

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Feb. 8, 2022

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

Audience: 17

The meeting convened at 9 a.m. Brown read a note from CPOA President Rene Miville explaining that Mike Kelly has opted to resign, and the CPOA board named Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist to replace him. Following a roll call, the Jan. 10 minutes were unanimously approved (Laird/Lanigan).

LCSO: *Lt. Mike Sawicki:* Solid work by deputies out here. Review of resident deputy program, a tailored level of service to island communities. Housing an issue, enables this responsiveness. Nick leaving because we could not find housing for his family, have found something, still preliminary. Help us find long-term solution if you find the resident deputy program beneficial. *Brown:* Cost assistance with housing? *Sawicki:* Explanation. *Brown:* Pay full market rent in budget? *Sawicki:* Below market rate, have found owners willing to work with us. For a two-bedroom duplex they wanted \$8,500/month. Housing types restrict the people we can recruit for the position. *Laird:* Current sites? *Sawicki:* Two on Captiva, two on Sanibel. We have a high closure in crimes, as good as anywhere. *Mintz:* Chris Lusk lives at CCA house. CCA negotiates with LCSO for dwelling. Benefits of long-term rental even with lower rent receipts. *Sawicki:* Also consistent, will be paid rent every month regardless of season and disasters. *Brown:* Property values high particularly now. People who can rent will go for vacation rentals due to higher income. *Sawicki:* Turned over every stone at this point. Occupancy still pending at this point. *Lapi:* Can rent on Sanibel? House on Rabbit Road, would county consider purchase/ *Jensen:* Max rent? *Sawicki:* County approval, outside of my control. *Brown:* How can panel help? *Sawicki:* Don't know, community minded group, service is an issue to community. Keep eyes on potential housing. *Brown:* Sole message blast to list. *Nelson:* Can put on our social media pages as well. Work with Nelson and Sawicki on message for all lists.

CFD: *Chief Jeff Pawul:* *Brown:* Helicopter landing and ambulance. *Pawul:* Busier season, tourists not paying attention to fire trucks... bikes, pedestrians and golf carts as well. Pull over regardless of direction you're heading. Landing zones, discussed last two meetings. More space on beach right now, not efficient when the beach is busy, not ideal. County still working with Mosquito Control on South Seas. *Brown:* Background. *Pawul:* Best option right now, Mosquito Control had access but not used on a number of years. Still using vacant lot in Osprey Bay. Next closest is off Bowman beach on Sanibel. That morphed into current transport service on island, by Lee EMS. Still being reviewed by county. Most efficient is to purchase an ambulance, needs permission from county. Already trained, already running those calls today. *Brown:* Outside their normal procedures. *Mintz:* Had discussions with CFD on needs. Full emergency transport requirements a couple of issues, CFD looking at purchase ambulance then ask county for limited emergency transport. Transport to closest helicopter site or to transfer to EMS vehicle on Sanibel. Reasonable approach, low cost to county, serves Captiva. Not heard back from EMS Chief Abes yet. *Pawul:* Driveway access still an issue, will be reaching out to properties with problems. ????: Calls? *Pawul:* 620 last year. Prior year just over 400. *Mintz:* Can't transport in a fire truck. *Pawul:* Only on boats to get to land. Not just our call volume, county as a whole is an issue due to demand. Strain on entire EMS system. *Brown:* One ambulance on Sanibel is insufficient to service island due to remote location, a no-brainer to fund ambulance. *Pawul:* Budget item, budgeted this year.

CEPD: *Jennifer Nelson:* Congratulations to Linda Laird and Bob Walter, who were appointed to the CEPD board at yesterday's meeting. Used outdated SOP last month, attorney did not catch that, not complied with Sunshine. Also approved Munt salary adjustment and title change. Apportionment, have to get all costs for project, reconcile grants, update property values, then hold final workshop, probably around September. SLR handoff: workshop on Feb. 17 for CEPD. Carrie Schumann also presenting. Work in tandem, not reinvent the wheel. Draft from Aptim proposal by late spring. [Broken audio throughout.] *Brown:* Recap to account for audio problems. *Jensen:* Posts for dunes? *Nelson:* Waiting for second change order from contractor, next two weeks. Lobbyist working on legislation to enable districts such as ours to receive state funding from grants.

