

Captiva Community Panel
MINUTES
Nov. 13, 2012

Attending: Jack Cunningham, Mike Kelly, Paul McCarthy, Jerry McClure, Mike Mullins, David Rohn, Susan Stuart

Audience: 10

The meeting convened at 9 a.m., chaired by Mullins. After a roll call and introductions, the Oct. 9 minutes were unanimous approved (McCarthy/McClure).

CEPD: Administrator Kathy Rooker said that the district's engineer, Coastal Planning & Engineering, gave a report at the last meeting on monitoring for seven years since the last project, which found that 54% of the sand from that project remains on the beach. However, it was clear that renourishment was needed to address storm losses in the past year, mostly due to TS Debbie. She said permitting was well under way for next beach project. The study showed the island's average shoreline change was 12.2 feet of beach gone, some accretion and some erosion depending on the area... for example, Debbie pushed sand to the Redfish Pass groin and took sand from areas such as Jensens Curve and Tween Waters. Rooker said the next CEPD board meeting would be Nov. 14 in the Wakefield Room at Tween Waters Inn, with the construction schedule for the next project among the items on the agenda. Rooker continued that news reports following Superstorm Sandy were showing that beach nourishment and dunes worked to minimize the impact of storm surge and help prevent upland damage.

Mullins asked when the next nourishment project was likely. Rooker said that the board will discuss that, but that the windows the district presented to dredgers during the bid discussion were a June 1 to Sept. 1 start, with all construction completed by Dec. 31. However, any federal emergency funding could change that timetable. Rohn asked whether the impact of sea level rise was included in the CPE report. Rooker said it was not in this study. Mullins noted the letter received from CEPD attorney Nancy Stroud on possible Sunshine Law issues with members who serve on both the panel and the CEPD, as well as the research summarized in a memo from Gooderham in mid-October. While Gooderham's research did not concur with Stroud's concerns, one of the alternatives offered in the memo if the panel felt there was reason to be worried about this would be to end the CEPD update at panel meetings. Mullins asked whether Rooker this would be acceptable to her if necessary. Rooker said that her presenting on CEPD issues was not the source of conflict, but if CEPD commissioners who were panel members engaged in a discussion about CEPD issues there could be an issue. She felt that the opportunity to continue these updates was useful to get message out to the community. It's not the same as attending the full board meeting. Sandy Stilwell asked whether the North Captiva beach was accreting, and if so will that continue to happen. Rooker said any accretion was just due to Debbie, a unique situation. Discussion followed.

Captiva Fire District: Chief Rich Dickerson and Commissioner Bob Brace were present. Dickerson noted that TS Debbie was the worst of the two storms the island experienced this season, and that district personnel worked with CEPD to protect Captiva Drive when waves and erosion threatened it. In his update, he noted that the district had switched shifts to 48 hours on /96 hours off from the previous 24/48 schedule, which personnel felt was working out very well and cut trips to the island in half. The Advanced Life Support effort has worked out well, about a year into it. Personnel were now able to use an iPad with the defibrillator, which means they can send reports to the hospital before the patients

actually arrive. Also, in the plans to replace the existing station the district has selected an architect through a Request For Proposals, with Sweet Sparkman winning the bid. They will be working with Lodge Construction to build it. Permitting is expected to take 6-9 months, and they hope to break ground by next summer. One issue is that the district has to rezone both lots from R-2 to a more appropriate zoning category. Dickerson encouraged Captivans to come by and look at what we're doing, and noted the district will be holding meetings once it gets into permitting. They will pursue a loan for construction due to the low rates right now; with a 20-year term to spread out payments. Mullins asked about the status of the EMS helicopter service. Dickerson said contrary to some assertions it was never shut down, EMS always had a standby backup and Aeromed is flying daily. He believed the county was discussing future plans for the service at today's commission meeting. Discussion followed.

Hurricane Committee: Doris Holzheimer noted it was the last month of hurricane season, which had seen two more named storms including the infamous Sandy. Dickerson noted that the new fire station will be a good command spot in a storm as it will be designed to current code and thus more likely to survive any storm impacts.

LDC: Planner Max Forgey introduced his draft letter on the new sign regulations which would be distributed to residents. He noted there were two main issues -- "Sold" signs are now prohibited, and there were new rules for residential ID signs. Mullins asked whether current ID signs would be grandfathered. Forgey said they were. Cunningham asked how the letter would be distributed. Forgey suggested via the panel website, island media, mail if you could piggy back on other mailings. Kim Herres asked when the rules were effective. Forgey said now. Rohn asked whether the rules reflected "dark skies" policies. Forgey said they did, balanced against the visibility needs of emergency responders. Herres asked how the rules would be enforced. Forgey said it would be done by complaint, through county code enforcement. Nathalie Pyle asked about the new rules for real estate signs. Forgey noted them, and said that would be added to the letter. Mullins asked whether the fire district preferred named properties or numbers on signs. Cunningham said they need numbers to locate properties properly. Diana Szambecki asked about new rules for banners, if this meant all the current ones would have to be thrown out. McCarthy said the new rules worked to accommodate existing sizes, and that the rule specified size, time up, removal, etc. Discussion followed. A motion to approve the letter with changes as discussed (Stuart/McClure) was unanimously approved.

Communications: Stuart said she had been working with island real estate agents to get them to link to the panel website, with great success. This includes a Captiva Island Yacht Club link as well. She noted that website traffic was up from last month. She attended the Sanibel program on white flies... no other landscapers except South Seas team was there. They were told the only way to kill them is to inject the tree or deep-soak the roots, but that a frost would also kill them off. Dr. Doug Bugg was the speaker, and she would get a website link posted on the panel site. The flies' residue also gets on pool furniture, doesn't kill trees but can kill understory of lower shrubs. She said landscapers were not people to call for treatment, as they don't have access to the right chemicals. Discussion of options.

