

Upper Captiva Community Panel
Organizational Bylaws

Name

The name of this organization is the Upper Captiva Community Panel (UCCP).

Mission

The UCCP mission is to advance the goals as stated in the North Captiva section of the Lee Plan that states, “the North Captiva Community seeks to preserve its character, scale, fragile environment, and way of life by guiding future land use; transportation and roads; conservation and coastal management; Safety Harbor; shore and water quality, water and waste management; open space, recreation, and quality of life; and citizen participation and community education. “

Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to coordinate, communicate, and facilitate island decision making for issues related to its mission. Specifically, the organization’s purpose is to: 1) make recommendations to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and departments, 2) coordinate with and communicate to other island organizations and interests; and 3) enhance communication and serve as a point of contact with other municipal, county, state, and federal entities.

Membership

The membership of this organization shall be any person owning property, a registered voter of, or owning a registered business (or designee) in the community commonly known as Upper Captiva or North Captiva.

Authority

The UCCP may collect contributions, establish a budget, enter into contracts, and authorize expenditures. The UCCP may also establish operating policies and rules as needed for the accomplishment of its mission, except as provided elsewhere in these bylaws. No binding actions will take place without first presenting its intent at a duly noticed public meeting.

Directors

The board of directors shall consist of seven (7) representatives from the following categories: one (1) representative of the Upper Captiva Civic Association (UCCA), one (1) representative of Safety Harbor Club, one (1) environmental representative, one (1) business representative, and three (3) at large representatives.

Election and Removal

The Board of Directors (directors) of the organization should reflect the broadest interests of the community and island as a whole. All directors will serve staggered two (2) year terms.

UCCA and Safety Harbor Club representatives will be selected by their respective organizations.

The environmental, business, and at-large representatives will be elected island-wide by the membership of the UCCP for their respective seats.

Election Method

The UCCP will appoint a chairperson from among its directors to facilitate a nominating committee whose purpose is to supervise elections and recruit nominees.

- Prior to each election, the UCCP directors will adopt rules and procedures to govern the time, location, and election process.
- Open positions will be advertised no later than 60 days prior to the election.
- Nominees may be nominated by others or self-nominated.
- Nominees will have the opportunity to present their credentials to the UCCP membership.
- Nominees will be placed on a ballot provided to the members for an island-wide vote.

Replacement procedure for vacancies

For those appointed positions that are vacant, the UCCA and Safety Harbor Club will select a replacement to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. For those elected positions that are vacant, the UCCP directors will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term by a simple majority vote.

Removal

Directors who will be absent from a panel meeting must request an excused absence from the Panel Chair. Directors who have three (3) unexcused absences in any 12-month period will be automatically removed from the panel. Directors may also be removed for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance by a 60% vote of the panel. It is the duty of each director to maintain fidelity to the organization's mission.

Organizational Officers

The officers of the organization shall be, at a minimum, a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers will be elected annually by the UCCP directors at the first organizational meeting occurring after the election or appointment of new directors.

Quorum

Unless otherwise required by law, the presence, by phone or in person, of a majority of directors in office shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, action may be taken only by a majority vote of a quorum present by phone or in person.

Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest are those defined and established by Florida Statutes.

Dissolution

The panel may be dissolved by no fewer than five (5) affirmative votes of the UCCP directors. Notice of dissolution must be provided to the full UCCP membership at least 30 days in advance of any such action.

Amendments

Changes to these bylaws may be effected by no fewer than five (5) affirmative votes of the UCCP directors. Notice of bylaw changes must be provided to the full UCCP membership at least 30 days in advance of any such changes.