

Captiva Community Panel
MINUTES
Sept. 17, 2013

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

Audience: 9

The meeting convened at 9 a.m. with introductions and a roll call. Since the Aug. 13 minutes were not yet completed, they were not available for approval.

CFD update: Chief Rich Dickerson noted the Galloway Captiva Triathlon Sept. 14-15 went off well, with only three transports including one after the race. On the new station, the plans went before the county Hearing Examiner Aug. 14 with staff support. A site visit will be scheduled in late October, and the rezoning should go to the county commissioners by the end of November. We're currently 80%-85% done with plans, and hope to break ground in January.

CEPD update: Administrator Kathy Rooker reminds the audience people can get updates on the upcoming beach replenishment project at the mycepd.com website. A newsletter was sent last week, this week a project brochure is at the printer which includes map of estimated work areas and times. Surveys of beach structures will be finished at the end of this week Also setting up seismographs. The Hagerup access parking lot is closed until further notice, since the dredging company will be using it for mobilization. This Thursday if you're up early you will see ships bringing in pipes to be submerged from the shoreline to the borrow site, they will come onshore in an area near the Jensens Curve. The project is very much on schedule, with sand on the beach beginning Oct. 1 weather permitting. The dredgers will be off Captiva by the week of Thanksgiving. They will leave to do repairs, come back a week later to do the replenishment work on Sanibel. All work to be done by the end of the year. Due to a shortage of pipeline, they will use two dredges. The pipe will come in at Jensen Curve, and they will connect pipeline on the beach heading north to Redfish Pass, pumping as they go. When that's done, they will flip the elbow at the Jensens site and then pump to the south until they get to Blind Pass. Nathalie Pyle asked about the equipment with solar panels. Rooker said those were seismographs, which were put out where there are a lot of buildings to monitor any damage potential.

McCarthy noted he was seeing a lot of media coverage on beach renourishment. Brown asked about the status of project funding: Rooker responded that they had secured \$4.5 million in state money and \$6.1 million from Lee County (which could increase if costs rise), with the rest coming from owners on Captiva. The district was hoping for another share from FEMA, and was also looking at reserves. Brown asked how that compared to prior projects and what owners owed. Rooker it could be roughly \$9 million but we may get other funds. That was pretty close to the last project. Mullins disagreed, saying he felt people will be paying more than last time. Rooker said the CEPD borrowed \$8 million for the last project, and whittled the cost down by the end. A discussion of costs ensued. Brown asked whether property owners have been made aware of possible costs. Rooker said they were told a range when the bond was up for a vote; it now looks like we'll be in the middle of that range. It still depends on FEMA funds.

Cunningham asked about the Corps decision on pulling funding, whether it was fair to say the agency declined to fund due to lack of beach access? Rooker asked whether he meant parking or access to the

beach. Cunningham asked what their issues for not funding the project were. Rooker said the agency wanted new easements that would allow public access to the beach, plus there were parking issues. She said the district would hold its second budget hearing on Sept. 23 at 5:01 p.m., with a regular meeting at 3 p.m. the same day. She also noted the new budget was proposing no tax increases. Mullins clarified the Corps issues were access for project easements and for public access. State and federal officials ruled out viewing all of South Seas Island Resort as public access, while the county is being more flexible. He wondered whether a trolley could increase access. He said the county looked at buying property near the Village in the 1980s to increase access, but people did not want parking there. Strategically placed parking is important, and they need access to the beach itself. Discussion of Corps action. Mullins urged residents to go to the CEPD meeting and encourage the district to contribute; they have a lot of money in the coffers of CEPD. Discussion of timing for assessments. Ann Bradley asked whether the public would be charged for parking. Mullins said he did not know, they had held many meetings but still unsettled. Discussion of easements.

Hurricane Committee: Ann Bradley noted we were well into a quiet hurricane season, but there was a disturbance in the Caribbean forecasters were watching. She urged everyone to keep ready and watchful.

Planning: Planner Max Forgey said the county commissioners approved the contract for a Captiva Plan update at their Sept. 3 hearing, with a unanimous vote and no debate. He would prepare and send thank-you notes to all the commissioners.

Communications: No report.

Financials: Gooderham noted the handouts showed the current financial condition, and that he would be working on a 2014 budget for discussion in November if there were any expenses to be included. A discussion of the county grant and cash flow followed.

Fund-raising: McCarthy reminded all that the plan was to send a general mailer to all Captivans telling them what the panel does and to solicit grassroots contributions, to make this more of an annual appeal like other nonprofits undertake. His committee had developed a simple trifold brochure to tell people about us and to get them more involved, using some material from the committee some from Max/Julia/Ken. He handed out a mock-up for discussion. He said this would also include a get-together on the Lady Chadwick for the community. Discussion followed on how the brochure was put together, its approach and motivation. McCarthy said the brochure copy is open for revision, and the committee would solicit testimonials from a diverse island group. He asked if the group liked the concept and layout, and if there were any changes. Mullins suggested noting how much money the panel had raised through grants, that it operates in the “sunshine,” overall a good effort that probably just needed a little tweak here and there. Cunningham said he liked it, that less it more and don't talk about money and the county as much. McCarthy said the goal was to make a good first impression, make it readable and not ponderous. McClure asked when it would be sent out. McCarthy said in October or November, before Christmas. McClure suggested putting a deadline on any panel comments, since it was more important to get it out. Cunningham said it needed to make it easy for people to donate, perhaps use a prepaid envelope. Rohn suggested including a testimonial from someone from South Seas. McCarthy said to email thoughts on the brochure to paulmcarthy@att.net. Think about when it should go out, when to hold the meet-and-greet – perhaps the week before Thanksgiving? Boat cruise is also time for fund-raising. He had an FGCU fundraiser scheduled for Nov. 10, so panel cruise has to be after that -- perhaps Nov. 17-19.

