

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

June 8, 2021

Attending: Jay Brown, Mike Mullins, Linda Laird, John Jensen, Rene Miville, Tony Lapi, Ann Brady, Bob Walter

Audience: 15

Meeting convened at 9 a.m. Following introductions, the Minutes from the May 11, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved (Laird/Jensen).

Captiva Fire District: *Chief Jeff Pawul:* Landing zone update: Met with Public Safety Administration on need for zone. We have flown four patients out in last month and a half. Need is there for the island. County has not committed to help us. Reach out to county leadership to express support for one out here. County responsible for copter and transport. *Brown:* Will it require prodding from panel to get cooperation? *Pawul:* Can't hurt, from panel or residents. Don't know if they understand how much an issue this is for island, no one had reached out to express need to officials. BoCC ultimate decision makers. *Miville:* Optimum place for landing zone on island? *Pawul:* Mid-island best. *Miville:* Is landing on the north end an encumbrance? *Pawul:* Transport issues going north instead of south if we had to then transport by ground because flight was impossible. *Miville:* Thinking post office. *Pawul:* Anything central to island is good, Village to TW, used a lot there last week but that's not a permanent solution. *Miville:* On the beach? *Pawul:* Pilot explored sites and gave us input on what they would need. Landscaping issues, level surface, all had certain things wrong with them. Consulting firm to look at sites and report to county on site issues. There were sections of beach we did consider with consultant. *Miville:* After renourishment, lots more beach to work with, owners would be willing to work with you. *Brown:* Get with you in next week or so to understand this, to start using panel resources to help you. *Pawul:* Verizon update: Representative committed to present at next panel meeting in July, present their case for small cells to island. Sites between north tower and Wulfert. Google Verizon small cell tower to see what they look like. *Brown:* Are we sure current tower is working? *Pawul:* Was told it was adjusted for optimal service, but I did not see any improvement. Exploring other carriers for public safety reasons. Local service improved in station only. Exploring First Net for our services. *Brown:* Verizon in July proposing small cells. *Pawul:* Correct. *Brown:* Who pays? *Pawul:* Did not discuss that much, imagine it's them paying for cell service, or paying you if the cell is on your property. Did not get into money discussion with them. Never got coverage on why we saw a change in coverage, damage to tower fixed and we should have good coverage. *Brown:* Is this only with Verizon. *Miville:* AT&T issues at same time. *Pawul:* Tried ATT and T-Mobile, no better. *Sawicki:* Our guys were switched to AT&T, working better. Been trying for more than a year, just had them switch. Better coverage end to end on island. Room for improvement with any service but they're worse than they used to be.

LCSO: *Lt. Mike Sawicki:* Busy Memorial Day weekend. Couple of arrests, rescues on Cayo Costa and North Captiva. Not busy on island, but busy throughout patrol area.

CEPD: *Jennifer Nelson:* Great meeting yesterday, a lot of information. Board set June 28 for apportionment meeting, sending out plan and project info starting today. Tentative model chosen, storm and recreational benefits included. Work with APTIM to set storm protection benefit. For recreational, district had hired an economist, William Stronge, who determines model. Three types – commercial non-homestead and homesteaded properties. Homesteaded are get most benefit, 42% discount on recreational benefit, tentatively. Need plan to secure bond loan, referendum set cap on project of \$18 million. Sending

