

# BIG-C

## Barrier Islands Governmental Council

*Belleair Beach*  
*Belleair Shore*  
*Clearwater*  
*Indian Rocks Beach*  
*Indian Shores*  
*Redington Shores*



*North Redington Beach*  
*Redington Beach*  
*Madeira Beach*  
*St. Pete Beach*  
*Treasure Island*

### Minutes

January 28, 2015

Town of Redington Shores-Town Hall  
17425 Gulf Blvd.-33708

The BIG C was called to order at 9:07 by Mayor Robert Minning. Mayor Minning led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **Roll Call** (according to the "sign-in" sheet)

Mayor Robert Minning (President)	Treasure Island
Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin (Vice-President)	Indian Rocks Beach
Mayor Travis Palladino (Secretary/Treasurer)	Madeira Beach
Mayor Nick Simons	Redington Beach
Mayor Bert Adams	Redington Shores
Councilmember Wanda Schwerer	Belleair Beach
Mayor Jim Lawrence	Indian Shores
Mayor Bill Queen	N. Redington Beach
Mayor George Cretekos	Clearwater
Mayor Maria Lowe	St. Pete Beach

Rick Walker, Coordinator	Pinellas County
Melissa Seixas, Community Relations	Duke Energy
Bob McClure	Beach Beacon/Tampa Bay Newspapers
Eired Eddy, Legislative Assistant	Florida House, Representative Ahern
Sarah Ward, Interim Director	MPO
Estella Gray, Government Affairs	SWFWMD
Vice-Mayor John Branch	Redington Shore
Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator	Indian Shores
Sal D'Angelo, Fire Chief	PSFRD
Sandra Knoebel, Planner	MPO/PPC
Councilor Mike Petrucci	Indian Shores
Andy Squires, Environmental Resource Manager	Pinellas County
Commissioner Marybeth Henderson	Redington Shores
Bill Priakos, Barefoot Beach Resort	Indian Shores
Commissioner Terri Finnerty	St. Pete Beach
Mary Scott Hardwick, Intergovernmental Liaison	Pinellas County
Commissioner Charlie Justice	Pinellas County
Councilor Patrick Soranno	Indian Shores
Councilor Bill Smith	Indian Shores

Councilor Bill Smith said there is a FSBPA conference next week he will be the BIG C representative. The conference is on Sand Key this year. It is fortunate to have it locally this year. He has registration forms if others want to attend. This is a national conference. They will discuss Amendment One which sets aside a third of the dock stamp revenue. He said they need to make sure the beaches get some of the Amendment One money. "Beaches and shores" are discussed in the amendment. There are very important decisions that are going to be made in the upcoming legislative session. The Governor said ¼ of the Amendment money should be allocated to the Everglade project. The current money is not sufficient. The beach is part of the economy and ecology. FSBPA is urging the members to submit comments to the Senate Water and Land Conservation website. There is a subcommittee and they are tasked with drafting legislation on how the money is to be used.

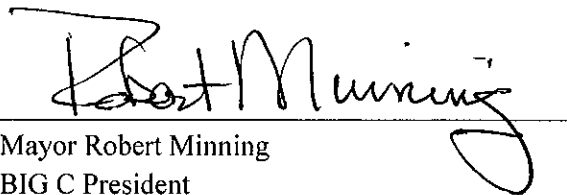
**Legislative Update**-Representative Peters said they are going into the committee and they are moving quickly. She needs to know if there are any water or DOT projects that need funding. The Governor's budget is coming out this week. Senator Brandes is working on insurance. The insurance is still a problem. It is difficult to get things through once they get into session.

Representative Peters sent out a letter out about EMS. She said she is proud to work on a five year plan to reform the mental health system in the State of Florida. She is also filing a homeless bill.

Representative Ahern is also preparing for the upcoming session.

