

## Captiva Community Panel

# MINUTES

July 9, 2019

**Attending:** Mike Boris, Dave Jensen, Jay Brown, Mike Lanigan in person; David Mintz, Mike Mullins, Mike Kelly, Rene Miville on phone.

**Audience:** 15

Meeting convened 9 a.m. Introductions. *Boris:* Compliments to South Seas as always for their hospitality. The June 11, 2019, minutes were unanimously approved (Jensen/Brown).

**CFD:** *Chief Jeff Pawul:* Big audience for July. A lot of issues water related calls, boats or rafts from the beach. Lady caught in current at Blind Pass. Handout on rip current, what to do if you're caught in one. Rip currents vs. rip tides. Hurricanes, be prepared. Don't swim in Blind Pass, dangerous currents, posted but people ignore signs. Hurricane seminar last week. First storm out there now, good reminder. All Hazards Guide not out yet, bring to next panel meeting. Budget season, 6.62% value increase countywide, Captiva 1.21% Not seeing value increase like the rest of the county. Old passes are still good this year. *Lanigan:* Is hazard guide available digitally? *Pawul:* Not sure, will check.

**LCSO:** *Lt. Mike Sawicki:* Not a busy Fourth of July. A lot of people out, backup at parking. Brag on public safety people in area with water rescue June 28. Swimmer was swept out 450 yards, Sanibel Fire Dept., Captiva Fire District, Marine unit, got her revived after 15 minutes down. Pretty amazing, fantastic job by everyone involved. *Mullins:* Does Advance Life Support training play a role in saving lives like that? *Sawicki:* Yes, a lot of personnel and equipment came into play. *Pawul:* Without that you don't survive. *Sawicki:* She was a certified swim instructor, diver, lifeguard, not just splashing around, pulled out into the Gulf quickly, about 400 yards. *Mullins:* Incredible save. Both CFD and LCSO pointed out value of quick response to save lives, clear example of that. *Sawicki:* Also lesson for properties, access for ambulance of fire trucks. *Pawul:* Had to replace fire hydrant at Green Flash yesterday, if you see damages on a vehicle, let us know.

**CEPD:** *Carolyn Weaver:* Had meeting yesterday, discussed Andy Rosse beach access request for funding. Forwarded to legal counsel, she didn't feel it fell in purview of district. Working on tentative apportionment, properties hardest hit by increase. Reached out to Corps, to reevaluate real estate situation on island to reconsider funding for project, also supplemental funds to be considered. *Brown:* About beach access? Recap of history. *Weaver:* Define access for day trippers. Places for people to park to access beach. *Brown:* How many more spaces? *Lanigan:* Jackie Keiser with the Jacksonville District was shocked that Corps pulled out at the last minute. Less expensive project if Corps is not involved. Re-engage attempting to increase access could have a better outcome from last time. Also did not factor in Captive Drive as a hurricane evacuation route. Parking spot equals 52 feet of beach frontage. Be creative to find ways to increase public access. *Weaver:* Reached out to county to find out what's involved, look at options. *Lanigan:* Bike rack is also worth something. *Mintz:* Also issue of easements from properties on beach. Increase access means we need infrastructure for day trippers in place. Change definition of public access. Weekly trippers, tremendous access. Overwhelmed with weekly rentals. *Mullins:* Agree with all comments, learned that four bikes equals one parking space. More infrastructure at Hagerup Lot. Steve Keehn offered to do some research. Easements but also who puts sand along road, forensic accounting of

who paid for road protections. Discussion of access definition. Racks and signage an issue. Discussion of Captiva Drive inclusion. Paid parking also counts, if fee is reasonable. *Jensen*: Good news from Corps, have a program for post-storm recovery, will fund project if we get set up with them. Supplemental program.

**Iguanas:** *Jensen*: Sent out report, near end of program. Hatching time. Discussion. Once a week may not be enough to control problem. *MB*: Continue or go with no coverage? *Jensen*: Take a break, not determined we're making progress. *Mintz*: Not making inroads with removal 146? Alfredo agrees with that? What numbers do we need to remove to have an impact? *Jensen*: So many per mile, not certain what that number is. Do a little digging. *Mintz*: Clearly a county responsibility financially speaking, make a full-court effort to get them to pay. Looks like we have a serious problem. Long lapse will make a difference. Will Alfredo be available if we let him lapse for month? *Jensen*: Will ask him. *Brown*: Extend current program, establish in principle county will fund this. *Mintz*: Do we want to extend this for another month while we're working with county on funding? *Jensen*: A few properties with a big problem on the bayside, no one at home during summer. *Mimi Schwartzel*: Incentivize county to stop sale of exotic pets. If they have to pay for this, gives them a reason to control sales. *Sawicki*: Coming in with landscaping materials from east coast, brings in eggs and lizards. Restricting sales not a good approach. *George Kohlbrenner*: Could them be coming from Buck Key? Big breeding ground? *Jensen*: Not the case, originated here. *Amy*: More active in summer, may be better time to hunt them. *Boris*: Extend contract for another month? *Brown*: Keep him for another month, review at each meeting. Lanigan second. *Mullins*: State is urging iguanas be killed, a serious problem. Undermining seawalls, beach erosion. CEPD purview? *Jensen*: There may be days that aren't productive, focus on more active periods in contract. Unanimous.

**Blind Pass:** Explanation. *Boris*: Background on issue. *Lanigan*: Sanibel person at CEPD meeting, explained north end erosion control project, riprap to protect San-Cap Road, awaiting permits. Start Nov. 1 to secure roads.

