

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Jan. 11, 2022

Attending: Jay Brown, Michael Lanigan, David Mintz, John Jensen, Bruce McDonald, Ken Gill, Linda Laird, Bob Walter, Tony Lapi, Ann Brady

Audience: 21

Meeting convened 9:00 am. After introductions, the election of 2022 panel officers was held:

- **President:** Jay Brown (Mintz/Walter), unanimous.
- **Vice president:** David Mintz (Brown/Jensen), unanimous.
- **Secretary:** Michael Lanigan (Mintz/Brown), unanimous.
- **Treasurer:** Tony Lapi (Mintz/Brown), unanimous.

LCSO: *Lt. Mike Sawicki:* Hoping to return today if doctor concurs. Leffin doing a fantastic job. Looking for another deputy housing unit. Current unit going up for sale, would like to be on Captiva if feasible. Keep an eye out for options. Have 60 days to find something. *Brown:* Caretaker cottage enough? *Sawicki:* Has a family, needs three bedrooms if possible. *Jensen:* Sanibel or Captiva? *Sawicki:* Like west end of Sanibel or Captiva, but beggars can't be choosers. *Mintz:* Heard LCSO shot a coyote on Captiva? *Sawicki:* Have not heard that, will find out. *Leffin:* Did not shoot one, but one was spotted on the island.

CFD: *Brown:* Background and introduction of Lee County Public Safety Director Benajmin Abes, Chief Jeff Pawul. Background on helipad. *Abes:* Three deliverables from December meeting. Background on EM system countywide, how calls are handled. EMS, transport, etc. Have to take countywide perspective. Trauma center moving to Gulf Coast from Lee Memorial. Looking at budget to establish needs, have positions but need funding. One ambulance for 24 hours requires six people. Two sites identified, Estero and Cape Coral, competing demands for the resources. Will bring options to BoCC to review as part of budget process. *Brown:* Best person? *Abes:* District commissioner. Power interruption. *Lanigan:* What variables are considered? *Abes:* Many considerations, remote location is one of them. *Brown:* Records on failure to respond in time for Captiva? *Abes:* Not sure what we determine is a failure, just 2% of calls on Captiva need life-threatening response. *Lanigan:* Why can't CFD purchase its own ambulance? Where does your confidence in CFD end? *Abes:* BoCC decision. Consolidated system for past 50+ years. *Jeff Brown:* District set aside funds for lease or purchase of ambulance on Captiva, for limited medical transport. Would you support that effort? Community would purchase ambulance, county would have to support CFD getting permission from state. *Abes:* Would need to see documentation to support application to determine. Discussion. *Jeff Brown:* Provide us info we need to apply? *Abes:* If not exempted by Florida Statute, will provide. BoCC would have to offer limited transport COPCN. Helipad, two on the island, comfortable landing on beaches as well. Not an imminent threat. Met with Mosquito Control, currently not being used, looking if we can bring it back to operable conditions. Have contract with SSIR for another property, could secure a long-term landing zone. Discussion. Working with Mosquito Control and FGUA on both sites. *Lanigan:* Can we invite Mosquito Control commissioner to panel meeting to discuss? *Abes:* Not necessary, they helped speed it up. *Brown:* Meet with Browns at office? *Abes:* Involved Brady as well. *Pawul:* Evaluating residential properties on island for access issues. Finished, landscaping, gates. How to fix so we can respond to medical emergencies, will be sending out letters.

