

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Aug. 11, 2020

Attending: John Jensen, Rene Miville, Antje Baumgarten, David Mintz, Michael Lanigan, Tony Lapi, Jay Brown, Mike Mullins, Mike Boris, Ann Brady

Audience: 14

Meeting convened at 9 a.m. Following introductions, the July 14 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (Boris/Mullins).

COVID update: *Mintz:* Sent recent Covid stats to panel. Deaths have stabilized, higher than before but stabilized. Of Lee County's 151 ICU beds, 53% open right now.

LCSO: *Mintz:* Bird scooters and turtle nest vandalism. *Lt. Mike Sawicki:* Open investigation, can only say so much. End of July someone in golf cart rode out on to beach by Gold Coast, struck several nests. Looking at golf carts based on tire racks left behind, found a match the other day. Turned over to Fish & Wildlife Commission to continue investigation and make comparisons. *Brown:* Associated with rental house? *Sawicki:* Yes. Brings up broader issue about operation of vehicles on the beach. Just recently, two trucks pulled out on beach, one caught fire. One camper shell was abandoned. A lot of golf carts, etc., Met with code enforcement, look at usage on these. Groups who claim that have permissions to drive on beach, look at permissions and possibly rein in that activity. Encourages other people to operate on the beach if they see one out there. *Brown:* Happen before? *Sawicki:* Not really, may be tied to expansion to golf cart zone. *Lapi:* Summer thing? *Sawicki:* Hard to tell right now. *Lanigan:* Other vehicles that went on beach? *Sawicki:* Not golf carts, Ram pickup trucks. People see other vehicles out on beach, people think it's OK to drive their cart there as well. *Lapi:* Using Tween Waters Inn access to enter beach? *Sawicki:* Some of them did, explained. *Lapi:* Could put up some signage if that would help. *Mullins:* Explained how SSIR blocked access at Sunset Beach, post in the middle of the path. *Baumgarten:* Keep golf cart committee in the loop. *Mullins:* Still having problem with carts outside the zone being abandoned. *Sawicki:* Reduced to a more manageable amount. *Mintz:* Fireworks? *Sawicki:* Allowed on designated holidays: July 4th, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Fireworks ordinance not enforceable during those three days. *Mintz:* Described issue, should we work to ban fireworks on those days? Bird scooters? *Sawicki:* Two definitions under Florida Statutes. Motor scooter with seat, vs. motorized scooter without seat or saddle. Cannot be titled or operated on streets or sidewalks without county ordinance. If allowed on sidewalks, they have to be restricted to 15 mph. Should not be on the road anyway. Discussion. *Sawicki:* Unless operated recklessly, have to be prioritized with our other duties. *Boris:* What about motorized bikes? *Sawicki:* E-bikes allowed, but they have to have pedals. *Miville:* Clarify fireworks rules? *Mintz:* Sanibel always illegal, Captiva used to be until Gov. DeSantis allowed on holidays. *Sawicki:* New captain, Tim Lawler, will be out on island today or tomorrow. Will be taking him around to drop in on you if you're around.

CEPD: *Mullins:* Joe Wagenti and Kimmy Foldes were terminated yesterday without cause. Search committee formed to find replacements.

Iguanas: *Mintz:* Email I sent over weekend plus spreadsheet in packet. Let panel tell county to proceed as planned. Background. Explained spreadsheet and changes in Year 2 and Year 6. Need approval by 50% plus 1 of 1158 properties, put together plan to pursue 600 signatures from October to April. Plan in place beginning of October, approve to move forward. *Brown:* Absurd we have to do this to capture iguanas.

