

Marcia Grantham

From: Pam Prell [pprell@stpetebeach.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2009 3:38 PM
To: Marcia Grantham
Subject: BIGC Minutes June 24

If you find any errors or changes please advise and I will make them.
I did not attend the meeting but Teri asked me to do the minutes. I did the best I could.

**BARRIER ISLAND GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)
JUNE 24, 2009 MINUTES**

A meeting of the Barrier Island Governmental Council (BIG-C) was hosted by the City of St. Pete Beach, at the St. Pete Beach Community Center, located at 155 Corey Avenue, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706.

CALL TO ORDER

President Lawrence called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Lawrence led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Lawrence thanked Mayor Mike Finnerty and City Clerk Theresa McMaster for hosting the meeting.

Mayor Finnerty thanked everyone for coming to St. Pete Beach.

ROLL CALL

President Lawrence requested that each person introduce themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Belleair Beach	Vice Mayor Kathy Mortensen
Belleair Shores	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilmember George Cretkos
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	City Manager W.D. Higginbotham, Jr
Madeira Beach	Mayor Pat Shontz
North Redington Beach	Mayor William Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Vice Mayor Phil Collins

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Nick Fritsch
Melissa Seixas

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Progress Energy

GUESTS PRESENT

Dennis Jones	District 13, Florida State Senator
Mark Deighton	Redington Beach
Steve Sultel	Indian Shores
Joan Herndon	Indian Shores
Carol Irelan	Indian Shores
Bill Smith	Indian Shores
Jim Parent	Commissioner St. Pete Beach
Robert H. Brotherton	Brotherton Engineering, Inc.
Anne Kramer	Anne Kramer and Associates, LLC
Fred Stevermann	Redington Beach
Brian Smith	Progress Energy
John Branch	Vice Mayor Redington Shores
Bob Minning	Treasure Island
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas Planning Council
Doreen Moore	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Development Council
Brian Smith	Pinellas County

(Some audience members did not sign the sign-in sheet and their introduction of themselves was not audible on the recording.)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Mayor John Robertson, seconded by Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin to approve the agenda of June 24, 2009, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 27, 2009 MINUTES

Motion made by Mayor Queen seconded by Mayor Adams to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2009, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2009

Secretary/Treasurer Cretkos provided the Treasurer's Report for May 2009. There was no income and no expenditures for the month of May 2009 and the balance is \$2,210.91.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Lawrence pointed out correspondence received from Dr. Nicole Elko regarding renourishment projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Nick Fritsch, member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, gave a presentation regarding a Regional Transportation Plan that would include seven counties ranging from Citrus County on the North to Sarasota County to the South, and including Hillsborough County. It also includes all of the local governments in those counties. He gave facts and figures about transportation issues and the predicted increase in congestion.

He spoke about a 1 Cent Sales Tax for the Regional Transportation Authority and asked those present to support this effort.

Mr. Fritsch also discussed the issue of off-shore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and it was the consensus of the Board to put that issue on the agenda for the July meeting.

Doreen Moore, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber, announced a Panel Discussion on this issue will be held July 23, 2009, 11:30 am at the Lobster Pot in Redington Shores. She said various members of the Community have been invited to attend.

Melissa Seixas, Progress Energy, gave a presentation to the BIGC dealing with Global Energy issues; Storm Response; Growth Planning; Reliability; Environmental Issues; and Cost Effectiveness. Ms. Seixas stated that she felt that it is important for elected officials to visit one of their energy plants and suggested the Crystal River Plant. She stated that she would work with the BIG C to organize a field trip to the plant. She encouraged the members to contact her with any questions regarding energy issues they are concerned about or want to learn more about. She disclosed some of the ways the citizens' payments are distributed once received. Ms. Seixas closed by answering questions.

OLD BUSINESS

President Lawrence commented that the Gulf Beaches "Rays Day" was held on June 14, 2009, and over 270 tickets were sold and the event was a great success. He disclosed that he got to throw out the first ball. He asked the members to provide him with any feed back regarding the event. He stated that they would like to have the event again next year, if people want it. He pointed out that there was some difficulty keeping the ticket outlets supplied so next year the tickets will be available on line. He asked that the ticket holders all be seated in the same section next year, not spread out like they were this years. He stated that the Rays won the game.

President Lawrence reported on the Board of County Commissioners Workshop that was held to discuss their Capital Improvement Project funding. He disclosed that a reduction of the Penny for Pinellas funding for Gulf Boulevard and other projects was discussed, with some projects being eliminated. He stated that this was only the staff proposal and no decisions were made at the meeting. He reported that they will continue to urge the County to stick to their commitment that they made last year to the BIC-C.

Mr. Cretkos urged the members to contact Commissioner Brickfield because he spoke in support of the funding. He stated that the final decision would be in October and he urged the members to attend the next meeting when the funding will be discussed.

Mr. Simons requested that the BIG C set up a meeting with the County Commissioners to bring forward a program of their own. He felt that the priorities for the County's Capital Improvements Projects need to be readjusted.

There was a general discussion regarding County Wide Capital Improvement Projects that will require funding from the Penny for Pinellas which is derived from the tourist industry.

President Lawrence suggested that the BIG C set up a workshop meeting before the July meeting and formulate a strategy. The members agreed.

MISCELLANEOUS

Senator Dennis Jones gave a legislative update to the members. Senator Jones reported that the session ends tomorrow and The Governor will sign the last bill, in Oldsmar. He reported that 262 bills were passed this session and six of those were vetoed, including the Condominium Bill which he supported. He reported that Home Town Democracy issue will be on the ballot as No. 4. He urged the members to study that issue. He reported that a Bill was passed to prevent the City of St. Petersburg from forcing mandatory annexation of Tierra Verde. He reported that off shore drilling was an issue and that he opposed it. He disclosed that the House Member who is pushing the issue is from Central Florida. He reported that last year there were over 200 oil related cases that the Coast Guard responded to within a 12 months. He stated that it has been disclosed that there is a very large oil supply in Montana and North Dakota which has been identified as the largest source ever discovered and he felt that they should drill on those 5 million acres, not offshore in Florida. He stated that it will take a lot of organization and effort to fight these large oil companies and their lobbyists.

President Lawrence reported that Dr. Elko could not be at the meeting but she did send an email saying that she would attend the July meeting and that the beach renourishment projects remain on schedule and that she will provide an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Mortensen reported that the Belleair Beach New City Hall will be open around the first of September.

Mr. Collins reported that Treasure Island is having a 4th of July celebration to include fireworks and he invited everyone to attend.

Ms. Shontz reported that Madeira Beach will also have 4th of July fireworks and invited everyone to attend.

Mr. Finnerty reported that St. Pete Beach will also have a 4th of July Fireworks.

Mr. Adams announced that Redington Shores will have fireworks at the County Park on the 4th of July. He reported that his City has a 3.5 million dollar Storm Water Project underway, which is about half completed.

Mr. Cretkos reported that Clearwater will have Fireworks and John and Mary Kay Wilson will be performing at their celebration on July 4th at Coachman Park.

President Lawrence reported that Indian Shores has completed the road work and they are proud of the project. He invited everyone to take a ride and look at how nice it looks. He reported that if anyone was interest in going to the Crystal River Energy Plat, on a guided tour, to let him know and he will organize the trip. He stated that he is working on a tour for his elected officials to tour the Walsingham Plant, if anyone is interested in joining them.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

President Jim Lawrence