**Andy Rosse Lane access:** *Mintz*: Background explained. Panel supported but did not fund. *Lanigan*: Include bike racks in plan. *Boris*: Room for racks if we remove news boxes. Could we pass the hat from neighbors and businesses? *Sandy Stilwell*: Approach homeowners? *Mintz*: \$4,000-\$5,000 installation, \$90 monthly maintenance. Ask county and TDC first.

**Code:** *Mintz*: Two responses from panel members, hope to get more by Aug. 1 deadline. Compile for one doc to review. How best to circulate to the community as well? Finalize code this upcoming season to bring to county for approval. *Brown*: November review? *Mintz*: Yes, have document before November for panel to review. *Mintz*: Recap of process. Panel approval, go to community, then send to county.

**Wastewater:** *Brown*: Background. TKW report recap. Tomasko research under way. Last piece of primary research completed, samples in rainy season for test for pathogens. Tested on June 26, not yet seen results. Review results and literature, quantify impact and threat to health. Summary of conclusions ready mid- to late August, review and revise to draft final report by early fall. Panel review and decide on recommendation, community review and discussion. *Jensen*: Second test to find rainy season, not much rain at that point. *Brown*: Need to ask him, maybe he can replicate results from first sample. May need to do another sample once rains have been falling.

**Development:** *Boris:* Nothing new, panel is totally self-funded.

**Communications:** *Mullins:* Nothing.

**Captiva Drive:** *Mintz:* Design begun, expecting cross sections. Panel will review, county will construct.

*Lanigan:* Funding from county? Approved? *Mintz:* County paid for survey, we pay for design & engineering, county has agreed to pay for construction.

**County taxation:** No report.

**Hurricane:** Look at website for information. Get on Sanibel distribution list. Get on AlertLee System.

*Jensen:* Top two things during storm: Restoring power, do we have relationship with LCEC? Pick up debris? meet with commissioners to plan for that? *Lanigan:* Response depends on damage and focus or storm. Need to work on county commission contact.

**Sea Level Rise:** *Brown:* Gathering info and learning facts. Working document on what committee has been working on. Phone conversation with Peter Cheng at the University of Florida who specializes in modelling. Proposal in committee will review. Ways to expand mangrove shoreline. Way to mitigate for storms and SLR impacts as well. Discussion. *Lanigan:* Kiawah Island report very well done. *Mullins:* Discussion with Cheng yesterday. People are trying to create Southwest Regional Compact, similar to one formed on East Coast. share costs and ideas. State also recognizing problem, we're on the leading edge but could get support there.

**Financials:** *Boris:* Finances are solid, review figures in packet.

**New business:** *Jensen:* Tree issue by fire dept. trimmed to make it safer. Community question: If tree is a hazard... *Sawicki:* Will call county to address problem. Need to take care of vegetation if it's on your property, or DOT needs to remove for public safety. *Pawul:* DOT has authority, responsibility of owner to maintain. Not landscapers. *Mullins:* If my tree is a problem, let me know so I can act on it. *Kohlbrener:* Vegetation pushing people off walkway into road. Saw family riding bikes on drive, swerved into traffic to avoid palms. Vegetation by curve getting bad again. *Ann Brady:* We ask them to trim it back, if there are issues let me know. *Sawicki:* Walk the island and you'll understand the problem first hand. *Kohlbrener:* Draft code changes to move veg back from right of way (ROW). *Mullins:* Lee County regulations about ROW. *Mintz:* Can add to code proposal, can draft language for panel to review. *Lanigan:* Owners would need to be informed, or DOT will come in and clear cut the ROW.

*Doug Babcock:* Status of golf cart zone expansion? *Sawicki:* If that's what the community wants. *Mintz:* We concluded as a panel not to do that at prior meeting. Concern about straightway after S curve dangerous for slower carts. Leave as is and not create more dangerous situation. *Lanigan:* I don't remember any community discussion. *Mintz:* We had input from Yolo and Jimi not to expand zone. *Babcock:* Marcel [Ventura] is in favor of extending zone. Would like panel to look at it further. *Mullins:* Don't recall that Marcel was there, someone representing him. Jimi [Batchelor] may have spoken on his behalf. *Lanigan:* Discussion of input. *Mintz:* Jimi against, Doug in favor, LCSO concerned about it. *Boris:* Panel did vote against it, thought it was done. Safety issue, speeds in straightaway. *Babcock:* Open it up for community discussion? Just 3/10 of a mile. *Stilwell:* People want to get to Tween Waters. Street legal carts allowed to go anywhere on island. *Sawicki:* Not in rule-making business, we're in the enforcement business. Does lead to frustration by other drivers. Up to community to decide if they want

that. Get DOT involved since they need to weigh in on issue. If community wants it, we will enforce it. Low speed vehicle vs. golf cart regulations, differences noted. Community should decide will it be a problem and make a decision on this. *Boris*: Thought it had a fair airing, we can revisit discussion again. *Doug*: Can I bring it back up in the future? *Mintz*: Even though speed limit in the Village is posted at 25 mph, real speed of vehicles is 10-15 mph, safer for carts there. At Tween Waters, real speed increases. *Lanigan*: Short distance, not much extra time to get to Tween Waters. *Babcock*: Half a mile roughly. *Boris*: Carts do alleviate parking issues since they take less space. *Sawicki*: Still have to park legally however. *Brown*: Prepare summary of panel discussion in the past. *Boris*: Support looking at it again. *Mintz*: Put it on the agenda for discussion as we approach November. Get feedback from companies who rent carts. Discuss with other changes in November, look at transcripts to be clear as to what we did in the past and why we did it.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

-- *Ken Gooderham*