

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

December 4, 2013

Present: Belleair Beach Councilmember Wanda Schwerer
Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach Mayor Travis Palladeno
North Redington Beach Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach Mayor Rick Simons
St. Pete Beach Commissioner Jim Parent
Treasure Island Mayor Robert Minning

Guest Speaker: Mike Meidel, Director, Pinellas County Economic Development

Guests Present: Carole Irelan Councilor, Indian Shores
Bill Smith Vice Mayor, Indian Shores
Joan Herndon Councilor, Indian Shores
Steve Sutch Councilor, Indian Shores
Pat Soranno Candidate, Indian Shores
Bob Esposito Florida Department of Transportation
Janet Long Commissioner, Pinellas BOCC
Mary Scott Hardwick Commissioner Long's office
Sandra Knobel Pinellas County MPO
Bob McClure Tampa Bay Newspapers
Bill Priakos Barefoot Beach Resort/TDC
Rhonda Sanborn Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater
Ralph Reid Commissioner Charlie Justice's Office
Doug Izzo Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Rick Walker Pinellas Emergency Management
Gregg Mims Indian Rocks Beach
Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy Vice Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Todd Ellson Sand Key Civic Association
Christopher Mettler Pinellas Planning Council
R.B. Johnson Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) was held Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at the Town of Indian Shores Municipal Center, 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785.

"ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKING FOR YOU"

BIG – C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

President Cretekos called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION was made by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Palladeno to approve the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Approval of October 20, 2013 meeting minutes.**

MOTION was made by Mayor Lawrence and seconded by Mayor Palladeno to approve the October 20, 2013 meeting minutes, as published. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

MOTION was made by Mayor Minning and seconded by Mayor Lawrence to approve the Treasurer’s Report for October 2013. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Correspondence** - None

7. **New Business**

Presentation by Mike Meidel, Director, Pinellas County Economic Development

Mr. Meidel gave an overview of what the Pinellas County Economic Development Department is doing to create more money flowing into the county economy.

Although tourism is an important part of economic development, the downside to the tourism industry is that the hospitality, housekeeping and wait services have lower wage levels. Tourism is only 20 % of the local economy. The biggest part of the remaining 80% is healthcare and related services.

Mr. Meidel stated it was their goal to identify and encourage companies, such as financial institutions, I.T services, manufacturing, and the defense industry, all of which will result in higher wages and the construction of hotels, the manufacturing of service products and other types of development which create jobs. A wide diversity of companies keeps our economy strong.

The PCED talks with companies every day to help them succeed and works directly with them to identify their expansion plans and needs. It promotes programs and classes on how to run a small business, including accounting, marketing, web and social media, identifying customers and export development. The PCED also works closely with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage manufacturers to buy from local suppliers. Many local small companies create components for larger firms, such as medical supplies and devices, and those on the leading edge of scientific products.

Help is available to get through regulatory processes and incentives are offered based on jobs created, wage levels and taxes paid into the economy. Help is provided navigating through the permitting process, local requirements, zoning inspections, and other types of obstacles, resulting in expediting construction of new facilities.

Mr. Meidel stressed that light rail is the best method to accommodate retail, while not clogging traffic. It’s also critical to create non-stop express highways.

The PCED website is: PCED.org . To find information relative to the redevelopment in your city, go to your city and find an informational paragraph about your community and

BIG – C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

the demographic report. A data base is also available relative to vacant land and sites for sale for retail, commercial and industrial projects.

8. Old Business

A. Janet Long, Pinellas County Commissioner.

Commissioner Long advised the language and structure has been established, moving toward Interlocal agreement with Greenlight Pinellas. The Pinellas Delegation will be addressing the flood insurance issue, specifically in the Big-C area.

B. Vice Mayor Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy, Indian Rocks Beach

MPO/PPC meeting to take place next week. Letter coming from FDOT and Governor to sign the legislation in the next few weeks.

C Vice Mayor Bill Smith, Indian Shores.

Vice Mayor Smith stated there was nothing new to report from the FSBPA. Annual assessments will be going out.

D. Rhonda Sandborn, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater

Ms. Sandborn stated the annual report TBCC is out, showing what was done with the funds.

9. Miscellaneous

Various officials announced the times and dates of numerous respective Boat Parades, Holiday parades, tree lightings, decorating contests, the Pinellas County Sheriff Departments “Ride with the Stars” and other special events scheduled to take place during the holiday season.

Adjournment

The meeting was duly adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Next meeting to be held in Redington Shores on January 29, 2014.

George N. Cretkos, President
Barrier Islands Governmental Council
Mayor, City of Clearwater