details out today, timeline on meetings and apportionment. *Brown:* Homesteaded properties paying 40% less? *Nelson:* Yes, commercial and non-homesteaded sites use beach the most, due to renters and visitors. Updated timeline from dredger, interested in starting Aug. 5 and ending by Sept. 24. Mobilization last two weeks in July, we're working on a map to show planned progress and dates to start. Storms could slow progress. Plan to communicate construction status and timeline to community. Budget: Directed to look 0.4494 millage rate, same rate currently based on increase in property values. District has no strategic plan to direct increase or decrease of millage. Keep at same rate, go through strategic planning process, make adjustments based on what district will plan to do in next five years. Last week of July we plan to hold a town hall meeting, virtual and in person, to meet with construction manager. *Brown:* What's the status of cost share determination? *Nelson:* Tied to access points and recreational benefits. Surveys done in 2018, when island was feeling blue-green algae and red tide impacts. Looking to adjust percentage, updating numbers to see if we can adjust. *Lapi:* How will staging affect Hagerup Park? *Nelson:* Looking at plan, starting at south end, will be able to clarify soon. *Miville:* Red tide in 2018 could have skewed numbers, we could see a savings of \$1 million if things work out. *Brown:* Can panel send out message from district? From audience: Why was an ad valorem approach for the recreational not used? *Nelson:* More expensive option. *Laird:* How more expensive? *Munt:* Tied to benefits to each property received. June 28 meeting opportunity to discuss this more exhaustively. *Miville:* New to ad valorem, hybrid model adds \$2-3 million in fees to average property vs. commercial property. Discussion. *Nelson:* Debate better served at CEPD meeting rather than panel meeting. *Jensen:* How was nesting season handled? *Nelson:* Reached out to Ryan and Kelly at SCCF, educated me about nesting season. That's why we set an August start date, it's 65-70 days after start of season. Lots of nests on island, increased 20% in one week. *Ryan Orgera:* Lots of staff moving nests during season. Also looking at success rate for hatchlings. *Laird:* First study looking at impact of nourishment? *Orgera:* Yes, hope it to be definitive hatchling rate success. *Laird:* What are assumptions now? *Orgera:* Kelly best one to explain. Does this have a positive effect on turtles? Adds more beach for nesting.

Lake Okechobee: *Mintz:* Introduction, letter from Ruane to USACE. Explanation of options addressed in letter. Ruane meeting with Corps to discuss options. *Orgera:* Ten year process to update lake management schedule. Struggle between east coast, west coast, interior ag lands. Estuary ecology critical to habitat, residents. Issues of representation and influence of sugar money. Desire by some to pit east and west coasts, was successful to a point/ Coalition proposed a modified CC plan, proposed by us and Captains for Clean Water. Upset political paradigm of east vs. west and brought east and west together. End goal is to send enough water south instead of estuaries. Promise to do so now is a red herring as there is not a way to do so now. Adjusting modeling for CC plan to include environmental demand for water in Everglades, to increase dry season flows above current plan. Eliminate regulatory releases to St Lucie, eliminate harmful releases to Caloosahatchee while maintaining dry season releases. Measure all flows at Franklin Lock, rather than at Lake O, more accurate sense of flow to Caloosahatchee. Important reduction in rate of release as well. Limit releases with cyanobacteria levels exceed FDA minimums. Corps is releasing data sets tomorrow, so all parties will have same information to ground-truth models and proposals. June 17 meeting on LOSOM, public comments period planned, last opportunity to voice concerns before USACE presents final alternative in July. Rep. Donalds stuck out neck for west coast water interests. Need to remember to thank people for their actions. Call the DC office (202-225-2536) for Donalds, thank him for standing up for west coast interests. *Brown:* Put summary to panel members to update. *Orgera:* Comments can trickle in over next few weeks. *Mintz:* Also take note of what Commission Chair Kevin Ruane did, the seriousness of his letter. Read quotes on impact of 2018 releases. Thanks and acknowledge the work Chairman Ruane did, speaks to his commitment to clean water. *Orgera:* Mayor Smith's letter also worth noting.

Code: *Mintz:* Introduction. Changes in LDC Chapter 33, staff wants to regulate development, not conduct. Has not always been consistent on that in the past. Did not want to add new provision on conduct in the code. We have confirmed the Authority of CEPD to put signs on dunes asking people not to walk on them. Went through the handout to explain various changes made by staff and show language now being cited as part of Captiva code provisions. Only issue that was not negotiated satisfactorily was the plastic straw ban, which faced some political pushback. We will continue to work on that through other methods if possible. LCD amendments go for Land Development Code Advisory Committee and Executive Regulatory Oversight Committee review next, then to the Local Planning Agency for review and finally to the BoCC for two public hearings and adoption. Ordinance issues go to negotiations with staff next. *Brown:* Timetable for approval? *Mintz:* Unless issues arise during county's summer hiatus, hope to get through committees this summer, with approval in the fall. *Brown:* Perfunctory review by committees? *Mintz:* Committees take them seriously, but unless something is deemed inappropriate they should approve since staff supports the language. If they make an adjustment, I will bring those back to the panel for discussion.