Mobile food: *Mintz:* Finished process. Requested continuation to January BoCC meeting, to amend proposed ordinance. County accepted seven changes to ordinance from Captiva and Restaurant Association. No freestanding tables. Language on setbacks and locations approved. Use more restrictive LDC for food trucks, ours vs. countywide code. Residential homes in commercial areas, county agreed cant setup within 50 feet of dwelling even if zoned commercial. Undeveloped property includes beaches forward of the CCCL. Setbacks from businesses, another business can't waive that requirement. Only 4-5 places on Captiva where trucks could set up now. ????: Status of Joeys? *Mintz:* Good question, spoke with county about that. So long as permitted prior to new ordinance, probably no enforcement. If not permitted, may be an issue.

Bike shoulders: *Gill:* Idea is to increase shoulders to enable more room for pedestrians and cyclists. Safety issue, could road be widened? Not using all of the available right-of-way possible in many locations. Meet with county to make available space clearer, or Johnson Engineering if county can't show that. Then contact Randy Cerchie at Lee DOT to provide info for the panel. Request at next maintenance paving extend to more of ROW. *Brown:* Tremendous improvement. *Mintz:* Not room for separated path like Sanibel, just more room on the shoulder. Purchase easements if necessary to create contiguous shoulder on both sides. Discussion. *McDonald:* When is next paving scheduled? *Laird:* Impact on sewer project? *Gooderham:* IWA pipes will need to be factored in as well.

Undergrounding: *McDonald:* Looked at this in mid-2000s, got a rough idea of costs at that time. Had call with Tricia Dorn with LCEC, identified issues that would have to be tackled. Easements... LCEC won't put equipment in ROW due to relocation costs. They don't know how many easements LCEC has right now. Found some easements from 1974, would not surprise LCEC if they don't have complete easement picture. Poles leased to other people, Comcast and CenturyLink, have to get all on board. Substantial amount of aboveground equipment still needed. Some houses have already buried lines, many have not, who pays to do that? Discussion. *McDonald:* Gathering information, set up meetings with other utilities. More details on easements. Does burying impact reliability? LCEC is neutral, more aesthetics than reliability. Next steps, define scope of project to get rough cost estimates. They require a 5% nonrefundable charge to move to detailed engineering study. *Brown:* Could apply to all Captiva outside SSIT or just certain portions. Could revert to just some of those areas, depending on difficulty. Not all or nothing. BM Survey to assess community's appetite by segments. *Lanigan:* Aesthetics or reliability? *McDonald:* Explanation, trees and storms, some areas will be slower to get back online. *Lapi:* Problem not with transformer, but power coming from Sanibel. *Mintz:* Village needs more information. Transformers on poles, hit by trees. Lines in back yards, could be massive undertaking. Discussion. Old project, scope of unit, how assessments would be handled.

Verizon: *Brown:* Hoping for update on plans to improve service, not responsive. *Mintz:* Lack of response unacceptable, frustrating and bordering on dangerous. Verizon developing plan to improve service, has to be finalized by engineers then approved internally. Then go to regulators for approval. Then permitted as

necessary. Guess it would take a year, which is unacceptable, we need some interim fix. Infrastructure of other cell providers different from Verizon, network infrastructure, fix specific to their network. Promised he would look into interim fix. Never heard back from him. *Brown*: Looking at mini-towers along Captiva Drive, fire station yacht club, Gold Coast, to boost signal from main towers. Discussion. *Mintz*: Issue a statement of concern to explain frustration and danger to residents. See if we can light a fire under Verizon. *Walter*: Has Verizon explained to us what changed, gone downhill last three years. *Mintz*: No. *Gill*: Other community did the same thing, had impact? *Mintz*: Yes, outside Naples. *Laird*: Why not just change carriers? *Mintz*: Service work in other areas, can impact seasonable residents. Cost to switch service. *Walter*: Verizon does not care. *Lapi*: Agreed. Discussion. *Brown*: Any objections to pursuing publicity? None heard.

