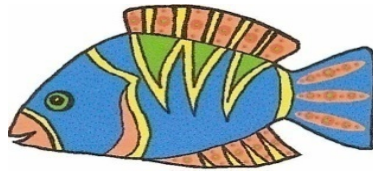


BIG C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

*Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach*



*North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Redington Shores
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island*

OFFICERS

Patrick Soranno
President
Mayor, Indian Shores

Alan Johnson
Vice-President
Mayor, St. Pete Beach

MaryBeth Henderson
Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor, Redington Shores

Meeting Minutes **August 26, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. BIG C (Barrier Islands Government Council) President Patrick Soranno, Vice-President Alan Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer MaryBeth Henderson and BIG C members Hoyt Hamilton, Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy, John B. Hendricks, Bill Queen, Nick Simons, and Lawrence Lunn and Guest Speaker District 1 Commissioner Janet Long attended the meeting using communications media technology.

2 – Roll Call

Present: Clearwater

Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach
North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Redington Shores
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton
Mayor Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy
Mayor Patrick Soranno
Mayor John B. Hendricks
Mayor Bill Queen
Mayor Nick Simons
Mayor MaryBeth Henderson
Mayor Alan Johnson
Mayor Lawrence Lunn

Guest Speaker:

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

District 1 Commissioner Janet Long

Also Attending Using Communications Media Technology:

Blackburn Coastal Realty
Charter Communications
City of Clearwater
Clearwater Gas
CPWG Engineering Services
dbaConsulting
Duke Energy
Duke Energy
State of Florida Department of Transportation
State of Florida Senate District 24
State of Florida House of Representatives District 69
Forward Pinellas
Indian Rocks Beach
Town of Indian Shores

Jennie Blackburn
Albie Kaminsky
Patricia Sullivan
Chuck Warrington
Cory Carnes
David Ardman
Jeff Baker
Leanne Haely
Bob Esposito
Melissa Meshil
Jessica Lewis
Sandra Knoebel
Kelly Cisarik
Vice Mayor Diantha Schear

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Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Town of Indian Shores	Councilor Mike Hackerson
Town of Indian Shores	Councilor Bill Smith
City of Madeira Beach	Bob Daniels
City of Madeira Beach	Jay Hatch
City of Madeira Beach	Curt Preisser
Pinellas County	Josh Boatwright
Pinellas County	Brian Lowack
Pinellas County	Rick Walker
Pinellas County	Doyle Walsh
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce	Doug Izzo
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce	Robin Miller
Tampa Bay Newspapers	Chris George
City of Treasure Island	Commissioner J. Tyler Payne
Treasure Island/Madeira Beach Chamber of Commerce	Missy Hahn
Waterfront Realty	Tim Johnson
Waterfront Realty	Chris Kelly
	C R Hollands
	Robert Smith
	Matt Svede
	Unknown phone caller

3 - Approval of Agenda

Mayor Kennedy moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Johnson and carried unanimously.

4 - Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2020 BIG C Virtual meeting hosted by City of St. Pete Beach

Mayor Queen moved to approve the minutes of the virtual regular BIG C meeting of June 24, 2020, as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded by Councilmember Hamilton and carried unanimously.

5 - Approval of June and July 2020 Treasurer's Reports.

BIG C Secretary/Treasurer MaryBeth Henderson reported no activity had occurred in June or July 2020; the balance for both Treasurer's Reports was \$664.23. A small Digital Eel payment was due in August.

Mayor Queen moved to approve the June and July 2020 Treasurer's Reports. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Johnson and carried unanimously.

6 - Correspondence:

Letter from Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton regarding nomination and appointment process for the 2021/22 Forward Pinellas BIG C Representative

Current Forward Pinellas BIG C Representative Mayor Kennedy expressed interest in reappointment.

It was requested that members submit nominations for the 2021/22 Forward Pinellas BIG C Representative. The appointment will be made at the next BIG C meeting.

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7 - New Business:

7a. Presentation by Pinellas County District 1 Commissioner Janet Long on updates: COVID-19, Budget, Transportation and Climate Initiatives

District 1 County Commissioner Janet Long said the Board of County Commissioners had received numerous requests to lift mask restrictions and CDC guidelines; the Commissioners will assess COVID-19 restrictions 3 to 4 weeks after schools open. She said the County had distributed millions of Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act dollars for childcare, individual financial assistance and small business grants and was working diligently to distribute funds quickly.