Totem sign: Deferred.

Wastewater: *Brown:* Kimley Horn proceeding aggressively. No issues with hooking package plants to main sewer line, see replacing processing plants with small lift station. Their nutrient reduction analysis closely parallels SCCF analysis. Same results, that septics contribute to nutrient loading in coastal waters. Contrary to Tomasko report. Said groundwater moves in small plumes or streams, not a large pond that flows to coastal waters. That means samples are not always indicative of groundwater nutrient levels. *Laird:* Did they estimate how much nutrient would be removed by sewer? *Brown:* Same if we controlled stormwater runoff. Discussion. *Laird:* How much of a reduction? *Brown:* Don't know how to do that, they can quantify models to assess nutrient contribution but hard to measure reduction in models. Other contributing sources factor in to that. Discussion. *Brown:* Kimley Horn will present basic concept for wastewater plan, main and connecting lines, conceptual overview as to what kind of system they recommend, offer overview at next panel meeting. Not detailed engineering, but basic approach.

Sea Level Rise: *Laird:* Contract with Integral under way, signed and in process. SECOORA grant for tidal sensing monitors, Sanibel and Captiva involved, Sunset Captiva agreed to put on their dock. Sanibel installing theirs on police dock. NFWF proposal for adaption and vulnerability analysis for both islands. Sanibel leading with SCCF, passed first review and full proposal due end of month. *Brown:* Need letter from panel? *Laird:* If so, will ask. *Brown:* Received email from Ann Brady, panel sent one last time. Motion to send letter of support on NFWF grant (LL/JJ), unanimous. Draft and I'll sign. *Laird:* Speaker Tom Ankerson from University of Florida, leads environmental group, plus Christine Angelini with the Center for Coastal Solutions. Strategic plan combining engineering and planning, needs more discussion by committee before we make a recommendation. *Brown:* Examples? *Laird:* Talked about them, Punta Gorda stormwater management, Hernando County artificial reefs. Worked with SCCF. Worth following up, not sure on action at this point. *Mintz:* PG and Yankeetown had adaptation plans, Cedar Key plan. May be some value for panel to create a comprehensive plan for Captiva, to include CEPD, wastewater, stormwater, resiliency plan, how to put in one comprehensive plan. Easier to get grants, get immediate approval of permits if it complies with plan. Meet with Ankerson to understand scope of plan and how it could help. *Brown:* Sustainability efforts? *Mintz:* All of that, integrated in one plan. Plan for island as a whole for funding and permitting people to understand. Sustainability planning. *Laird:* Overlay district because of plan. Stormwater: Discussion, begin to have speakers next month, DOT responsibilities and actions, Eric Milbrandt @SCCF on the geological formation of Captiva. Will present in the next two months.

Golf cart: *Mintz:* Proposed ordinance from committee, have discussed before but not clear if panel approved. Changes to include open containers and signage on carts. Section F already in place from rental agents. *Brown:* Supported by rental agents? *Mintz:* It's what they do now. *Brown:* How difficult for non-rental agents to comply. *Mintz:* Just ID cart as described. Will make sure stickers are available to anyone. *Jensen:* What kind of fine? *Mintz:* Described in existing ordinance. Motion to approve proposed language changes (Jensen/Laird), unanimous approval.