**City Events**-Mayor Cretekos said Clearwater broke ground on Dr. Patel's project a 450 room grand hotel. They have also dedicated the fire station. Commissioner Hamilton-Wollin said Indian Rocks Beach has an election this year. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> they are having a "Meet the Candidates". They have installed an outside adult exercise venue. In March they will have a history museum pot luck. Mayor Lawrence said Indian Shores is going to start a Sunday morning market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Original Pizza moved to Indian Shores. There will be a St. Patrick's Day festival on March 14<sup>th</sup> with Irish dancers, bagpipers, and over 40 vendors. Mayor Palladeno said Madeira Beach will have a new recreation center, fire department and new city hall by the end of February. Mayor Lowe said St. Pete Beach has a lot coming up in the future including a parade to rededicate the bridge to the first responders and she invited all to come to Sunset Park on February 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Valentine's Day.

**Adjourn**- the next BIG C will take place on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the Town of N. Redington Beach, 190 173 Avenue at 9 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.



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Mayor Robert Minning  
BIG C President

D. Schear  
Doyle Walsh, Legislative Aid  
Al Zimmerman, President  
Doug Izzo, Government Affairs  
Representative Kathleen Peters

Indian Shores  
Commissioner Janet Long  
Sand Key Civic Association  
Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Florida House of Representatives

Mayor Adams welcomed everyone and thanked his staff for setting up the event.

**Approval of Agenda**-It was moved by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Adams to accept the agenda as read. The vote to accept the agenda was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes**- It was moved by Mayor Lawrence and seconded by Mayor Adams to approve the December 3, 2014 minutes. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

**Approval of November and December 2014 Treasurer's Reports**-Mayor Palladeno read both the November and December 2014 Treasurer's Reports. It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton-Wollen and seconded by Mayor Lowe to approve both Treasurer's Reports. The vote to accept the November and December Treasurer's Reports was unanimous.

**Correspondence**-Mayor Minning spoke about the January 21, 2015 correspondence from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) concerning the upcoming Tampa Bay Region Infrastructure Resiliency to Climate Hazard Seminar on February 6, 2015 and a Regional Tabletop Exercise on March 16, 2015.

**New Business**-Mayor Minning introduced Mr. Randy DeShazo, Principal Planner from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to discuss the economic valuation of the Tampa Bay Estuaries. Mr. DeShazo began his presentation.

Mr. DeShazo explained that it is important to have a healthy bay. Mr. DeShazo went on to explain the economic impact of healthy estuaries on real estate and the hospitality industry. Healthy estuaries also help generate new businesses and help sustain the fisheries.

Mr. DeShazo took some questions from the audience. Someone wanted to know if the statistics in the presentation were true for the Barrier Islands and Mr. DeShazo believes they may be higher. Another person wanted to know how to determine if an estuary is healthy or not healthy. He stated that the Tampa Bay Estuary Project assesses the tidal conditions and chemicals and the causes on economic damage including blooms of dead fish. Mayor Minning said because of the Clean Water Act we must meet with a steady stream of water quality standards. Mr. DeShazo said the bay seems to be as healthy as it was in the 1950's. An audience member asked where the funding comes from. It was explained that most funding comes through grants and other interlocal agreements. He doesn't know who paid for it but they worked closely with the estuary program. The report is available online.

**Old Business**-Ms. Sandra Knoebel, MPO Planner, said she will be sending a document regarding Gulf Blvd. beautification project reimbursement. Mayor Simons said it is time everyone brings their projects to the table. Ms. Knoebel will send the spreadsheet with the updates. Mayor Minning said Pinellas County has agreed to fund \$35 million to the communities for beautification with payout over 7 years. Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Community Relations, said if the cities are not working on a binding estimate that they needed to reach out to Duke for it is a long process and she encouraged all to start early. It is crucial to acquire easements. Duke Energy is willing to help walk the cities through the process.

Mr. Andy Squires, Environmental Resource Manager for Pinellas County, said the county is working on the Restore Act. The money is from the BP oil spill. There will be \$1.5 million to spend. The beaches are in the best shape they've been in since 2009. They are trying to get the Uptom Beach project through. The projects regarding the turtles are getting done early this year. Tilling is starting at Indian Shores.