

UCCP Poll Report

Poll Overview

UCCP members were asked the following question to consider the future of the UCCP Panel. The following language was on the poll:

UCCP members were The Upper Captiva Community Panel completed its last contracted task as agreed with Lee County. That task was to write code to implement the Lee Plan language. While there may be more planning or code work that can be pursued; at this stage, the panel would like the community's input as to whether it should pursue additional tasks or dissolve.

Please review the panel's purpose and provide your thoughts on this matter. The poll will also request your name as a way to verify that the poll results are valid and obtained from members. Members are defined as 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.

The purpose of the Upper Captiva Community Panel 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.

For additional information, you may view the entire panel's by-laws at the following link:
<http://www.ucca1.com/communityplan/uccpbylaws.html>

Members were asked to provide their input regarding two options:

- The panel should continue to function and hold elections.
- The panel should dissolve.

Respondents were also allowed to provide open-ended comments.

Poll Administration

The poll was held open from 10/17/14 until 12/3/14. Margaret Banyan closed the poll and pulled the results on the morning of 12/14/14 (there were no responses on 12/4/14).

Respondents were required to provide their name in order for their feedback to be counted as members of the UCCP and to assure no duplication of responses.

Ineligible Responses

There were 17 ineligible responses. 12 were duplicate responses and five were from unverified individuals (3 did not list their name; 2 were not found in the Upper Captiva phone book).

Poll Results

After removing ineligible responses, there were 140 total responses.

- 82 (59%) respondents indicated that the panel should continue to function and hold elections.
- 58 (41%) respondents indicated that the panel should dissolve.

Table 1 below summarizes the unedited and unsorted open ended comments.

All back up documentation is available and will be retained by Margaret Banyan. However, as indicated in the survey, the purpose of collecting names was to verify eligibility and was not intended to be provided as part of the record of the poll.

Table 1: Open Ended Comments - Individual Names Removed

<p>Things come up all the time and we need an organization to represent the island or hold a neutral position while residents use the organization to air their views.</p>
<p>This came back to me so I may be voting two times... please check</p>
<p>not being a member of any club its good to know there is a group with the interest of all.</p>
<p>Believe that our Island should have a designated entity to communicate with various Lee County departments on issues like proposed development projects, variances, new/proposed regulations, etc. Don't know if UCCA would be designated or capable of handling these communications in the absence of of the Panel.</p>
<p>There a plenty of projects and concerns the island has from time to time and others need continuous vigilance. The UCCP has been an impartial group doing what is best for the entire island and not just a small group like the UCCA.</p>
<p>The panel serves no purpose that has had any benefit to the property owners on the island.</p>
<p>Its a valuable asset the the entire community that allready in place and functioning successfully.</p>
<p>Island (local)representation is critical to expressing,identifying island needs/opportunities</p>
<p>The panel is our only official connection with Lee County. I am not necessarily in favor of more codes but there are many items that relate to access, public safety and waste removal that may need to be addressed in future. If panel continues, it should deal with unique issues that are associated with living on a barrier island and to keep lines of communication open with the County.</p>
<p>Arrange for emergency communications with county, state & federal agencies in light of any sort of emergency impacting the Island. Also for the panel to serve as a voice to the county for island wide services we pay for in our taxes.</p>
<p>I think the panel has done a great service to the community and brought awareness to issues on North Captiva that would have never seen the light of day. I also believe that in the absence of issues the entire community can rally behind, it would be best to dissolve. I would not consider the dissolution permanent because new "hot button"issues for the community will arise that could once again use the panels expertise.</p>
<p>The thoughtful mission statement in the UCCP bylaws could also be the mission statement for UCCA. I do not think we need both organizations. Democracy is messy and inefficient but I love living on an island where we have an association that tries to represent everybody and we all can express our opinions and vote on issues that concern us all. Perhaps we need the UCCP as a committee to implement the UCCA agenda. Certainly after a UCCA plan has been made smaller groups such as UCCP are needed to get things done.</p>
<p>As stated by other parttime residence, I have no official voting rights in any matters concerning the island despite beeing fully taxed. I need representation of my inputs and thoughts to be transported to Lee County officials by someone.</p>
<p>The Panel has done great efforts to formulate the community plan which I consider essential for the future development of the island.</p>
<p>In my opoinion, even a "weak" phase (no actual Tasks and open seats) do not justify to "sunset" the panel. :-) So please let it continue.</p>
<p>respectfully Yours</p>
<p>As the Panel deals with the narrow scope of land use, I believe it has accomplished all it can in this area (given it took roughly 8 years to get this far). I believe its usefulness at this point has come to an end.</p>
<p>I believe we need this voice for our issues to be heard</p>
<p>We need a way for non-resident owners to have their opinions on island wide decisions communicated. The recent vote on the fire department bond was decided by a small minority of owners while everyone else has to carry the burden. A survey such as this one could have at least given us a voice so the voters would have known the feelings of the other owners prior to going to the polls.</p>

