

Captiva Community Panel
MINUTES
July 9, 2013

Attending: Mike Mullins, David Rohn (phone), Jack Cunningham, Jerry McClure, Jay Brown, Susan Stuart, Paul McCarthy, Robert Baugh, Sandy Stilwell

Audience: 12

The meeting convened at 9 a.m. Following a roll call and introductions, the Jun 11 minutes were unanimously approved with one correction by Stuart.

CEPD: Administrator Kathy Rooker thanked everyone for engaging the Board of County Commissioners concerning the interlocal agreement about the beach funding. The district was successful in coming to a good agreement, she said, and the commissioners certainly listened to your comments. That was strong noted to us during our visits to commissioners. Discussion of BoCC meeting followed. Commission vote was unanimous, with no discussion of staff funding option. Brown asked about the status of funding. Rooker said that depended on the final bids, which they have not seen yet. Bids have been running high elsewhere in the state this year due to demand for dredgers elsewhere. As to project dates: Corps moved bid opening to July 12, then two weeks they hope to award a contract. No idea what bids will look like. Start of work will pushed back to September.

McCarthy asked if the beach construction will go into the end of November. If so, could we turn a negative into a positive with Captiva Holiday Village at the same time? Perhaps do an event on the beach, an educational event as a showcase for the project in partnership with the CEPD? Rooker said any ideas are welcomed, but people should remember it's an active construction site as well. Send any ideas to Rooker to bring to the CEPD board. We want to keep people away from the construction site. Early September preferred. Baugh asked if the scope of the project had been finally defined, or are there options with Blind Pass sand. Rooker said any Blind Pass sand goes to north Sanibel.

Captiva Fire District: Chief Rich Dickerson said the district had moved into its temporary quarters. He introduced Todd Sweet, who is the architect of the new building and said they hopefully would be breaking ground in October. Sweet noted the project was going through the rezoning process with the county, with a public hearing scheduled Aug. 14 before the Hearing Examiner. If successful, it then goes to a development order which will take a few months. He said the board was comfortable with the building size and how it fits into the community. They are now doing cost estimating with a builder on board (Lodge Construction). Mullins asked for a ballpark estimate. Sweet said it was over budget right now, looking to bring back into line. Estimate was \$1.98 million for building, plus demolition and site prep, so under \$3 million total. Discussion of design process, to reflect character of Captiva, within historical context of Captiva.

New building will offer modern amenities and technology that fits with Captiva. Access for visitors will be from Old Lodge Lane as required by the county, with dispatch and equipment access from Captiva Drive. Living quarters will be on top of the bays, administrative space is shrinking a little but will stay on the ground floor. Discussion of materials and appearance. Discussion of height limitations; Sweet noted they worked within the current restrictions without issue. Since they had to ask for deviations on other issues, they wanted to meet height limits otherwise. Bob Brace said the county was adamant not to allow what happened across the street.

Stuart led a discussion of the Old Lodge entrance location. Julia Davis asked how vehicle exhaust will be taken out of the building, and how they will control of noise to allow people to sleep. Dickerson said it is allowed to have sleeping space over the bays, and that an exhaust system was required by authorities. Sweet said there is isolation for temperature control and sound due to A/C for sleeping area. Doris Holzheimer asked whether it will be elevated as it is now. Sweet said the current site is higher, but not in a FEMA zone. Administrative area will be floodproof. Dickerson said the new building will serve Captiva for the next 50-60 years. Room to serve as a storm center for fire and sheriff personnel. Building will be able to withstand winds to 140 mph. Stilwell commended district personnel for their response to a choking at Keylime Bistro, said having CFD close by helps a lot. Dickerson said the two EMTs who responded will get an award for that. Cunningham noted that the district achieved Advanced Life Support certification a few years, which has really paid off a few instances when lives were saved.

LCSO: Deputy Mike Sawicki noted that the deputies were dealing with the July 4 holiday events, and a planned boat parade, as well as Galloway Captiva Tri permitting and preparations. Patrols have been hitting the Blind Pass area heavily at night, following up on issues there with both fishers and boaters in the pass. He then introduced Lt. Jeff Corkhill who oversees the island and is based on Boca Grande. He noted it was a rare thing to have a resident deputy serving its people, it was good to have a direct relationship with the LCSO. Discussion of issues followed. Mullins offered a welcome to Corkhill with the island's thanks for Sawicki's service. Brown asked about the Blind Pass issues. Sawicki said boaters were tying up to private docks, being abusive and doing some minor damage to docks. Residents that live nearby had complained about the littering and dock use. The local guides usually comport themselves better because they're recognized. LCSO plans to increase presence, do more boating safety checks and license checks, etc. to encourage them to watch the way they act. He said North Captiva was the same way... police presence makes things better later. Make this an area bad people want to avoid because of police presence. Corkhill suggested people get the FL registration number of any boat causing problems so we can call them later and follow up on their behavior. Discussion of issues and interactions, and the benefits of resident deputies and commitment to community.

