

July 25, 2007 Minutes

The Meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, hosted by the City of St Pete Beach was held at the new Community Center in the City of St. Pete Beach, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, St. Pete Beach, Florida. The Meeting was called to order by President Bill Queen at 9:00 a.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Belleair Beach	Kathy Mortensen, Vice Mayor
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Council Member George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor Bill Ockunzz
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Vice Mayor John Wolbert
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
St. Pete Beach	Vice Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Mayor Mary Maloof

GUESTS

Jim Frisch, Representative	State of Florida
Doris Burns	Office of Senator Dennis Jones
Phil Collins, Commissioner	Treasure Island
Bob MacPhersun	Beach Beacon-Bee
Jane Colson	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber
Melissa Senias	Progress Energy
Krista Cheatham	Clearwater Sun
Linda Fisher, Program Planner	PPC
Dave Healey, Exec Director	PPC
Jose Copen, Commissioner	Indian Rocks Beach
Bryan Cummins	St. Pete Beach Planning Board
Laura Berkowitz	TBCC and Pinellas County Economic Dev
Phyllis Johnson	Tampa Bay Sun
Sandra Knoebel-Ganache	Pinellas County Planning
Ed Ruttencutter, Commissioner	St. Pete Beach
Ward Friszolowski, Mayor	St. Pete Beach
Mike Bonfield, City Manager	St. Pete Beach
Bill Smith, Councilor	Indian Shores
Steve Sutch, Councilor	Indian Shores
Joan Herndon, Vice Mayor	Indian Shores
Marlene Clausen, Councilor	Indian Shores
Jerry Knight, Vice Mayor	North Redington Beach
Donna Draper, Secretary	St. Pete Beach

3. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 27, 2007 BIG-C AGENDA

No changes were made to the Agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the June 27, 2007 Agenda. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 27, 2007 BIG-C MINUTES

Vice Mayor John Wolbert moved and Mayor John Robertson seconded approval of the June 27, 2007 BIG-C Minutes. The motion to approve the Minutes was carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 2007 TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Mayor John Wolbert reported the July beginning balance on hand was \$2,264.48. There was one expenditure of \$76.25 payable to DigitalEel for posting on the BIG-C website. The balance on hand at the end of July was \$2,188.23. It was moved and seconded to accept the July 2007 Treasurer's Report. The motion was unanimously carried by voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pinellas Planning Council Update – Jerry Knight, Vice Mayor, North Redington Beach

Vice Mayor Knight gave an overview of the latest activities for the Pinellas Planning Council and how those activities affect the beach communities.

Vice Mayor Knight noted the fact that the Pinellas Planning Council distributes monthly agendas and resultant actions to all the cities. He alluded to the primary responsibility of the Pinellas Planning Council to develop a Countywide plan, which is a Land Use Plan and Rules that dictate what, how and where structures may be built and how these structures may be used. They are also responsible to assuring that the twenty-five communities have their own plans and are consistent with this Countywide Plan. The Pinellas Planning Council serves as a resource to assist those communities that do not have adequate staff so that they and can get the planning

Vice Mayor Knight referred to the program *Pinellas by Design*, a redevelopment plan that was created by the Pinellas Planning Council and the Economic Development Council several years ago. The original plan was to set goals that will expand the economic base and redevelop land not being used by taking it to its optimum value and setting design standards that will attract both industry and residents. Goals are essentially met by reviewing land use change proposals, rules change proposals, etc. from the communities and staff to assure consistency.

Vice Mayor Knight reported that the County Commission, serving as the Countywide Planning Authority, will hold public hearings for an ordinance relating to the revision of density allowance and rules for tourist lodging facilities (hotels and motels). These hearings are scheduled for August 7 at 9:30 a.m. and August 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. That ordinance was a result of encouragement from the Tourist Development Council and from local officials. He explained

particulars of this Ordinance adding that it would allow a tourist development facility to be developed in any Land Use category.

Vice Mayor Knight also spoke to an alternate Ordinance prepared by County staff that would require each project to get a Land Use change specifically for a tourist development facility. The Pinellas Planning Council does not endorse this Ordinance.

Vice Mayor Knight alluded to the fact that consultants were hired to analyze the Industrial Land Use Categories in the County. A preliminary report determined that there might be some imbalance in terms of what is available and what the industrial community needs. Land Use changes may need to be made, especially in terms of setting up mixed use categories.

Vice Mayor Knight also spoke to the many major changes in the City of St. Petersburg which recognized the fact that we are a redevelopment community rather than a development community.

