

Environmental Subcommittee Meeting Notes
4/2/07

Overall visioning

North Captiva is a bridgeless barrier island whose diverse population chose to live in harmony with one another and with nature.

North Captiva is and will remain a small barrier island community whose members strive to maintain its character, natural beauty, and native ecosystems.

North Captiva cherishes its tranquility, scale of development, ecological characteristics and community values.

North Captiva's environment is characterized by diverse and healthy native vegetation including coastal dunes, upland coastal scrub, coastal waters both estuarine and offshore which include mangroves, sea grass meadows, mud flats, with a diversity of marine life.

North Captiva recognizes its attractiveness to visitors due to the island's qualities of tranquility, ecological values, natural beauty, remoteness and scale of development.

The island welcomes visitors who are drawn by and respectful of these attributes. Lee County will resist pressures to accommodate development and activities that compromise these qualities.

The community strives to sustain ecological balance as the people are sustained by its nature. It recognizes that unless these characteristics are not protected, preserved and enhanced that their cherished way of life may be jeopardized.

North Captiva's economic fortune is directly related to viability of natural systems. It's appeal is based on vital wildlife, open beaches, preserved lands, diversity of native vegetation, and tranquil ambiance.

The North Captiva Community recognizes there will be pressures for future development and to hold fast to the community values as they are stated. The community also recognizes that redevelopment can correct the challenges of the present.

The North Captiva Community Plan strives to promote, protect and enhance public health and safety, comfort, good order, appearance, general welfare, fire prevention, ecological characteristics and shared community values.

Strategies discussed

Lee County will support efforts of government agencies and non governmental organizations to preserve, protect and enhance positive environmental qualities.

Lee County will work to develop private/public partnerships to establish conservation easements assuring open space preservation.

Lee County will manage resources and public efforts to preserve, protect and enhance through control of harm attributable to human impact.

Lee County will strictly enforce its own regulations regarding mangrove trimming, disruption of dunes and shores and protection of state listed/protected species.

Lee County will provide financial and political support for research on adverse impacts to the estuarine and nearshore systems.

Lee County will provide financial support for educational efforts to inform residents, owners and visitors of the delicately balanced nature of the islands and the regulations and concepts that protect the wildlife, vegetation, natural beauty and tranquil nature of the island.

Although the uniqueness of the island is fairly obvious, it takes time to become familiar with the total resources and requirements to live in harmony with nature and one another. To that end Lee County will assist in provision of widely advertised educational programs and information to protect, promote and enhance the island's tranquil nature and ecological values.

Lee County will protect mangroves (red, black and white) to the greatest possible.

Lee County will protect native coastal dune vegetation to the greatest extent possible.

Lee County will develop a rapid response plan for coastal oil and chemical spills to protect valuable coastal and shoreline resources.

Lee County will assist community members in protecting sea turtle nesting and shore bird nesting areas, define appropriate buffers and declare such areas as off limits.

Lee County will assure conformity to sea turtle beach lighting ordinances.

Lee County will protect, preserve and enhance native vegetation through incentives and disincentives of property owners for use of native vegetation in their landscapes on improved lots.

Lee County will use incentives and disincentives to property owners for removal of invasive exotic species.

Lee County will establish a mechanism to ensure citizen participation. Due to the remote nature of the island, Lee County will provide an electronic clearinghouse on a website with documents specific to North Captiva in regards to permit applications, variances,

staff reports, hearing examiners recommendations and ??? so as to allow owners access to such documents.

Lee County require any one applying for a variance, rezoning or special exception on North Captiva properties, to hold a meeting on North Captiva to provide an overview of the project. The meeting place must be supplied by the applicant. Lee County will inform the residents and encourage attendance by county staff at those meetings. Wherever possible such meetings should be conducted October through May.

Lee County will involve the local community organizations in the planning process in regards to outer islands, barrier islands and also things specific to North Captiva Island.

Lee County will provide informational forums on island to clarify goals and objectives as they relate to the Lee Plan and provisions for changes for unforeseen future challenges.

Lee County will facilitate the removal of an over abundance of nuisance wildlife, namely black rats and raccoons.

Other items briefly discussed from other community plans

Ensure adequate access to law enforcement, emergency and utility services.

Ensure adequate delivery of services.

Provide standards for commercial uses

Protect traditional scale and character

Provide

Ensure and provide consistent enforcement of current and future regulation.

Limit impacts on existing infrastructure.

Work with residents, by 2009, to establish standards for use of electric vehicular traffic on right of ways and easements. Establish standards for use of combustion engine vehicles on private right of ways and easements.

Establish standards and hours for noise levels

Provide convenient ingress and egress to the islands

Lee County will seek to provide a means to provide accessible community facility for library services, meeting space and recreation by 2010. Lee County will work with the island community in providing for such by public/private partnership or interlocal agreement with the Upper Captiva Fire Control District or other similar agency.

Lee County will facilitate and provide for disposal of solid waste, recycling and horticultural waste. This service will be provided for the safety, health and welfare of the island residents, the viability of the natural communities and wildlife, good order, appearance and fire prevention.

Provide Fire Chief or acting Fire Chief the authority to interpret, inform and enforce violations of regulations and guidelines for safe conduct, fire hazards and (minor violations of ???) needs work

From Kristie

consider

Hardening of the shoreline rip rap vs. sea wall or in others words materials that absorb not reflect wave energy. Use of sea wall, sand bags, groins or other methods of hardening the shore will only be utilized for prevention of loss of a structure in eminent danger. Sand bags or other temporary methods must be removed after emergency is over.