*: Other people will say what Peter just said, no evidence and losing control of process. *Mintz*: Obligation to look at this issue. Regulate septic systems or put in sewer – cannot just assume everything will be alright. Study showed evidence of a nutrient issue in the septic area, we need to

look at this if nothing else. Issue is input into the scope. *Koury*: It's a big deal. *Brown*: Not at all. *Koury*: Panel is supposed to represent the island, need to include public in the process. *Mullins*: Go forward, put paper out to update everyone on this proposed study. If you have ideas, communicate with committee members. *Koury*: Send scope out in current form with email to get response.

Mintz: After committee work and Sanibel input, then give community some input on whether something is missing. *Stilwell*: Also part of survey and project list. *Mintz*: Get Sanibel's input first before it goes to the public. *Cunningham*: Why Sanibel? *Mintz*: Have expertise and background, and will be a major player in the future. *Mullins*: We're the tail, they're the dog. *Cunningham*: Maintain some level of independence. Discussion. *Mullins*: Be very candid. *Cunningham*: This has been on website, in paper, announced at CCA and CCP meetings, and there's still a substantial portion of population that does not know what's going on with this. Ask residents' opinion on whether we should do a study. *Brown*: Not committing people on the island to do anything, agreed to find the facts on handling wastewater on our island. Committee has gone as far as it can without spending any money, convinced the county to take this over to multiply our abilities and get all the facts. *Koury*: Want public input. *Mullins*: Panel should defer to the committee on this matter going forward on this project, to be decided by committee to move forward. *Cunningham*: Do the revisions David Mintz proposed, talk to Sanibel, put it on website, email it to list. Just getting the facts, so Captivans can make a decision down the road. *Mullins*: Micromanaging communications, let volunteers do their work. *Brown*: As much public input as possible, accepted as clarification. (7-1 in favor, Koury opposed). *Gooderham*: Funding not assured, public input should help with BoCC.

- **ACTION**: Committee met after panel meeting, agreed to slight reworking of Mintz's revisions. Send that version to Sanibel for additional resources. Send update and thanks to Keyes. Hope to have final version back to committee prior to Aug. 9 panel meeting.

Financials and fund-raising: *Cunningham*: Targeted July to send another letter. Draft submitted in late April, want to refocus on future efforts rather than past accomplishments. Opportunity to briefly state that fact-finding study on wastewater alternatives is under way. Thanks to previous supporters for their donations last year. Cruise mentioned... do we want to do it again? I can talk to Paul McCarthy about scheduling it again. *Mullins*: Include SLR symposium? *Brown*: Evaluating long-term effects of SLR on Captiva. *Boris*: Raises more questions than we want right now.

- **ACTION**: Gooderham to revise draft based on Cunningham's suggestions. Work to have final version mailed to property owners by beginning of August.

Discussion of committee meeting. Next panel meeting July 12... who's attending? Sufficient absences noted, panel decided to cancel July 12 meeting as too many panel members will not be available. Next meeting will be Aug. 9.

The meeting adjourned 10:45 a.m. A Sewer Committee meeting followed.

-- *Ken Gooderham, administrator*