CEPD: Jennifer Nelson: Two new commissioner, Linda Laird and Al Schuele appointed. Dune plantings, some concern about them, signs out and will order more today to place on dunes. Place by Friday. Will go out for bid on ropes and bollards again, hopefully done quickly. Supply chain issues with old vendor. *Brown:* Pleased to see Laird appointed, most knowledgeable on SLR matters. *Mintz:* Emails about piles of garbage on Andy Rosse access? *Nelson:* Staffing plan, two lot attendants planned. Discussion. Using dumpsters at Jensens, not permanent solution. Ordered small dumpster to Hagerup Park, put trash from both. Commissioners did not like that idea, going back to Bob Johnson but he needs a dumpster. Using Jensens' dumpsters until we get new dumpster. People dumping household trash receptacle is not that large. *Childers:* Responsible for those photos, disaster from Jan. 1. Noticed no household garbage. Policing area and picking up trash. *Brown:* Projected time for apportionment bills? *Nelson:* By September, possibly. Historically when it's done. Won't need to pay until 2023. Beach celebration at Tween Waters, working on video. Small reception as well. Planned for April 28 potentially, start at 4 pm.

Bayside Adaptation study: *Brown:* Introduction and background. Recommended pilot programs. *Laird:* Worked closely with us, understands Captiva well. Based on different locations, unique characteristics. Effective, costs, sustainability, consistency with Captiva Plan. Pleased with sustainability. Raise shoreline, put protective elements in the water. *Hapke:* Presentation. *Brown:* Community is way ahead of the curve on this issue with all this research. Designs try to protect from SLR and maintain natural systems in the process. May get some pushback on impact on views from bayside. *Hapke:* View is why you live there. Ways to enhance views with mangrove windows. *McDonald:* Most vulnerable area is not on Captiva, but at Castaways. *Laird:* Did what she was asked to do, have turned in requests for adaptation planning on both islands. *Hapke:* Scope of work ready to go, have tried to submit wherever possible. *Mintz:* Sanibel has been part of committee work throughout. *McDonald:* More immediate problem short term with storms. *Lapi:* Roads has been raised several times, culverts to relief overwash. Working on raising cottages on Gulf side so water will go under rather than through. *Mintz:* Have Hapke present to CEPD? *Laird:* Working on that.

Mobile food vendors: *Mintz:* Background on state action on regulating mobile vendors, and county action to establish new rules for vendors. Looked at other regulations throughout state, provided to panel last meeting. BoCC agreed to postpone hearing to Jan. 18. Restaurant Association convinced county to amend proposed rules. County not likely to support Captiva conditions be applied to the entire county, suggest one paragraph to be added to regulations applicable to Captiva only. Read text. Send to Commissioner Kevin Ruane to ask how to best protect Captiva. *Sandy Stilwell:* Requested them to send any changes county has made, to avoid redundancy. Surprising how much in alignment we all were, even with food truck reps. *Walter:* Farmers market OK? *Mintz:* Yes, it a permitted event. Also includes food truck sites. *Sandy:* Adamant about trucks moving every day. *Mintz:* Read motion... *McDonald:* Effectively banning them? *Mintz:* Could be on any commercial property more than 100 feet of residential property. Discussion. *McDonald:* What about Joeys boat? *Mintz:* Only one on Captiva, permitted by county, would be grandfathered in. Don't know answer about pulling up at Mucky Duck. Motion to approve motion as presented (Brown/McDonald), unanimous approval.

Break

Captiva Drive sidewalk: *Brown:* Introduction. *Gill:* Major concern for residents and guests on danger of walking or biking on Captiva Drive. Might be appropriate to integrate work with sewer project as it moves forward. Pick it up from Andy Rosse to Blind Pass. *Brown:* Sewer may not make it easier to do bike path. Main line will not require trenching, but will use horizontal drilling to install main. *Mintz:* First issue would be deciding what to do – sidewalk, bike lane, shared-use path. What works in Village is

harder on Tween Waters or Gold Coast. Discussion. Finding area for path is difficult if you have to comply with county & state rules. *Gooderham*: Safety shoulder project was done in conjunction with planned repaving, smart to discuss schedule with Lee DOT to see if that's feasible. Right of way issues... south of the Village have up to 50 feet except in S curves, tapers down to 40 feet closer to Blind Pass. *Mintz*: Prior efforts had engagement with community. *Gooderham*: Can expand roadway on both sides as well, there were strong opinions from community in the past so engaging them will be critical to success. *Lapi*: Shoulder on both sides is less intrusive than all on one side. *Brown*: Get meeting with Lee DOT's Randy Cerchie to get basic idea, then bring back to panel for discussion and community survey. *Laird*: Some of the safest biking I do right now is on Captiva, sand is a bigger issue than space on the road. *Lapi*: Also the vegetation. *Laird*: And trash can problem. *Mintz*: Extending roadway a few feet would make a huge difference in safety. *Brown*: Summary. *Lanigan*: Will this be easier than the sidewalk process in Village? *Mintz*: Right of way should make it easier. *Laird*: What can we do about sand? More dangerous for road cyclists.

