

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 9, 2009
Minutes

Present:

Belleair Beach	Vice Mayor Kathy Mortensen
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Council Member George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor R.B. Johnson
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Mayor Pat Shontz
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Mayor Robert Minning

Guest Speaker: David Healey, Executive Director, Pinellas Planning Council

Guests Present:

Joan Herndon	Vice Mayor, Indian Shores
Carole Ireland	Council Member, Indian Shores
Phil Collins	Commissioner, Treasure Island
Trish Muscarella	PBS&J
Steve Sutch	Council Member, Indian Shores
Mary Sutch	Pres., Indian Shores Women's Club
Art Newsome	Pres., Indian Shores Property Owners Assn.
Fred Steiermann	Commissioner, Redington Beach
Dean Scharmen	Public Services, Dir., Indian Rocks Beach
Jill Silverboard	Assistant City Manager, Clearwater
Jerry Knight	Vice Mayor, North Redington Beach
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Brian Smith	Pinellas Planning Council
Jim Parent	Commissioner, St. Pete Beach
Steve Andrews	Building Official, Redington Shores
Charles Coward	City Manager, Indian Rocks Beach
Kathy Mortensen	Vice Mayor, Belleair Beach
Bob Lasher	PSTA

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Will Davis	Pinellas County Environmental Management
Andy Squire	Pinellas County Environmental Management
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas Planning Council
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association
Kim Todd	Candidate for Circuit Judge
Nancy Gonzalez	City Manager, Belleair Beach
Frank Yurasko	Redington Beach
E.D. Williams	Town Administrator, Indian Shores
Phyllis Johnson	Beach Scene
Bob McClure	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Keith Myer	

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council was hosted by the Town of Indian Shores.

President Lawrence called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence welcomed everyone and thanked Vice Mayor Herndon and Councilor Ireland, as well as Women's Club President Mary Sutch for arranging for the breakfast and beverages from the Frog Pond and the Indian Shores Coffee Company.

Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with each person present introducing themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Shontz to approve the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of October 2009

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Shontz to approve the October 2009 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report for October and November 2009.

Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos stated he combined reports, since there was no meeting in November. Balance remaining was \$1,108.35. He reported all cities with the exception of one had paid their share of assessment fees for operating expenses and contributions to the FSBPA Beach Watch Fund.

Commissioner Cretekos advised members that the last bank statement reflected the bank had transposed some numbers, but the error has been corrected.

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Shontz to approve the Treasurer's Report for October/November 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Mayor Lawrence reported receiving a letter of appreciation at the ASPBA meeting in St. Petersburg from Nicole Elko for the award and gift presented to her and for the Big-C's support of ASPBA.

Mayor Lawrence also reported on a letter from County Commissioner Calvin Harris confirming Mayor Bill Queen of North Redington Beach as the Big-C representative to the Tourist and Development Council.

Mayor Lawrence also advised of receiving a thank you letter from Charlie Justice expressing appreciation for him speaking at the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation.

New Business

A. Presentation by Dave Healey, Pinellas Planning Council, addressing new legislation to combine the Pinellas Planning Council and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Mr. Healy informed members of recent legislation entitled the "Kriseman Bill", which would have terminated the Pinellas Planning Council and repealed the Countywide plan. The bill would have gone into effect July 1, 2010, but has been withdrawn. The legislation did not address the current County Charter provisions approved by referendum in 1988. It purported to advance the integration of land use and transportation, but proposed to eliminate the County Plan by which it could be accomplished, and did not provide for representation from sixteen of the twenty four municipal jurisdictions in the County. Discussion and consideration of the possible reorganization or merger of the PPC and MPO is likely to continue. The Planning Council is pursuing an evaluation of how the planning structure in the County could best be organized, with the three main objectives being: improving efficiency, effectiveness and representation. Mr. Healey encouraged the Big-C communities to be part of the continuing dialogue.

B. Big-C Representative for the County RFQ Selection Committee for the Coastal Management Consultant.

Andy Squires, Environmental Management, stated one more representative was needed for the selection Committee, which will rank applicants for the Coastal Management Consultant. This meeting will take place on December 21st. Presently, there are five members on the committee.

Mayor Lawrence stated presently only Mayor Minning from Treasure Island has expressed interest.

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve appointment of Mayor Minning as Big-C Representative to the County RFQ Selection Committee for the Coastal Management Consultant. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. Offshore Oil Rig Drilling Sub-Committee Report.

