

1. The BIG C Meeting was called to order by President/Mayor Notaro at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, at Crabby Bill's Banquet Hall, 416 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Mayor Kennedy welcomed the attendees to the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

2. Present:

Belleair Beach	Mayor Leslie Notaro
Belleair Shore	Mayor Bob Schmidt
Clearwater	Mayor George N. Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy
Indian Shores	Mayor Patrick Soranno
Madeira Beach	Mayor Maggi Black
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor MaryBeth Henderson
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Alan Johnson
Treasure Island	Mayor Lawrence Lunn

Guest Speakers:

Shelley Vickery  
Christina James Buchanan

Birds in Helping Hands Wildlife Rescue, Director  
Birds in Helping Hands Wildlife Rescue

Guests:

Beach Bee	Brian Goff
Beach Buzz	Phyllis Johnson
Clearwater Regional Chamber	Darryl Henderson, VP, Governmental Affairs
EXP Engineering	David Ardman
Florida Dept. of Transportation	Bob Esposito, Government Relations
Florida House District 69 Candidate	Ray Blacklidge
Florida House District 69 Candidate Aide	Dylan Kickhart
Florida Senate District 24 Candidate	Lindsay Cross
Florida House, District Aide	Sarah Maurer
Florida Senate	Melissa Meshil

Forward Pinellas  
Forward Pinellas  
City of Indian Rocks Beach  
Indian Rocks Beach Resident  
Indian Shores  
Indian Shores  
City of Madeira Beach  
City of Madeira Beach  
Pinellas Co. Emergency Management  
Pinellas Co. Emergency Management  
Pinellas Co. Government Affairs  
TI & Maderia Beach Chamber  
Waterfront Realty  
Waterfront Realty  
Waterfront Realty

Brett Burks  
Sandra Knoebel, Planner  
Phil Hanna, Commissioner  
Cynthia Mikey  
Michael Hackerson, Councilor  
Diantha Schear, Vice Mayor  
Jonathan Evans  
Curt Preisser, PIO  
David Halstead  
Rick Walker, EM Coordinatore  
Brian Lowack, County Administrator  
Missy Hahn, President  
Tim Johnson, Owner  
Gina Johnson, Owner  
Patti Thompson, Vice President

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

***Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Soranno, to approve the agenda. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

**4. Approval of August 29, 2018, Minutes.**

***Motion made by by Mayor Soranno, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Johnson, to approve the August 29, 2018, Minutes. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

**5. Approval of August 2018 Treasurer's Report.**

***Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Johnson presented the August 2018 Treasurer's Report, stating there had been no activity. The balance on hand is \$1,468.04***

***Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Henderson, to accept the August 2018 Treasurer's Report. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

**6. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- **Request approval of \$71.26 Digital Eel Invoice for posting meeting minutes and to update image.**

Mayor Queen recommended the BIG C go out and look at other companies and compare pricing.

***Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Soranno, to appoint Mayor Henderson to compare pricing with other companies for posting meeting minutes and to update image on the BIG C's website. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

***Motion made by Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mayor Kennedy, to authorize the payment of \$71.26 to Digital Eel for posting of meeting minutes and to update image. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

- **Nominations and Appointment for the Forward Pinellas Beach Communities' Representative for a two-year term (Responses received from Belleair Beach, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Redington Shores, St. Pete Beach, and Treasure Island).**

***Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Mayor Johnson, to appoint Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Kennedy as the Forward Pinellas Beach Communities' Representative for a two-year term expiring in January 2021. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

## **7. New Business.**

- **Shelley Vickery, Director, and Christina James Buchanan, Birds in Helping Hands Wildlife Rescue and Rehab.**

Shelley Vickery, Director of Birds in Helping Hands Wildlife Rescue and Rehab (BIHH), made a presentation to the BIG C on BIHH's mission, which is *"Helping injured and orphaned wildlife return to nature. Education through awareness."*

Ms. Vickery stated in 2016, Birds in Helping Hands was formed as a 501(c)3 in response to a growing need for an organization that could respond to the growing number of bird in distress calls from the seaside and bayside communities. BIHH functions as a dawn to dusk wild bird "urgent care" facility and has quickly become the premiere rescue, rehabilitation, and release organization in the area.

Ms. Vickery stated they are licensed wildlife rehabilitators focused primarily on sea birds, shore birds, marsh birds, and song birds.

Ms. Vickery stated they have 20 volunteers that help with feeding, cleaning, rescuing, transport, rehabilitation, releasing, office work, marketing, community relations, and maintenance.

