Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Oct. 13, 2026

Attending: Jay Brown, Jon Rosen, Margarethe Thye-Miville, Bob Rando, Sandy Stilwell Youngquist

Absent: David Mintz, Mike Bennett, Linda Laird, Bruce McDonald, John Wade and Ken Suarez

Audience: 20 at peak

Summary: The panel reviewed island safety, planning, and infrastructure projects.
• Sheriff's Office reported 485 calls, five arrests, and 99 citations or warnings.
• Possible landing site for Lee Flight medical flights on the south end of the island has been identified.
• County community-planning proposal appeared paused amid public opposition.
• Captiva stormwater meeting set for Nov. 10.
• Blind Pass dredging is expected to finish by April 2027.
• Wastewater planning remains on hold amid cost concerns.

Action items:
* Meeting participant will prepare and circulate the minutes from the last meeting before the November meeting.
* David will distribute the fire-safety flyers to the group.
* Jeff Powell will send the fire-safety flyers to David for distribution to the group.
* Meeting participant will send Lee County a note thanking the county for clearing Captiva Drive before the triathlon.

Opening, Roll Call, and Minutes
Jay Brown opened the October 13 Captiva Community Panel meeting in David Mintz's absence and conducted roll call. The panel confirmed a quorum and noted that the previous meeting's minutes would be prepared and circulated before the November meeting for approval.

Sheriff's Office Report
Sergeant Winton shared September service and enforcement statistics, including calls, arrests, and citations, and urged workers to comply with traffic laws. He also reported on event operations and the use of a camera-equipped tower at Andy Rosse Lane and Captiva Drive.

Fire District Report
Jeff Powell described September as quiet and invited feedback about the triathlon for future event planning. He highlighted lithium-ion battery charging safety, reported on a potential south-end emergency helicopter landing site, and said there had been no recent progress on the Rauschenberg site.

CEPD Report and Project Billing

Lisa Batchelor provided updates on Blind Pass dredging, iguana-control coordination, FEMA reimbursements, and planned work at the Mobi-Mat area after sea turtle nesting ends. She explained the project assessment's installment and early-payment options, including the Nov. 1 deadline for paying in full without interest.

Local Community Planning Proposal
The group discussed Lee County's proposal to eliminate local planning in the 17 community planning areas and the strong opposition it had generated. The proposal appeared to be on hold, while the status of the coalition that formed to oppose the proposal was unknown.

Development and Legal Updates
Brown reported no new developments regarding South Seas or the Rauschenberg property. The group also reviewed Timbers Resorts' public-records lawsuit and relayed David Mintz's assessment that South Seas had little chance of prevailing.

Captiva Stormwater Plan
The stormwater design for Captiva was complete, with cost estimates and a cost-benefit analysis underway. Consultants planned to present the plan at the Civic Center on November 10 and use public input before finalizing it in late November or early December.

Wastewater and Other Reports
The wastewater project remained on hold as the group weighed the costs of processing at Donax against a possible partnership involving improvements to the South Seas FGUA plant. Reports on infrastructure and Bayside Resilience were unavailable because the project representatives were absent.

Development Committee and Nominations
The Development Committee noted that fundraising dates were difficult to find on the website and reported that cruise registration would begin Oct. 15. The nominating committee recommended Bob Adler for panel approval, and Tony agreed to serve on another organization's nomination effort.

Roadside Maintenance and Adjournment
Participants thanked Lee County for clearing the pedestrian safety lane along Captiva Drive before the triathlon and discussed using the county's online form to report maintenance concerns. The meeting then adjourned (Thye-Miville/Rosen) at 9:40 a.m. Video link: https://youtu.be/8FfVpe-pABI.

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