He also noted items of interest and concern to the BIG-C, e.g. tourist development, the hotel/motel industry.

Vice Mayor Knight noted that some of the activities formerly required within the Department of Community Affairs will be eliminated and there will be only one review agency. Mr. Healey explained how that should simplify and expedite the review process for Land Use Plan Amendments, etc. from ninety days to hopefully thirty days. The Pinellas Planning Council will assist the local communities in making amendments that will be governed by this new regulation.

Although the Consistency report was approved by the Pinellas Planning Council and the Countywide Planning Authority, there are still some differences. Individual Meetings are currently taking place to reconcile those items. Some changes may be necessary.

Vice Mayor Knight alluded to the budget reduction for the Pinellas Planning Council and also reminded the membership that the cities need to renew their Interlocal Agreements with the County for planning assistance.

B. APPOINTMENT TO PINELLAS COUNTY CONSTRUCTION LICENSING BOARD

It was moved and seconded to reappoint Mr. Steve Andrew to serve as representative to the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. This reappointment was unanimously carried by voice vote.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Legislative Update

Representative Jim Frisch noted that interim committee meetings will most likely start in August. About \$1.5-million needs to be cut from next year's budget and about another \$1-billion needs to be cut from this year's budget. However, foreseeing this was coming, about

\$1.5-billion was put into reserves. A special session will start in September and at that time department budgets will be reviewed.

The Countywide Hotel Ordinance referred to earlier in this Meeting will give local communities some flexibility in a positive way. He is looking forward to seeing progress within the tourist industry.

We are also looking for solutions regarding the Pinellas Bayway Bridge issue and the St. Pete Bridge. Those bridges are reaching their life expectancy and need to be replaced.

Representative Frisch spoke to the PIFF insurance issue. He would like to see it replaced with something that deals with fraud and abuse. This is a major problem that must be addressed.

The Kids' Care issue will most likely be addressed in Special Session. Government is required to provide health care for all children. Matching funds will be granted if the system is set up.

Representative Frisch spoke to the matter of taxation on second homes and small businesses.

B. SECEDING FROM PINELLAS COUNTY

Mayor Queen spoke to the matter of the beach communities seceding from Pinellas County. This is a legislative issue that must be done through the legislature. The last try at this was in 1925. This issue is consistent throughout the state. He noted the fact that all the communities would have to duplicate all the services that are needed.

C. CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH'S NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Mayor Friszolowski spoke of the new facility, the activities that will take place, the history of this location, the long term process to its completion, etc. He also noted that this year is the City's 50th Anniversary.

City Manager Bonfield spoke to the funding that the City received. Two FRDAP Grants were received – one for the swimming pool and one for the playground and pavilion. Congressman Bill Young helped the City get a \$250,000 grant for this Community Center. About \$750,000 was brought in through fund raising. etc.

D. RED TIDE

Mayor Jim Lawrence spoke to the Red Tide issue. He recommended that the BIG-C support research for this.

Representative Frisch reported that he spoke with representatives from the Coast Guard concerning the Red Tide issue. They have discovered that the Corp of Engineers' work that is being done on the Kissimmee River to return it to its more natural state is actually having a

more positive effect on the red tide blooms in the Bay south of the Everglades. Progress is being made and they are starting to better understand the problem.

E. UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES

Mayor Lawrence noted that after more than two years of going through the undergrounding procedure for the utilities, the first wires for the overhead poles came down yesterday. The first sign of progression of lighting fixtures going up are in the works.

F. BIG-C WEB SITE

Vice Mayor Wolbert noted that several cities do not have anything posted in the Events category on the BIG-C website. This is an optional choice, but he encouraged the cities to check into this and update their events.

G. TAX ISSUE

Council Member Cretekos spoke to the sales tax collection issue. He thanked Representative Frisch for not passing the property tax amendment that would have eliminated property taxes.

H. CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

Council Member Cretekos also spoke about the publicity that Clearwater received regarding the porpoise (Winter) at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The *Today Show* and the *Early Show* (CBS) are giving the Aquarium some great television coverage. He thanked Progress Energy for providing funding for some of the new pools at the Aquarium.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next Meeting will be held on August 29, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at Belleair Beach. Guest Speaker will be Dr. Nicole Elko.

City Manager Bonfield conducted a quick tour of the facility after this Meeting adjourned.

Mayor Maloof announced that the Treasure Island Bridge will be opening on Saturday, August 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Time being 9:54 a.m. and no further business, this Meeting was adjourned.

William Queen
President