Break

Wastewater: *Brown*: Cliff Traff passing noted. Kimley-Horn completed design work for collection system, cost estimates on Captiva. Held up by Sanibel studies to determine costs to receive our wastewater. County funded, study under way, three months to completion to get total cost estimate. No way to pursue unit this season. Spent time on apportionment methodologies, various ways to allocate costs. Committee formed, Jon Rosen and Carroll Wetzel, Brown, McDonald, Mintz. A few meetings, looking at options such as ad valorem or wastewater generated. Discuss at next meeting if possible. *Mintz*: We requested funding, secured by Commissioner Kevin Ruane. *Brown*: Fortunate to have him in place, listens to our needs and acts to implement them.

SLR: *Laird*: CEPD meeting Feb. 17, community meeting Feb. 18 at CCA. FDEP grant, requested to submit more detail, Grant looks at both islands, brings Sanibel up to speed with what Captiva has been doing. Include storminess in vulnerability assessment. FDEP study is precondition for grant to fund building. \$90 million of requests for a \$20 million budget. CEPD will work on this in Tallahassee next week, most have gone so far for non-barrier islands. Good coordination with Sanibel, sewer project helped build relationship. Working on transition to CEPD. Stormwater: Got Kimley-Horn proposal for \$180,000 complete study for Village. Hope to do one for less by smaller scope of work, look for synergies with sewer project. Then figure out how to get it funded, hopefully through Lee County. *Brown*: Lot of work to do to understand how to manage stormwater flows. Since we're digging up streets for sewers, can we do anything in conjunction with stormwater management? *Laird*: And build on existing infrastructure. Only one outflow at McCarthy's Marina. Could we get another outflow permitted? *Stilwell*: Discussion with county, I brought up flooding. If I offered an easement to outflow to back bay, would they be interested? Yes, but need to work with neighbors, worth considering. What about Sunset Captiva? Willing to talk about it and do some studies. *Laird*: Join committee. *Brown*: Go forward on your solution anyway. *Stilwell*: Just don't want to confuse issues. *Brown*: Opens up possibilities for us. Get more out of them than we think we can get.

Code: *Mintz*: Setting up meeting with county manager and attorney to figure out process to move ordinances forward. Will also discuss interlocal agreement on iguanas.

Development: *Brady*: Note donations, 80 donors, 15% new donors. Gooderham explained status of cash vs. projected expenses, roughly twice as much on hand as we expect to need this year. Some of that cash is restricted by donor direction, so not available for general expenses. Some unknowns in spending – wastewater, stormwater and sea level rise. More action there could increase expenses. Also need to decide how we pay for Sanibel studies the county funded through us – direct to the vendor or through the city? *Brady*: Can we add a projected expenses column to the monthly financial statement? *Gooderham*: Sure. Also need to look at overall capacity. A lot of projects pending, some will take more panel time than

others, some will take volunteers, some will need consultants to be hired. Should discuss priorities to ensure panel has the resources it needs and is allocating them appropriately. *Mintz*: Have vision and plan already. Develop a comprehensive program based on vision and implementation, goals and timelines and priorities, show community the big picture and how we get there. *Brown*: Plan does not provide enough specificity. Discussion. *Mintz*: Put pieces together to develop priorities, timelines and budgets. *Brown*: Need community input as well, it's been a while. Discussion. *Brown*: Develop half hour to define projects we might want to work on over next five years. Discussion of deputy housing move of house to Village 20 years ago. *Brown*: Come to next meeting with ideas of what Captiva needs to do over the next five years. Generated by panel work. *Laird*: Might need to prioritize. *Brady*: Panel projects vs. what the community wants. Ask them through the email list.

Captiva Drive: *Mintz*: Heard anything from property owner? *Walter*: No desire to work county, but desire to get end goal in place. Pictures of what sidewalk will look like on completion. *Mintz*: Won't really exist on his property, in front of parking lot.

Future issues: *Mintz*: Elimination of gas leaf blowers... does someone on panel want to take this on? Other communities doing this, some landscapers willing to move, need someone to herd these kittens. At a tipping point now, need someone to organize that process. *Jensen*: Happy to help out. Will take it on. *Laird*: Farmers market moved? *Walter*: Moved across street to our property, lot of activity in the lot in the future. *Mintz*: Any timetable for demolition of employee housing and impact on road? *Walter*: Several months away, don't have final details yet. *Brown*: South Seas update at each panel meeting? *Walter*: Once we have something to give to you. *Brown*: Not on agenda, but update panel and community as things arise.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

-- *Ken Gooderham*