Hurricane readiness: Holzheimer noted that TS Chantal was out there, we'll be looking at the cone as the week goes on. She said the committee met yesterday, used Chantal as an example to look at our operations, communications plan and preparedness. Keep an eye on its track as we get to the weekend. She reminded all to have a current authorization letter on file, a hurricane pass, the usual preparations. Corkhill urged people to police their property beforehand to reduce debris during any storm event – move your boats, lean up the yard, get buildings ready, etc. Cunningham noted that demolition had started at the CCA, but the office will still be open. Ann Bradley said the library was still open, will stay open as long as it's safe to do so. Mullins asked about the status of the new Doc Ford's site. Baugh said they were tackling the finishing touches and looking to open in August.

Planning: Planner Max Forgey opened a discussion of the Captiva Plan grant deliverables which were included in the board packet. Gooderham explained the proposed expenditures breakdown and focus areas, noting that while the county had yet to approve the grant there were work items the panel could start on over the summer to be prepared for the fall public workshops planned in the original proposal. Among those were data research, meeting with landscapers, various inventories and developing a community survey. Discussion of the survey ensued, focusing on how to proceed and a structure for getting a good response. After considerable discussion, the panel asked Gooderham and Forgey to develop a draft survey and outreach plan for discussion at the Aug. 13 panel meeting if possible, with the intent to have something in a final form for the September meeting so that it could be publicized in

September and October and sent out to the community in late October or early November to collect responses for review at the December panel meeting in advance of a public workshop either in December or January.

Communications: Stuart said it was great to see a good turnout for BoCC meeting. To support the community survey, she would pursue AMRC and Royal Shell for possible distribution databases.

Finances: The monthly report was included in the board packet, and Gooderham said he would analyze likely cash flow for its impact on the county grant.

Fund-raising: McCarthy said a good database is key for our efforts, the communications, surveys and fund-raising. Perry Thompson is working with Yacht Club, may see what he can do for the panel in an inexpensive trifold brochure. Possibly include an invitation for cruise to learn about the community and the panel. Key is having a good list to send to. We need to finalize materials in any brochure, and perhaps plan to do our mailing before a survey goes out, perhaps in October? That could improve response to the survey, they would know who it's coming from. Come up with content, keep it simple and hit the highlights. Cunningham suggested to keep any invitation separate from brochure so you can keep using the brochure as standalone. McCarthy said that would be his plan as well, looking at a possible cruise at the beginning of November, perhaps a Tuesday or Wednesday night. A committee has been formed, will bring a draft piece back to the panel for review. Discussion of need for communitywide support followed.

Other business: Stilwell offered comments on the franchise fee being proposed by the county which would be added to the LCEC bill, as one of the ways to make up the likely county budget shortfall for FY 2013-2014. Mullins said many would prefer a single tax rather than all these hidden taxes that start adding up unseen. A discussion of utility regulations, unincorporated MSTU taxes, etc., followed. Cunningham noted that the commissioners could say nay as well as yea to any such fee. Baugh said we have right to know how tax money is being spent. Cindy Brown asked whether advocacy should be part of our mission, to be an umbrella organization looking out for the interests of the island. Cunningham felt it was in the panel mission already, since you can't do planning without money. McCarthy said the panel could pronounce it more emphatically. Brown said the panel could be an advocate for Captiva in Lee County government in these ways.

Gooderham noted that the Galloway Captiva Tri was Sept. 14-15 this year, with the road to be closed 6:45-8:45 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15. They were also looking closely at the schedule for the beach project, since that could mean large pipes on the beach where the kids and adults will be swimming. They were making plans to address that, as was the resort.

Forgey noted there would be a sea level rise symposium in West Palm Beach on July 26, which he would be attending if anyone wanted to carpool. Mullins said he would like to invite a SLR expert here to discuss. Discussion of SLR efforts in CEPD. McCarthy said the new Captiva Holiday Village booklet was out, and to contact him if you needed copies.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. A brief meeting of the Bylaws Committee was held immediately afterwards.

-- Ken Gooderham, administrator