Nick Fritsch, Sand Key Civic Association, stated his organization was in the process of sending out the "Straight Talk" analysis of issues related to drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, to legislators, the FSBPA, discussion groups and members of the BIG-C. Big-C members can help by reading them and presenting key points with the public and other elected officials. Commissioner Phil Collins will present to the Pinellas Legislative Delegation, the economic impact and 45% loss of tourism in Treasure Island from the 1993 oil spill in Tampa Bay.

The Florida Legislature is considering opening state waters (3-10 miles off Florida beaches and shores) in the Gulf of Mexico to drilling for oil and natural gas, with risks due to spills, weather conditions, tide and currents affecting Florida beaches. The President of Senate, Jeff Atwater has been slowing down process, in order for more public input. Mr. Atwater stated he was not hearing as much from opponents. He asked members to post the copy of the "straw-draft" to their websites, and encourage the public to contact Mr. Atwater. His website is Atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov.

Councilor Bill Smith, Indian Shores, reported on attending the Sand Key meeting and fund raiser, where everyone in attendance was against off-shore drilling; however, most emails were in favor. Councilor Smith encouraged all to use email to communicate their opinion to the legislature.

B. Beach Representative for the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee.

Nick Fritsch stated the Citizen Advisory Committee focuses on all issues that go before the MPO: long range planning models, troublesome intersections, etc. The position would be good for technically inclined people. It meets once a month for approximately nine meetings per year.

Brian Smith, Pinellas Planning Council, stated the workshops were a good forum for public input and creates more deliberation.

Mayor Lawrence encouraged all members to look for active citizens who might be willing to serve.

Miscellaneous:

A. Legislative Update

None

B. Beach Update by Andy Squires

Andy Squires reported due to the changes that took place in September, the beach program is in transition. The priorities are to keep projects on schedule, secure funding and inspect every beach with a consultant and/or college professor and designate the hot spots. Mr. Squires reported on the following projects:

1. Treasure Island/Long Key Beach Renourishment Project: Permitting is in the final stage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects to receive the approved permits from FDEP by February 2010 and begin construction in May/June 2010.
2. Sand Key Beach Nourishment Project: County consultant completed report on source of sand located offshore of Sand Key, in lieu of Egmont Shoal, at a possible cost of \$17-22 million, if approved, compared to \$30-35 million. Permit submittal to FDEP is expected in January or February 2010 and construction to start between November 2010 and February 2011.
3. Upham Beach Stabilization Project: County has received input relative to a permanent structure alternative and brings recommendation to County Commission in February 2010. Repair of existing geotube T-groins would coincide with the May/June 2010 Treasure Island project.

C. Status of BIG-C Assessments.

Mayor Lawrence reminded members that the Big-C approved \$550 assessment per city at the November meeting, which was toward Big-C operating expenses and Beach Watch dues. As soon as the last city has paid their assessment, a check will be sent for full amount.

Councilor Bill Smith reported on the U.S. Supreme Court hearing a case relative to six Walton County beachfront home owners and nourishment of the beach in front of their homes, after the Florida Supreme Court ruled in favor of the State, which established the Erosion Control Line and the land seaward becomes public land and under state control.

The FSBPA, as an advocate for beaches, provided funds to hire an expert in eminent domain and voted unanimously to ask the Beach Watch members (which includes the Big-C) for funds.

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Councilor Smith asked the Big-C to approve the payment of \$1,000 to help defray legal cost, and as a symbol of support for the cause. Senator Jones would be available at the next meeting to explain the situation.

An open discussion took place relative to how the issue affects Pinellas County municipalities and its beaches, and the merits of contributing to the FSBPA cause. It was the consensus to obtain more information before making a decision. However, each individual municipality could contribute.

Mayor Lawrence announced a nominating committee will be set up in January, with change of leadership scheduled in April. Both Mayor Simons and Commissioner Cretekos will continue on the board; however, the position of Treasurer will be open. He urged members to be thinking about the position and let him know if interested.

Mayor Lawrence also announced the approval of the new Municipal Center in Indian Shores. Groundbreaking is anticipated for mid to late January 2010.

All members wished those present Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

The next meeting of the BIG-C will be held on January 27, 2010, and hosted by the Town of Redington Shores

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Jim Lawrence, President
Barrier Islands Governmental Council
Mayor, Town of Indian Shores