

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Aug. 9, 2011

Attending: Sandy Stilwell, Rick Hayduk, Rene Miville, Jim Boyle, Mike Mullins, Paul McCarthy

Audience: 8

The meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. After introductions, approval of the July 14 minutes (motion by Boyle, second Mullins) was unanimous.

CEPD update: Administrator Kathy Rooker reminded the audience the next district meeting was Wednesday, Aug. 10, at noon. The next project was to modify the current plan for the 2013 beach renourishment project to solicit the lowest practical bid. A modification will be sought to the approved pipeline corridor to allow a shorter distance to the beach for the pipes bringing in the sand. The district wants either more corridors to the beach or to do away with restrictions altogether to allow shortest distances to get sand on the beach; this will save money now and in the future. She noted that Captivans would see a survey boat offshore in the next few weeks, to collect data for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as to bottom conditions. There's not a lot of hard bottom and reef here, unlike the east coast, but we need data to prove that to authorities to give us more flexibility.

Rooker said that the CEPD would be making a presentation at the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce luncheon today, to remind those attending that beaches are their business...without beaches, island businesses suffer. Miville asked if there was anything new on Blind Pass. Rooker said the biological opinion was in, and they county planned to be ready to make decisions in October. She believed the county commissioners would likely involve all stakeholders. Mullins asked if there was any chance to coordinate with the Fort Myers Beach renourishment project, which is running behind schedule. Rooker said that equipment problems have delayed the Beach project, and could delay anything happening out here due to delays in timing.

Planning update: County planner Kathie Ebaugh announced that the building-height workshop was set for Wednesday, Aug. 17, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Captiva Island Yacht Club. The county will be holding an open discussion on the proposed height amendment; the format will be an informal discussion with staff with Bobby Stewart leading. No formal presentation, just open discussion. Hopefully to develop consensus on how to move forward. Had enough formal presentations at this point, time for an informal discussion. Hoping for a good turnout from all sides.

Mullins asked what the next steps were. Ebaugh said the county received a "no comment" letter from the Department of Community Affairs after reviewing the Captiva amendment, which staff expected. An adoption hearing before the county commission was likely in October, after budget hearings are completed in September. Mullins asked if there was some larger timeline it needs to fit in. Ebaugh said that, just like the transmittal hearing, all plan amendments will be heard as a group in one public hearing. The county has 180 days to schedule hearing, so we have a lot of latitude. Haven't even set an agenda yet. We had a couple of communities who were asked to do something during the transition, and we're working with them as well. None of them are complete yet.

Planner Max Forgey said he'd spent a lot of time studying the new Growth Management Act passed in the last legislative session. He has sent the panel an 11-page summary of the act, and panelists should call him if they have questions. Most notably, the old standards have changed, there is just one standard – impact on “an important state resource or facility.” The state is not telling us which of those resources are important. We will have to tell them what is important... the beaches, the waters of Charlotte Harbor, etc. Since everything that happens upstream impacts Captiva, we will have to base it on those terms when we object to things that are going on that affect the island. You should expect a glitch bill in the next session.

Mullins said if you want to determine what is important to government and politicians, look at where they put their money – not what they say. By looking at major shifts in budget, we can find out what the state thinks is important. The CEPD is having a hard time getting an answer from the county on how much money is in the beach trust fund, and he is very dismayed at funding prospects from the county. He urged Captivans to come to CEPD meetings, and to ask their county representative where is their commitment to beaches. A lot of money is going somewhere, but not to beaches. Forgey said that the Florida Forever program and other environmentally sensitive lands preservation efforts were a long-time commitment by the state, which ended abruptly in 2009. That's a great loss for the state, and a signal of what the current state values are.

Hurricane Committee: Ann Bradley said committee materials were in the back of the room, and offered a reminder about the website and the new Facebook site. She said there would be a Structural Safety Inspection drill tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the Community Center parking lot. She urged Captivans to have a personal hurricane plan ready, even if a storm strikes elsewhere.

Budget: Gooderham offered a brief update, noting that a request for reimbursement of the tree project funds had been submitted.

Water quality: Dave Jensen said that what we could do as individual property owners was the next focus of the water quality efforts. He has gotten together with Bob Walsh to see what could be done on our property. We will undertake

some of them, we will invite the community to come by to see the before and after... also a beautification effort as well. Hayduk said that could be a good public relations effort for the panel as well, a poster-child example of the private sector doing something for the betterment of the community. We need to reach out to the local media to expose them to this great example. Gooderham offered a brief Andy Rosse Lane update, that we had found the Lee DOT person who could help look at options for improving the quality of the water runoff from the French drain the culminated at the east end of the roadway, but they were concerned about some options to be sure they would not create flooding issues on adjacent properties. They would continue this discussion and see what options were possible and what benefits they might offer. Mullins raised the point about phosphorus filtering, offering an analogy with its impact on swimming pools and algae. He wondered why more people didn't know about this, that it was another reason for us to be extra careful about water management on our properties.

Fund-raising: No update.

Trees: Gooderham offered a brief update, that state officials would be inspecting the plantings on Aug. 12 as part of the final approval to trigger reimbursement. So far, they had been happy with the initial results once the rains started and resuscitated some of the smaller plants that had been suffering in the dry spell. Mullins said Pumfey Steffens had a large Canary Island palm on her property, and was willing to donate it to be relocated to another island property. If we have a public space could get people together to help it. Jensen asked if the post office could be an option. Mullins said they were looking at replacing a mahogany there that had been damaged in Hurricane Charley; it was not worth moving it. Stilwell asked about the church property as a site. Nathalie Pyle said no decisions on that could be made by the church until November. The palm is not native, so they're probably not interested.

Other business: Gooderham noted that the Galloway Captiva Triathlon had reached its capacity for adult racers, but that the Sept. 17 children's event was still open to those age 13 and under. He reminded the audience that the bike portion of the event would close Captiva Drive to regular traffic (but not emergency vehicles) 6:45-8:45 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

--Ken Gooderham, administrator