<p>Safety harbor has never represented the rest of the island-- I have been an islander since 1985- all safety harbor, all they have ever done is stop us from going on the main lane that runs thru the main section of their little club--- We need one voice for the whole island. We need an independent , working civic group for our island.</p>
<p>The UCCP has done a good job in the past. It's plan for moving forward in the future seems sound. NC needs a forum where the voice of all stakeholders can be heard.</p>
<p>As a lot owner with plans to build in 2015 and potentially live year round on the island, I have relied on the communication from the UCCP to stay informed on community and governmental issues impacting our island. Frankly, it's very reassuring to know there is a group of owners actively working to protect island interests and to give a voice to those of us who are infrequently on-island. We all know what happens in Florida when developers have a bigger voice and the Panel is absolutely necessary to provide some vigilance against the erosion of the qualities of our island which make it so treasured by the majority of owners. Without the UCCP it will be difficult for the absentee owner such as I am to stay well informed and engaged in maintaining the environmental beauty and ecological health of our island and would very likely be a matter of time before commercial interests began to dominate the island.</p>
<p>I would have voted differently if a third choice had been provided. To keep the panel but have it remain inactive until a need for it to function again occurs (Storm or other natural disaster).</p>
<p>The panel duplicates the mission statement of the Upper Captiva Civic Association. The panel has no current funding or plans to obtain funding. One strong island representative organization is preferable to two weaker ones competing for funds and influence.</p>
<p>The Panel has completed its mission and without funds or a known membership, it does not have a know function.</p>
<p>I would have voted for it to continue, except at the last Panel meeting there was talk of changing it into something else with different bylaws. I didn't want to vote for apples and get oranges.</p>
<p>We need a group to represent all islanders</p>
<p>Please dissolve.</p>
<p>UCCP is a valuable instrument for representation island owners towards LEE county. It should not be dissolved just because of personal matters.</p>
<p>My only potential concern is that the Panel act fairly and follow good governance procedures, have transparency and give fair and adequate communications to islanders, I n my view it can be episodic in action as needed and not continuous. That it is associated with and supported by UCCA is a benefit to me.</p>
<p>Beach erosion is becoming a major issue on the Island. Property values are or will be negatively impacted. UCCA should take the lead in battling this problem.</p>
<p>We own property on Palm Island in Charlotte County, and there the county also encouraged the creation of an entitiy that could engage with the county on comp plan issues. Lee County has adopted some very strong preservation language in its comp plan favoring NCap, which is quite advantageous to we who love the natural character of the place. I favor the continuation of the UCCP, but would offer a word of caution. I have spent a career working for government and been involved in hundreds of community outreach efforts. The fastest way to have your voice ignored by a government is to be divided in your message or fractious in your dealings with them. So I would encourage the leadership to explore a joint panel of all the island entities to adopt a set of common principals while things are relatively quiet to use as the "voice of the island" when things get contentious which they surely will. I applaud those of you that are engaged, and protect the interests of those of us who are unable to be as involved.</p>
<p>This panel has served a valuable purpose for this island community to gain a stronger communication with Lee County government. The work completed has benefited us all. Now may be the best time to re-evaluate how island residents need to be represented for future opportunities and functions. thanks to those committee members for doing this difficult work in the past.</p>
<p>just bought a townhouse on the island so not really sure what this is all about?</p>
<p>Wasn't this sent out already a while ago? Ignore if I already voted.</p>

IF this is the only form of government we can start with then the panel should be allowed to continue, some centralized panel should understand where we stand as a community moving forward to initiate governmental policies on this island - otherwise the place is up for grabs, business owners are doing what they please to increase profits with total disregard to the atmosphere that drew long time residents to the island, new homeowner are buying and building mega mansions which also ruins the atmosphere - the fire department is now overmanned so rental companies can be more secure that renters will not sue when they are injured - and children as young as 6 are wildly driving golf carts without regard to their own safety - and parents feel no obligation to correct this - what happened to our community adopting laws that can be governed and controlled??

IF this is what your intentions are to help our island become a community and not just a land of pirates - then I am all for the committee continuing to function with the hope that one of the members could eventually be our "mayor" - if it is not - then disappear and we will do the same.

I think it is helpful to have a group of islanders that focus on issues affecting the island. I appreciate what you all do.

This panel is the only organization that received some recognition and acceptance from county, state and federal government entities. Neither UCCA nor any other island organization has accomplished this, therefore the panel should continue to exist and morph into the one and only island voice, with duly elected representatives that speak for the majority of islanders.

I am not in favor of any entity acting on behalf of the island when it truly doesn't represent the individual owners. The majority of us are not there full time and are unable to participate in meetings etc and thus island decisions are made by a select few. We do not need any more government intervention or government like organizations on the island. We have enough of politics in our primary residences. Upper Captiva is a respite and wonderful getaway from our regular lives.

If you want a cause to focus on, bring the it back to the wildlife on the island and its preservation. I remember a time when the UCCA did just that. That was worthwhile.