Baumgarten: Agreed. *Brown:* All we pay in taxes and they won't pay for this? *Miville:* Who is county decision maker? *Mintz:* Tim Gard to Pete Winton, to county manager. We went to Manning to pursue, were told the only way to do this is via MSTU. They don't want to create that precedent. We owe it to community to get this done. Gives us some practice on how to do this. *Mullins:* Parallel path to negotiate with county to put money aside for things the panel directs are important to community. Lehigh example. Spending a lot of time and money chasing small dollars here. *Mintz:* Talk about at another time. Keep moving this forward but keep looking at other options. *Brown:* Other potential projects we should add to this, fund for a variety of projects. *Mintz:* Look at choices but can't attach it to this at this point. *Baumgarten:* Every panel member need to be willing to ask people for their signatures. *Mintz:* Agree, and anticipate we'd work from a list of property owners to share with panel members and friends. Identify the likely signers, hire someone to chase them down, then ask panel members to pursue people they know. *Baumgarten:* Do a straw poll to wastewater list, check to see if they are willing to sign or not. *Mullins:* A lot of work. *Mintz:* Anyone on the island would support this if they'd seen the iguanas. Good cover letter with good explanation, don't need to ask them twice. *Brown:* Had to get 40-50 people to allow soils samples to be taken on their properties... 20 hours of work to get 40 people to agree. Massive amount of man hours. *Mullins:* Ask people to write to county commissioners to ask for funding for this effort. *Jensen:* Put together a good package of information, start handing it out over the next few months. Something they could sign? *Mintz:* Can have a pile of them on your counter. Sanibel just eliminated their trapping due to budget. Discussion. *Brown:* Alternative at this point? *Mintz:* Level of concern among panel that this is something we should not have to do, but we have an obligation to bring it to community to see if they will sign. *Miville:* Move forward to send out petition.

Bylaws: *Mintz:* Background of issue. If someone is appointed to fill a vacant seat in mid-term, how do we handle how many years they can serve? Consensus at last meeting was if they are appointed before the term is half-over, they should get one more term; if after the halfway point, they should get two terms on top of that. Drafted proposed language to amend the bylaws (read). *Miville:* Vote on it now. *Mintz:* Explained process, has to be voted on two meetings or 60 days after it's introduced. *Mullins:* Motion to proceed with amendment procedure (Brown), unanimous.

Code: *Mintz:* Explained background and county staff review and response. Disappointed but not surprised. Staff prefers to use existing regulations, don't make changes requested for Captiva. Knee-jerk reaction of county staff – one size fits all, don't need special regs for Captiva. Happened with plan, and we negotiated with the county to get agreement on most items. Have to see how dug in the staff is, see if they read our backup materials, then go to commissioners if necessary on crucial points or items that staff doesn't feel empowered to act upon. Will set up meeting with staff to present rationale for changes, report back to panel on progress. Discussion. Want them to see how committed we are on this. Continue to proceed and see where they are. *Mullins:* If we were incorporated, we would have a lot more autonomy and respect with the county. *Baumgarten:* Vey valuable idea. Make sure to survey audience to see if they have any comments.

Wastewater: *Brown:* "An underground guide to sewers" – who sent me this book? Anyone know? Getting two engineering proposals, one from Kimley Horn and one from Consor Engineering. KH will show every aspect of every elements of system, provide detailed cost estimates, evaluate financing options, pro and con of new technology, cost between \$60,000 and \$90,000. Other is evaluation of whether a Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) program would work for Captiva, cost for study estimated at \$25,000. Will have proposals for next meeting. Reached out to county Utilities Director Pam Keyes to see if county would pick up tab for studies. Have set up meeting to discuss on Aug. 19. If county is willing to fund, that will give us the necessary information property owners will need for decision on

central sewer for properties outside SSIR. Discussion about changes in county leadership with upcoming primary. *Jensen*: Talked to Pat Day, engineer for Sunset Captiva, said STEP system is the way to go. Don't have to tear up as much road, still have tanks with a pump in it, he said that's what you want to do. *Brown*: Makes sense, more cost-effective. Relatively new technology, no long-term experience with issues. *Lapi*: What would be cost for a property like us? Still operating a sewer plant, does cost per unit go down significantly compared to other system? Costs need to go down significantly, too early to know right now.

