

Public Forum
Sanibel Community House
Sanibel, FL
February 23, 2019 / 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Public comments, questions, and concerns.

- Tourism as an asset.
 - To be discussed within the Business Community Team, headed by Evelyn Stuart.
- Issues/conflictions with the philosophy of “letting nature take its course”.
 - Should Sanibel be allowed to respond naturally? Or should Sanibel compromise its commitment to natural resources to better adapt?
 - Community engagement in beach management plans will help address how the residents feel about compromising this philosophy.
- Overcoming the fear and distrust of climate change science.
 - The audience seemed mostly on board with climate change and human causation. One person expressed doubt.
 - Understanding the soundness of science, however, still important.
 - Being able to translate science for the general public (e.g., explaining confidence limits to predictions).
 - Keeping jargon to a minimum.
- Someone questioned how to reduce variability in the climate change projections.
 - Large-scale adaptation can be very expensive if the city were to prepare for the higher-end SLR rates
 - There was mention of creating a probable worst-case and probable best-case scenario from modeling.
- Providing personalized adaptation plans expressed as an interest. There are many people in the community already experiencing effects differentially.
 - Certain communities on Sanibel are experiencing different effects of SLR.
 - Much of this is being addressed in the beach management plan: recognizing that different portions of the gulf coast are experiencing differential effects.
 - Another question asked on how to immediately begin preparing for the effects of SLR already being experienced
 - King tides, nuisance flooding.
 - Storm water management plan to address these concerns.

Takeaway notes:

- If possible, the community might benefit from an informational session on how the Sanibel Island coastlines behave. Understanding the morphology of their own beach will most likely help the residents make more informed decisions on how they might adapt to SLR. Might help with the choosing of assets, too.