Utilities: *McDonald*: Introduction. More an issue in some places than others. Discussion. *Gooderham*: We have some old data and designs from earlier effort. One problem last time was county required the taxing unit to be islandwide and South Seas owners did not see why they should have to pay since their lines were already underground. *Lapi*: Have to pay for engineering up front, it's deducted from cost of project if it moves forward. Discussion. *Brown*: Contact LCEC and look at old design and data. Make it more limited and look at avoiding unit to keep costs under control.

Concerned Residents: *Lee Childers*: Background on issues with renters and response from community. Saw how much island had changed, decided to come up with guidelines for renters on Captiva. Overwhelmed with response to letter. Owners who rent their properties don't want disruptive renters at their properties. Met with rental agents, all very supportive. We like renters, almost everyone here started as a renter. Pandemic hit typical long-term renters, which opened door for short-term renters, people who had not rented on Captiva before. Looking for a different kind of vacation than this island offers. Will develop guidelines to enjoy Captiva, no new regulations or enforcement but better education of people who stay here. Also creating 60-90 second video to offer to rental companies and property owners. *Jon Rosen*: Not just renters, but made aware of regulations they did not know about. *Richard Sonking*: Make people aware to integrate community. Email concernedresidentsofcaptiva@gmail.com to get video. Once ready, panel can send to its email list. *Rosen*: Agents support video, easy for renters to see than read rules. *Walter*: Include beach etiquette? *Rosen*: Yes. ???: What about open containers? *Mintz*: Illegal, take up with restaurants who are providing those. *Lapi*: Seasonal renters and Covid both have impact.

Budget: *Gooderham*: No changes from last month, funding where we know it's needed and will have to adjust as new things arise.

Wastewater: *Brown*: Design complete. Cost estimates mostly complete. Waiting on City of Sanibel for two consultant studies, 3-4 months away from that. That pushes MSTBU effort into next year likely. *Mintz*: Support from Sanibel and county making this possible. *Brown*: Sea change in opinion from county, strong support from Sanibel leadership as well.

SLR: *Laird*: Stormwater management, getting two proposals for Village system. Invite to others who'd like to participate on committee.

Dec. 14, 2021, minutes: Motion to approve as submitted (Laird/Walter), unanimous approval.

Code: *Mintz:* in place, work on getting provisions out to businesses. Village beachfront is noticeably cleaner. Ordinances: I'm working with Commissioner Ruane and staff to review and plan to move forward. Will include funding for iguanas.

Captiva Drive: *Mintz:* Two holdouts for easements. Walter working with one of them, dealing with questions, hoping for agreement shortly. May need to re-evaluate construction timing with potential sewer project.

Manatee zone: *Mintz:* County working on ordinance.

Development: *Brady:* Note contributions from letter listed in packet, solid support from community. Both new members as well as continuing support. Look at planning an event as year progresses.

Verizon: *Brown:* Contacted by rep, working on service improvement plan. Will present to panel once approved. *Mintz:* Verizon service has gotten worse.

Iguanas: *Mintz:* County wants interlocal agreement with Sanibel for service one day a week. Sanibel is spending \$40,000 a year on trapping, green iguana problem on Sanibel getting worse.

February meeting: *Laird:* Too soon to say, hoping it gets better. *Brown:* Will review for each meeting, but plan on Zoom only for February.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. (Laird/Walter).

-- *Ken Gooderham*