Iguanas: *Brown:* Background. *Jensen:* Next steps: Alfredo still coming every Tuesday. County will cover to Oct. 1. Alfredo will contact county about extending payments due to his absences for 6-8 weeks due to injury. For comparison: Marco Island is 24 square miles, Alfredo visits once a week, is allowed to shoot iguanas, their budget is \$25,000 per year with 450 homes signed up to allow him access. Sanibel is 17.5 square miles, his partner visits once a week, annual budget is \$40,000 and increasing to \$70,000. Captiva is 2 square miles, he visits once a week, gun ok except on South Seas. If we're just trying to control iguanas, do we need him every week instead of every two weeks. If so, charge would \$550 per visit, or \$14,300 annually. Options are: Go back to county for funding, take private donations, or have homeowners deal with him directly. Most properties he'd like to handle is around 30 for billing monthly. Would be \$500 per property per year. *Mintz:* Will not solve an islandwide issue. Some sentiment at county level that did not exist before the election, that small MSTU was not appropriate. Worthwhile to figure out how to get \$25,000 from county or TDC again. Have Alfredo go as long as possible. Tell county we did our best but unit failed and we need county to fund it. *Brown:* Does this need attention at the Ruane level? *Mintz:* In the end, it will land on his desk. *Brown:* Worry about losing credibility with him. *Mintz:* With change in leadership, maybe staff will look at different approaches to support this. *Brown:* Panel should not be in the business of funding Alfredo. *Jensen:* Look at funding from larger properties such as South Seas HOAs, Tween Waters Inn, Sunset Captiva? Discussion. Audience suggestion to look at cutting Alfredo back when iguanas are less prevalent, increasing his visits when nests or movement is higher.

Communications: No report.

Captiva Drive: *Mintz:* Three properties still need to sign up. *Lapi:* County cut mahoe back by fire station, makes walkway more accessible. *Sawicki:* Problem for a long time.

Blind Pass: *Mintz:* Safety issue approach, greater recognition than in the past. Discussion at county level as to what extent there is a safety issue and if closing one side would help.

Future issues: *Mintz:* Naples passed ban on gas leaf blowers, will get copy of ordinance.

Financial: *Gooderham:* \$190,000 cash on hand, does not include \$5,000 from SCCF for adaptation study that arrived yesterday, plus \$100,000 county check is probably waiting at the post office. Have paid first Kimley Horn bill for \$10,000. *Brown:* How much cash do we have for ongoing operations? *Gooderham:* \$24,346 is committed to adaptation study, \$60,000 in long-term donations we can access in future years. May have one more bill from Johnson on Captiva Drive work once easements are in place. So at least \$100,000 on hand. Plus staying with Zoom meetings over the summer will continue to keep costs low, so should be Ok for remainder of year when we can look at in-person events and meetings again.

Website: *Gooderham:* New website is up and being tweaked. Due to time it took to prep new site, old site expired and we had to launch new version on the fly. Look it over, tell us what you think and if you see errors send me an email to forward to TJ. Committee reviewed last week, sent him a list of changes, many of which have been made. Have a few more things we need to provide to him to finish some of the dropdown items.

In-person meetings: *Brown:* When are we looking at returning to in-person meetings? Seems to make sense to wait until fall when people are coming back, and stick with Zoom over the summer. Would like to see if we could do a hybrid meeting to allow people to attend via Zoom. *Gooderham:* Have been discussing options with PSAV and looking at another client we work with who is putting on an in-person conference in early fall. They hope to offer some hybrid sessions, want to see what technology they come up with as options. We also need to discuss level of interaction for audience. *Brown:* Have people on screens? *Gooderham:* Having that set up so both the panel members and the audience can see it could be difficult, especially in the Cone Rooms with their low ceilings. Plus need to have the bandwidth available to have meaningful interaction... we see that when people are on Zoom now and unable to hold video if their wifi is spotty. As we learned from the conference phone attendance, technology determines how well you can participate. *Lapi:* Have attended other hybrid events, expensive and still prone to glitches. Don't let it get too technical or costly. *Gooderham:* We'll see what options we can find and discuss in a future meeting. *Laird:* People will want to maintain online access, so expect the technology to continue to improve for that. *Brown:* Stay on Zoom over the summer, look at resuming in-person meetings perhaps in November. Next meeting is July 13, will have presentations from Kimley Horn and Verizon.

Development: *Brady:* No new donations, restart fund-raising in the fall. Look at providing benefits to high-level donors as well.

The meeting adjourn (Lapi/Jensen) at 11:30 a.m.

-- *Ken Gooderham*