

## Captiva Community Panel

# MINUTES

*Nov. 8, 2011*

**Attending:** Rick Hayduk, Paul McCarthy, Mike Mullins, Rene Miville, Susan Stuart, Jim Boyle, Mike Kelly

**Audience:** 8

The meeting convened at 9 a.m. Following introductions and a roll call, the minutes from the Oct. 11 meeting were unanimously approved (Mullins/Boyle).

**CEPD:** Mullins noted that administrator Kathy was unavailable as she was attending the Lee County Legislative Delegation meeting that morning, to make a request for state funding for the planned 2013 beach project on the island. At the Nov. 9 CEPD meeting, County Commissioner John Manning and County Administrator Karen Hawes would be present to discuss the current and proposed interlocal agreement, which would include discussion of the prior interlocal agreement and county funding for the upcoming beach project. He noted the county has agreed not to look at past funding, but to look forward at what was needed. The district was planning to request county funding totaling \$8 million for the next beach project. Mullins also said a Blind Pass meeting was planned in January.

**Captiva Vision:** Gooderham offered an introduction, stating that at the request of the panel from the last meeting he had sent a request to the email list for Captivans to submit their vision of the island in 2035. Max Forgey said he was considering scope of services to pursue a visioning process for the island, not a whole comprehensive plan review but to discuss revisions the community may want to pursue and to look at our aspirations for the island. The county was offering no guarantees for funding, but it was worth considering. Kelly said he looked at the Captiva Plan in conjunction with Lee County looking at its own plan. The state scored the county down on its ability to measure items it put forward in its own plan. This may make the county more willing to look at Captiva as a separate planning group, as it would allow us to develop more specific and measurable goals. This would entail islanders looking forward 25 years, to define issues and how you propose to address them. He encouraged people to become familiar with Captiva's current plan and think through what you think is important, things we need to strengthen and look at further in coming years. One example would be effort tied to protection of beaches and funding, where a good relationship with the county was important now and will probably become even more crucial in years to come. We need to get the community to look at issues on the 25-year scale.

Miville noted that the CEPD beach renourishment emergency response plan also crucial, it was based on a 25-year window and will expire in 2023. We need to make it a No. 1 priority to protect our beaches. Mullis noted that the CEPD had that in its agenda. He asked if Kelly would agree to continue to lead this effort for the next 25 years. Hayduk asked what the next step was. Kelly said the panel had used a planner the last time we reviewed the plan, so it made sense to do so again. We need to communicate with the community; few people are interested in the planning phase, but they are looking for leadership on this. He suggested a series of community meetings, to work to be able to communicate to owners and residents to get plan and information out to them for response. Send in observations and comments to initiate process. Forgey said the biggest thing that came up in the county's Evaluation Appraisal Report was concern over a more dense urban form to accommodate transit connections. For Captiva, everything is OK, not looking to become an urban form or area. We

have something great here, and it is clear Captivans want to keep Captiva being Captiva. A planner has to be the editor, not the expert...listen to what islanders are looking for and get the right message.

Kelly said there are distinct communities in the county, which will need to be incorporated in deliverables from the Lee Plan. How does Captiva fit into the county vision? A distinct piece... perhaps a coastal community? As a sub-class to be treated in a unique fashion? Forgey said there were two kinds of coastal communities in the county... Fort Myers Beach as an example of a high-impact busy resort, and the more residential low-impact communities such as Boca Grande, Captiva, Sanibel. Hayduk said it looked as though the next step was series of workshops to be conducted by Kelly on this future vision. Jack Cunningham asked about a deadline for input, noting that the panel needed to outline steps to be prepared for discussion. Gooderham asked the panel members to review the proposed Land Development Code review schedule and consider how it could fit with vision work. He said Forgey would need so prep a scope of work as an outline of what needs to happen for panel feedback in December, and to determine how to move forward to pursue county funding from there.

Mullins suggested the panel should educate both the county and the state, but this process would enable us to do it for us first, with a goal to keep Captiva Captiva. Getting people involved was more important than making a county deadline. Make sure this is something we all share, a sense that we know what we want to be. Kelly said a closer relationship with the county was a key piece of our future...staff, commissioners, groups, etc. Some individuals have that relationship, but we as a community don't. Miville said he worked hard at having that relationship, are you saying the panel needs to have a liaison? Mullins responded that the island needed continuity as staff and officials change. Forgey said the island would need some formal part in the land use process, a designated body. McCarthy said the idea of a conversation with the county and a conversation between Captivans, that sounds more exciting to me. Not a workshop, but we want to hear your opinion and your ideas to reinforce the community. More agreement than differences of opinion. Miville suggested making it more of a social event. Hayduk said it could operate at two altitudes: The vision process to 2035 and what do we see for Captiva? vs. how to translate that into the Lee Plan. He suggested the panel have Forgey present a scope of work at the December panel meeting, to incorporate both levels of discussion. The panel could then leave that meeting with a plan to move forward.