Commissioner Long said the Board of County Commissioners was finalizing the 2020/21 budget and cognizant of the need to plug holes in next year's budget due to anticipated financial hits associated with the pandemic. She said while the Real Estate market remained strong, tourist development tax collections, representing the County's hardest hit economy, had declined 21.8%. She said hoteliers had reported increased traffic as State residents took staycations. She said it was unfortunate that many businesses had been forced to close. She said the County was researching technology advancements to help create opportunities for a new economy once the pandemic was behind us.

Commissioner Long reported PSTA (Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority) recently broke ground for the SunRunner, a BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) line that will link St. Petersburg and St. Pete Beach. She said the County was working hard to accommodate St. Pete Beach's issues and concerns. She said the Federal Transit Administration's \$28.1 million allocation will allow swift completion of the project which also will serve as a catalyst to connect Pinellas with Hillsborough County.

Commissioner Long said the Tampa Bay Resilience Coalition, coordinated by TBRPC (Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council), continued to work through the pandemic on sea level rise and climate change issues. She will provide registration information for the coalition's September 2, 2020 virtual workshop.

In response to questions, Commissioner Long said she would report on the CARES Act remaining balance; much of the \$187 million received by the County was used to shore up this year's budget and avoid increasing the millage rate. She said the Pinellas County website provided information on applying for CARES Act funds and avenues available to businesses seeking help; all Councilmembers also were available to discuss the processes. She said Pinellas County Economic Development Director Mike Meidel and staff were leading the charge to provide assistance to small businesses.

Concerns were expressed that the slow beach season was approaching, many small beach business owners were trading water, looking for help, and State and local governments needed to loosen some restrictions to allow small businesses to maximize their opportunities or more would fail.

Commissioner Long said the Board of County Commissioners was aware of the impacts of their actions as well as local business concerns. She said the Pinellas County administration and Sheriff were operating under the Governor's rules and experiencing challenges communicating with the Governor's office.

7b. Tourist Development Council nominees: 1) Town of Indian Shores Councilor Michael Hackerson; 2) City of Treasure Island Commissioner J. Tyler Payne, and 3) City of St. Pete Beach Commissioner Melinda Pletcher.

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Mayor Queen moved to submit the slate of BIG C nominees to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment to the Tourist Development Council. The motion was duly seconded by Mayor Henderson and carried unanimously.

8 - Old Business: None.

9 – Miscellaneous:

Pinellas County Marketing Project Coordinator Josh Boatwright said Pinellas County had been working with the Complete Count Committee for more than a year to achieve the best possible response rate for the 2020 Census. He said benefits of the March distribution of mailers encouraging Census participation were derailed by the concurrent arrival of COVID-19. Advancement of the Census deadline to September 30, a smaller than anticipated staff, and social distancing and mask requirements reduced the ability of Census workers to go door to door and count all residents. He reviewed additional marketing efforts underway to increase participation and expressed concern the 30% to 40% beach participation rate lagged behind the overall County. He said identifying seasonal residents would help determine which homeowners could be removed from the County’s contact list. He appreciated all outreach efforts to boost Census participation.

10 – Legislative Update:

Senator Jeff Brandes’ Legislative Assistant Melissa Meshil said the Senator had heard business community concerns; he was in frequent conversations with Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary Beshears advocating for local businesses. She said the Senator’s office has heard from the beach community and was available every day to help residents.



Representative Jennifer Webb’s District Secretary Jessica Lewis said the Representative had heard similar concerns from business owners, residents struggling to receive full unemployment benefits, and parents worried about school openings; the Representative’s office was trying to help. She said the Census was a priority for Representative Webb and she welcomed an opportunity to coordinate efforts with the County. She encouraged constituents reach out to Representative Webb’s office for help.

11 – City Events:

BIG C members reviewed upcoming events and event cancellations.

12 – Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Patricia O. Sullivan, Board Reporter, City of Clearwater	
September 30, 2020 _____ Date Approved	APPROVED  _____ Patrick C. Soranno, President, Barrier Islands Governmental Council Mayor, Indian Shores
ATTEST  _____ Freddie Lozano, Town Clerk	

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