SLR: *Mintz*: Intro. *Laird*: Confusion. Not prepared to give overview of grant. Quick summary. Did proposal with Sanibel for \$225,000 to do a complete vulnerability assessment of both islands using Cheryl Hapke's company, Modeling of entire island system, rather than separate islands. Funneling through SCCF, Principal Investigators are Ryan Orgera and Cheryl Hapke. Grant request went to National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), won't hear back until November. Vulnerability assessment and integrated plan on how to handle issues. *Hapke*: Also includes fiscal impacts of coastal hazards, putting a value on risk. Look at tradeoffs to action, cost-benefit analysis. *Laird*: Wildlife and human life. Number of letter of support we got, U.S. Rep. Rooney, etc. *Mintz*: Explain scope and impacts, open the door for future work. *Laird*: NFWF has a lot of funding from BP oil spill, if they want to fund this part, then may fund the larger work later on. May make future funding easier to pursue. *Mintz*: Big picture... SLR means groundwater rise which affects separation with septics, Jay is working on a project so we don't have to worry about septics and separation. A general comprehensive plan to protect the island for the next 100 years. *Mullins*: STEP takes away concerns about drainfields being underwater. *Miville*: Before we started beach renourishment in 1988, much lower at the water's edge. Renourishment has raised Gulf-front property, you may need to look at that on the bay side. You know what you need but you need to back it up with research. Discussion. *Hapke*: Water level sensor grant explained, offers real-time water levels to local officials. Grant request being done by Dr. Nicole Elko and ASBPA, grant includes Captiva. Innovative technology, real-time water levels.

Golf cart safety: *Mintz*: Signage issue presented last meeting, volunteered to talk to DOT on this, in process of doing that. *Baumgarten*: Ask about sign for no golf carts on the beach.

MSTU: *Mintz*: Request to waive notary requirement will go to county commission in the next few weeks. We will need a plan by next meeting. *Jensen*: Talked to Marco Island, spends \$20,000 a year for iguana control; 300 properties on list, Alfredo also works that. Gets more on Captiva because he can shoot them here.

Development: *Mintz*: Got four more checks, \$800. *Boris*: Will rely on reserves to cover the rest of the year. Projection for rest of this year plus expected costs in 2021.

Taxation: *Mullins*: TRIM notices come out in September, will have final tallies on island tax base after that.

Video: *Baumgarten*: Wait to reach out to Yacht Club to see if they can hold any social events. Limited for now. *Brown*: Topics of interest to membership of this clubs.

Future issues: *Mintz*: Eliminated some, started work on others. Hurricane communication issue, reach out to Chief Jeff Pawul again. Joint effort with county and Sanibel to create a clearinghouse. Reach out to Pawul to see how he see the firehouse fitting in to that process pre- vs. post-hurricane. *Baumgarten*: Put future funding of the panel on agenda for future issues? Look at alternatives if county is not willing to fund studies.

Budget: Gooderham explained latest update. *Laird:* SLR Committee plans community engagement in November. Hybrid event, but will still have costs. *Mintz:* Send letter to make special contribution due to fund-raising constraints. *Baumgarten:* Have an alternative event on the beach? Allows social distancing. *Lapi:* See how people react by Thanksgiving, hold off and see what we can plan to do. *Baumgarten:* Cruise or alternative even on beach? *Lapi:* Beach thing is good, look at mid-January. *Miville:* Go easy on spending, see where we are in January. *Brady:* Think about another structure for donations... monthly or annual at certain level? Steadier source you can count on. *Mullins:* Why not try it? Give them that option every time we send them a letter. *Mintz:* Work with Brady on options. *Gooderham:* Look at PayPal for ease to donate; we already have one donor who contributes monthly. *Miville:* Virtual events. *Mullins:* Amazon purchase program. *Mintz:* Agenda item for next meeting, categorize ideas and prioritize. *Brady:* Also drives people to website. *Mintz:* Do you feel our current website is user-friendly? *Mullins:* Not much social media presence? *Brady:* Not live, a lot of static information. Needs a news page, panel updates. *Baumgarten:* Our target audience prefers in-person engagement, refer to website for information only. *Brady:* Can do both. *Mintz:* Captivans all over social media. Even a Captiva website. *Mullins:* Riegert used it effectively for beach cleanup. *Baumgarten:* Ask him to give us his ideas at next meeting. *Mintz:* Has songwriters event been cancelled? *Lapi:* Yes, Tween Waters is doing a small event but the main event is off. *Mintz:* Wrap up for next meeting. *Brown:* Can panel members discuss fund-raising without violating sunshine? *Mintz:* *Mullins:* Can do that.

New business: None. What is happening with the Island Store? *Mintz:* Working on internal construction, hoping to open in the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

-- **Ken Gooderham**