**Christina James Buchanan, Birds in Helping Hands Wildlife Rescue and Rehab, stated BIHH is funded solely by private donations. The operation is lean and mean. None of the staff takes a salary and all transporters use their own vehicles and pay for their own fuel.**

Ms. Buchanan stated BIHH's success is also its challenge. They have outgrown their current space and are in urgent need of a new facility. They are hoping to find a patron who will donate the use of 1+ acre with a building that they can convert.

Ms. Buchanan stated they are growing quickly and need continued community support and are currently seeking corporate sponsors, individual donations, food donations, doggie pee pads, and additional volunteers.

- **Consideration of nominations for the Beach Community governmental building official for the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB).**

President/Mayor Notaro stated the nominee that the BIG C selected declined the nomination. She stated the nominee must be a building official and must live within Pinellas County for at least one year. She stated several of the smaller communities contract these services out either to another city, Pinellas County, or a private contractor.

President/Mayor Notaro stated she will verify with Pinellas County that the nominee must live in Pinellas County and that they must be a certified building official.

***Consensus to defer this agenda item until the October BIG C Meeting.***

## **8. Old Business.**

Mayor Queen recommended the BIG C forward a letter to the Board of County Commissioners thanking the County for partnering with the beach communities during Red Tide. He thereafter read the following letter into the record:

"Good Afternoon Commissioners,

As you all know, Red Tide has hit our beaches very hard.

The response from the County has been nothing short of fantastic. The organization, communication, follow-up and "thinking outside the box" is excellent.

Kelli Levy has been out in the field, on the phone and directing this process from the beginning, and her job performance is outstanding. Improvise, adapt, and overcome applies to this effort by the County and the contractors to deal with this devastating problem.

The partnership between the County and the Pinellas Beach Communities has proven to be stronger than ever.

We know this Red Tide outbreak is not over, but please know that we all appreciate the hard work and dedication by you and your staff."

***Motion made by Mayor Henderson, seconded by Mayor Soranno, to forward a letter to the Board of County Commissioners thanking Pinellas County for partnering with the beach communities during Red Tide to be signed by all members of the BIG C. Unanimous approval by acclamation.***

Mayor Kennedy stated she has asked Kelli Levy, Pinellas County Environmental Management Director, to be a guest speaker at a Red Tide Forum to be hosted at Indian Rocks Beach.

Mayor Soranno advised that several of the BIG C Board Members met with Pinellas County Administrator Mark Woodard and Interim County Commissioner J.J. Beyrouiti to discuss Penny for Pinellas 4, (the allocation of \$35 million for Gulf Boulevard Improvement Projects).

Mayor Soranno stated the consensus was for Pinellas County to look at the Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding of Utilities Project as a whole rather than the towns/cities doing it individually, which makes sense because it will be economy to scale, the pricing will be better, and it will get done quicker. However, there are two municipalities, Clearwater and Indian Shores, that have already completed their Gulf Boulevard undergrounding of utilities and out of the allocated \$35 million for Gulf Boulevard Improvement Projects, \$4 and \$6 million have been allocated to Clearwater Beach and Indian Shores respectively.

Mayor Cretokos stated the City of Clearwater, for the past 20 years, has assessed residents abutting Gulf Boulevard, for the undergrounding of utilities along Gulf Boulevard, which other beach communities have not done. Clearwater Beach uses Penny money for beach infrastructure projects.

Mayor Soranno stated Indian Shores put forth a \$6 million bond to underground utilities on Gulf Boulevard and the town has only been reimbursed \$2 million. He stated Indian Shores is ahead of the curve and because they are ahead of the curve, the situation with respect to Penny 4 hurts them.

**9. Miscellaneous.** None.

**10. Legislative Update.**

**Darryl Henderson, Vice President, Government Affairs, Clearwater Regional Chamber,** advised the Chamber will be hosting a CRC Proposals Town Hall Forum on October 11, 2018, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Clearwater East Community Library at St. Petersburg College.

**Lindsay Cross, Candidate for Florida Senate, District 24,** introduced herself and provided a brief background on herself.

Mayor Queen announced there are public meetings set for the proposed Flood Insurance Rate Map changes:

Thursday, September 27, 2018: Seminole Recreation Center

9100 113<sup>th</sup> Street North  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**11. City Events.**

BIG C Board Members reviewed upcoming City events.

**12. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 31, 2018, 9:00 am, at the City of Belleair Beach Community Center, 444 Causeway Boulevard, Belleair Beach, Florida.

October 31, 2018  
Date Approved

APPROVED: Leslie Ford Notaro  
Leslie Ford Notaro, President

ATTEST: Patricia A. Gentry  
Patricia A. Gentry, City Clerk

/dor