Community surveys: Gooderham introduce the Draft 2 version in the board packet and agenda, and briefly talked about the reason for the survey being to solicit public input on the Captiva Plan update before public meetings started. This version tried to incorporate suggestions from the first draft discussion where possible, but he explained those areas where that was not done and why. Discussion over the changes proposed by the panel members followed, including the following:

- Change the landscaping language to be more about the visual appeal of Captiva Drive
- Recognize the post-Charley changes to the island that make the current language obsolete
- Reword that section to include more open-ended responses
- Correct error in historic preservation intro that there are no Captiva sites, as there are two.
- Should direction-oriented questions about other island issues such as underground power lines, sewer vs. septic, a bike path, dogs on the beach and uniform rental restrictions be included
- Include a text box for open-ended responses in the Village section
- Refining the intro to the parking section
- Eliminating some redundancies in the questions toward the end of the survey
- Using a scale to rate perceptions of the panel rather a “yes/no” response
- Add a “where do you own” column in the geographic locator question, since many people live in one area but own property in another as well
- How to handle owners of multiple properties and voter/owners in terms of survey responses and weighting

County planner Kathie Ebaugh suggested the survey questions were still too specific for the input purposes of the survey, that the solicitation needed to be on a broader scale to reflect general direction. More specific applications would arise as the panel and the public worked through the final issues, but such specificity should not be part of the initial surveying of the community to be effective. That approach was supported by the panel in general, and Gooderham said he would revise the survey and send out a Draft 3 by the end of that week in order for a final version to be approved at the Oct. 8 meeting. The plan then would be to send a postcard to the entire property owner and voter list directing them either to an online survey link or to request a paper survey by faxing a request for one. This should allow the survey to be conducted mid-October to mid-November, with results finalized for panel discussion at the Dec. 10 meeting so that public discussion could follow at the January meeting.

Water quality: No comments

Other business: Cunningham noted that Captiva Library hours would be cut back under the proposed county budget for FY 2013-14, due to a 5% reduction in the overall county budget. While it is now open five days a week, Tuesday-Saturday, the budget will reduce that to four days a week. Bradley said it was tentatively approved to close one day a week. Four libraries affected in this fashion, while others will reduce hours. Cunningham asked if the panel needed to act on this issue, to send emails to the commissioners before the final budget was approved. He had done some research that showed the island was not too far off paying for what we get back if you looked at library millage vs. the branch budget, without considering the overall library services we can access through this branch. He asked what the panel position might be, if they wanted to take one. Mullins said it was part of the larger general overpayment by island residents for county services. Stuart noted that South Seas employees and tourists rely on the library for computer access. Cunningham said the closing would result in no real savings, since the rent would still be paid, Bradley would still be working (just elsewhere), and the books and other materials were still there. So this is a symbolic effort. Discussion of how the decision

to cut services was made. McCarthy said this was a bad decision, since the library serves tourists and workers who need computer access, it's a self-sustaining entity, and Captivans pay a lot of taxes to Lee County. He suggested letters should go to library chief Sheldon Kaye first, since he can solve the problem without the commissioners. Cunningham said he would monitor the county deliberations on the budget and report back electronically to the panel if action was needed, and would draft a letter or talking points if an island response was warranted.

Mullins noted that Rene Miville had asked him to raise an issue, since he could not attend today's meeting. The recent count grant for \$50,000 represented a year's compensation for the panel consultants, and wondered whether that was a good return for the consultants' efforts and if they should be raising more funding for the panel to help cover their compensation. Mullins then noted his calculations were the grant would cover about 20 months of consultants' compensation, that both were working on retainers in the understanding that the flat compensation schedule meant they would donate some hours some months when things were busier to average out overall the long term. He also thanked county staff for helping to get the grants. Ebaugh noted that Community Planning had no budget next year, so this grant would not be available after the end of this fiscal year until funding was restored since all county department budgets were cut. Cunningham said people will ask what these dollars are going for. Gooderham said he would start developing a 2014 budget so you can see it next month. Mullins commented that the county plan to raid the 20/20 accounts to balance the budget is a bad precedent. Gooderham noted that those funds could have been used for purchase of the Cayo Costa state lands that will be put up for sale, and that the county also needed funds to maintain what 20/20 lands it buys. Mullins said officials were using 20/20 as a slush funds rather than making the tough decisions. McCarthy said this showed the goals of the county and state are not to protect the environment, just as we're trying to look at our island planning. People should send message to county and state officials that being smart environmentally is also smart economically. Mullins asked whether the budget solution had any conflicts with county planning language in place, and whether the panel should draft a letter to discuss at next month's meeting. He thanked McCarthy for organizing the America's Cup trip. Cunningham noted the plan had been to have a bylaws vote in October, so someone should resend the proposed language ASAP and schedule a 10-15 minute discussion in October. The committee needed to check if the panel has seen the final document, to either have a vote in October or send to full panel to start the clock on a vote. He suggested the Bylaws Committee should meet right before the Oct. 8 panel meeting, with the decision made to meet at 8:15 a.m. Oct. 8 to allow for time to revise and copy language should any final changes be necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

-- Ken Gooderham, administrator