Stuart introduced a draft letter to Lee County Commissioner John Manning letter on the Twins stadium deal and its potential impact on beach funding from the bed tax. She said the letter was drafted after a CPOA meeting to submit to the panel for consideration, as the board felt it would have more impact coming from the panel. Mullins noted that the CEPD economist (Dr. William Stronge) came up with the \$100 million economic impact cited in the letter. Cunningham asked whether this letter could harm the island. It's an issue for beaches to be sure, but will this hurt the island's relationship with Manning

and the county. Mullins offered a summary of how baseball rate of TDC revenues has changed with the Red Sox and Twins deals. Cunningham asked if this was good timing with CEPD requests for county funding. Should Captiva coordinate with other beach communities to have more impact. Mullins said the CEPD is not interested in taking a leading role in this due to the chair's opinion. Cunningham said this would have far less impact than if it was coordinated with other beach communities. Mullins said there's no loss if we send it now and send it again later if other communities are interested in signing on. We all need to fight harder. Kelly said with two new county commissioners, this was a good time to act.

McCarthy felt the tone was too strident, should be "we like baseball, just concerned about funding, needs to be more equitable. Why couldn't those who benefit the most pay the most for baseball?" Stilwell said why not consider using fees included in the price of the baseball tickets? She said now is a good time to send letters, with a new board and administration downtown. The islands should form a coalition to push for better funding. Mullins said he and others have tried to be positive for the last five years, to no avail. Manning has failed us miserably; he could have delayed the Twins vote until the new board was in place, but he didn't. Inland properties have organized, while beach properties have been asleep at the wheel. Cunningham suggested the panel invite commissioners out here, or ask for time to address them about these numbers to educate them. We should consider contacting other beach communities to see what actions they're contemplating, to work to a united position. Mullins suggested the panel consider inviting Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane) who also sits on the TDC) to discuss this issue at the December or January meeting. (McCarthy left the meeting at 10 a.m.)

Mullins said a beach community coalition was needed. He asked that the panel move to approve or ask to wait on this letter. Kelly said we needed to get on the record with this. He made a motion (Rohn second) to approve the letter with modifications. Stuart said we needed to confirm numbers. Rohn suggested the panel send the letter to the News-Press too. Cunningham asked if they should put in an estimate of Captiva-specific beach-funding needs or that of all beach communities. Mullins said the county pays most for other communities, so it's hard to put a figure on it. Discussion followed. The vote was called to unanimous approval.

Budget: Gooderham noted that a 2013 draft budget was included in the handouts, to solicit changes or clarify costs prior to putting to the panel for approval at the December meeting. Kelly said to direct input to him, and that obviously funding was an issue that the panel had discussed previously and would address again.

Priorities: After discussion on how to proceed at this point, Cunningham said this list of issues had been presented to the panel and public previously, and we were still looking for input. Mullins suggested the panel put this together in a press release, to target responses for the December meeting. We should ask other island organizations to publicize and send in ideas as well. Cunningham said he would check with the CCA on the deadline for the next newsletter. Mullins said he had heard from a few people and other issues they suggested were: Filth on bridge path, bikers on walk path (signage), Brazilian pepper eradication (landscaping and exotics), shoulder overgrown/debris, leash laws. Pyle said that information on leash laws was the best route for education, that the Lee County Sheriff's Office is the enforcement arm but it's difficult to act unless loose dogs are seen by deputies. Herres asked whether signs covering the existing leash laws would help and could we put some up. Mullins said dogs should not be on the public beach at all. Some violators are Sanibel residents who know they can't do that on Sanibel. Discussion followed. Cunningham said we needed to push to get individuals to come to the December meeting. Send something out to the media and the email list and solicit ideas.

Rohn suggested adding pedestrian safety, noting the area between South Seas and Andy Rosse and the issues of lighting and caution light. He also suggested creating a Captiva guidebook to explain in plain language how laws and ordinances affect them. Holzheimer suggested adding funding for beach communities as previously discussed, panel funding plus a beach coalition and advocacy.

Nominations: Denice Beggs made her committee's report, saying that Sandy Stilwell (nominated by CPOA) and Robert Baugh (as the panel nominee) were nominated by committee to replace Boyle's vacant seat and Hayduk's seat which was termed out at the end of 2012. Mullins noted that nominations would be voted on in December, and thanked the committee for its service.

Bylaws: Mullins said the subcommittee would be meeting after this panel meeting. Holzheimer and Herres agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Mullins ask if any other panel members wanted ot participate, and Stuart said she would after today, but could not stay because she had a conflicting appointment.

Other business: Gooderham presented a proposed 2013 meeting schedule for feedback. Mullins asked whether the September meeting could be moved to coordinate with the CEPD's first September budget hearing on Sept. 5th by moving the panel meeting to Sept. 3rd. He asked Gooderham to check that with the CEPD schedule after the next CEPD meeting on Nov. 14. Holzheimer noted that the Captiva Holiday Village would start the weekend after Thanksgiving, and a schedule of events was passed out. She encouraged people to attend. Mullins asked whether the panel wanted to do a cart for the decorated cart parade. The categories this year were commercial, noncommercial and best in show, since the nonprofit category had been dropped.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The Bylaws Subcommittee met immediately afterwards, and a report will be made at the December panel meeting. Attending were Mullins, Holzheimer, Herres, Forgey, Rohn, Cunningham, McClure and Gooderham.

— *Ken Gooderham, administrator*