**Communications Committee:** Stuart said she suggested this committee be formed because the panel needed to find a way to get residents, owners and business people involved, and make them more knowledgeable. Many don't know the role of the panel and don't care what it is. The website is good but below the radar; there's no more Captiva-based newspaper; and other communications issues have arisen. She felt the panel needed an ad hoc communications committee to get together and identify new and creative ways to communicate out message to get Captiva involved. She suggested inviting Bridget Stone Budd., Maureen Tesoro, Pam Rambo, Rick Hayduk, Paul McCarthy and Cindy??? to be part of it. Miville confirmed this group would brainstorm and bring their ideas back to this group. Hayduk asked if this would promote panel activities or island activities, or both? Stuart said she felt it would need first to educate and get people involved. Kelly urged it to be a Captiva website, linked to every other website. John Jensen said the San-Cap Chamber should be a source. Sunset Captiva has a site, but nobody uses it. Hard to get people involved. Discussion followed, with the consensus to invite others to participate.

**Panel nominees:** Gooderham noted that he had contacted both the CCA and the CPOA last July about the seats coming up for appointment by the end of the year, with a suggested deadline of Nov. 1 to hear whether the groups planned to appoint so the panel could decide how to proceed. He had heard from the CPOA board that they would have names to submit, but had not heard anything concrete from the

CCA yet. Paul Garvey observed he had been unable to convene a board meeting to discuss the issue, but that one was planned later this month and that he should be able to relay the board's intentions after that. Discussion about the bylaws and other requirements followed.

**2012 panel budget:** Gooderham prefaced the discussion by noting this was a draft budget to generate feedback to help create a final one for a vote in December, and asked for input on planned expenses and whether anything was not reflected here that should be included. McCarthy asked whether the panel needed to hire a lobbyist to pursue island interests. If so, the panel could form a committee to draft a Request For Proposals and interview firms. He wondered whether Captiva groups could share a lobbyist. Hayduk said a panel member could do something to present at the December meeting. Discussion of what a lobbyist might be able to do followed. Boyle said it could be a way of taking the panel to a higher level. Gooderham noted that Captiva groups could have different agendas, which would need to be clarified if they shared a lobbyist. He noted that the discussion about pursuing county funding would bring in dollars with strings attached, which might not allow for them to be used to pay for a lobbyist -- meaning the panel would need to pursue its own fund-raising to be able to fund that function.

Hayduk said he was not hearing what the island was asking for. The only thing he heard so far was about beach renourishment; the island needs to create a vision of what it wants to develop a collective approach rather than approaching it as onesies and twoseys. Kelly asked what can we do legally, how can we get more money back. Mullins noted the island has asked for things, but not much. What does Captiva want, working together to get more for the island. Jack Cunningham said a more active panel would be working from a fractured position, which doesn't make sense. Be more united at the bottom to generate strength and visibility to have an impact. There were many historic animosities on both sides. Composition of the panel is an issue, no equal representation for the CCA. McCarthy applauded those comments, saying it was the first time he'd heard someone with that openness. Boyle observed that the CCA had not taken advantage of open seat opportunities beyond the two it could appoint, and said that at any time a majority of panel members were also CCA members. Mullins said the county exploits division on the island, which was clear at the building height hearing. If you want to see what a politician believes in, follow the money. Discussion followed.

**2012 meeting dates:** A proposed schedule of 2012 meeting dates was presented, following the second-Tuesday format; planned CEPD meeting dates were included, as there were a couple of months where the meetings were not on the same week. Gooderham noted he would have a conflict for the October meeting due to other commitments. It was suggested to look at perhaps shifting the August meeting date to align with the CEPD, and that this would be discussed further in December.

**Hurricane Committee:** Doris Holzheimer noted that Subtropical Storm Sean had formed this morning, as a reminder that hurricane season was not quite over. There was no other report.

**Budget:** The monthly update was presented, with no questions.

**Water quality:** John Jensen said they had put in rain gardens at Twin Palms, designed by Leigh with Bob Walsh's company. The island got a big rain right after it was done, and the system worked well to slow down runoff into the bay. He encouraged residents to stop by and see it. Mullins noted he had seen that a new county hotel organization had formed, and it targeted county water quality expenditures as a reason to organize. He hoped to get an update on that meeting, saying it might be time for beach communities to be more focused on lobbying the county to get a fair return on the bed tax they generate. Jensen said the recent red tide scare had an impact on rentals. Hayduk observed that we have

a chamber, are we running around our backhands instead of having the chamber do what we pay them to do?

**Fund-raising:** Hayduk said he would look at the 2012 budget formulation and see if we need to hold any events to generate revenue.

**Other business:** Forget noted he would be attending the Legislative Delegation hearing this afternoon for another client, and asked if there were any questions Captivans would like to see raised.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

*-- Ken Gooderham, administrator*