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# Legal defense fund established

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## **Donate to help protect Captiva**

The Captiva Civic Association (CCA), in collaboration with members of the Captiva Community Panel, the Council of Homeowners Associations at South Seas and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), has retained the law firm of Holland & Knight and established a legal fund to protect Captiva's existing height and density regulations. CCA's Land Use Committee, comprised of members of the four organizations, will collectively oversee the legal work.

To support this legal work, All of these groups are asking the community to contribute to this important legal fund. Any contributions made will not be tax deductible. All monies raised will be kept in a separate account and only be used for the legal services. Checks should be made out to Captiva Civic Association (in the memo please write "Legal Fund") and mailed to P.O. Box 778, Captiva, FL 33924-0778. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address for recordkeeping.

If more funds are collected than are necessary for the legal expenses, a mechanism will be established to proportionally refund any excess funds. If you have any questions regarding a contribution, please call CCA Executive Director, Emily Ankerson at (239) 472-2111.

## Legal response to land use changes announced

A plan to hire legal representation to protect Captiva's existing height and density restrictions was outlined at a special meeting of the Captiva Community Panel (CCP). The announcement follows over a month of community response over proposed land-use changes on Captiva and South Seas Island Resort that threaten the resilience and unique nature of Captiva and Sanibel.

"This coalition of five organizations will be working together to make collective decisions and to direct the law firm as a body," said CCP Vice President David Mintz.

The sought law firm, Holland & Knight, will be tasked with:

- Analyzing the impact of the proposed changes on development on Captiva.
- Analyzing the compliance of the proposed changes with existing regulations, including the Growth Management Act.
- Reviewing and drafting potential amendments in line with the development principles adopted by the Captiva Community Panel.
- Communicating the position of the committee to representatives, including elected officials when appropriate.
- Participating in Lee County's code amendment process if needed.
- Representing the committee at public hearings and workshops to discuss potential changes.
- Initiating or joining litigation if required, should the proposed changes be approved by Lee County on Sept. 5.

CCP's special Zoom meeting (online at <https://youtu.be/98e2ccorOJA>) also included an open discussion with the community to resolve some confusion surrounding Lee County's build back provisions versus provisions for new buildings. The panel has several outstanding questions that Lee County officials are reviewing and hopefully will clarify before the next county-led public meeting on Aug. 2.

### Upcoming meetings:

- Lee County informational meeting on land use changes – **Wednesday, Aug. 2**, 6-8 p.m., at BIG Arts, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel
- Captiva Erosion Prevention District – **Monday, Aug. 7**, 1 p.m.
- Captiva Community Panel – **Tuesday, Aug. 8**, 9 a.m. on Zoom

- Lee County informational meeting on land use changes – **Wednesday, Aug. 9**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Lee County Public Works Building, Conference Room 1B, 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers
- Scheduled public hearing on proposed Land Development Code changes – **Tuesday, Sept. 5**, 9:30 a.m., Lee County commission chambers, 2120 Main Street, Fort Myers
- Scheduled public hearing on proposed Lee Plan changes to Captiva building height language – **Wednesday, Sept. 6**, 9:30 a.m., Lee County commission chambers, 2120 Main Street, Fort Myers
- Captiva Erosion Prevention District – **Monday, Sept. 11**, board meeting at 1 p.m., budget hearing at 5:01 p.m.
- Captiva Community Panel – **Tuesday, Sept. 12**, 9 a.m. on Zoom

### Catch up on recent meetings:

- July 11 Captiva Community Panel meeting: <https://youtu.be/RqSHAZYkEno>
- July 13 Lee County meeting at the CCA: To be posted soon at <https://ccacaptiva.org/>
- July 18 Captiva Community Panel meeting: <https://youtu.be/98e2ccorOJA>



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