

**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

Jim Lawrence

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January 27, 2010

Minutes

Present:	Belleair Beach Clearwater Indian Rocks Beach Indian Shores North Redington Beach Madeira Beach Redington Beach Redington Shores St. Pete Beach Treasure Island	Vice Mayor Kathy Mortensen Councilmember Cretekos Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wolin Mayor Jim Lawrence Mayor Bill Queen Mayor Pat Shontz Mayor Nick Simons Mayor Bert Adams Mayor Mike Finnerty Mayor Robert Minning
Guest Speakers	Collabria, LLC John Morroni	Dean Collura, Marc Moore Pinellas County Commissioner
Guests Present:	Bill Smith Fred Steiermann Joan Herndon Carole Irelan Steve Sutch Bob McClure Kristi Cheatham Chuck Coward Sandra Knoebel Linda Fisher W. D. Higginbotham Jim Frishe	Councilor, Indian Shores Commissioner, Redington Beach Vice Mayor, Indian Shores Councilmember, Indian Shores Councilman, Indian Shores Editor, Beach Beacon Clearwater Gas City Manager, Indian Rocks Beach Planner, Pinellas Co. Planning Dep't Pinellas Planning Council City Manager, Madeira Beach State House of Representatives

Sally Bishop
Melissa Seixas
Andy Squires
Jim Parent
Jerry Knight
Phyllis Johnson

Director, Pinellas County EM
Community Relations, Progress Energy
Ass't Director, Pin. Co. Environmental Mgmt.
Commissioner, St. Pete Beach
Vice Mayor, North Redington Beach
Beach Scene

Big-C President Lawrence called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at Redington Shores Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was conducted with each person present introducing him/herself. Mayor Bert Adams welcomed everyone, and expressed appreciation to the Frog Pond Restaurant for providing the breakfast.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Finnerty moved to approve the agenda of the December 9, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shontz and carried unanimously.

Minutes Approval – December 9, 2009

Mayor Simons moved to approve the minutes of the December, 2009 meeting as submitted in written summation to each member. The motion was seconded by Mayor Adams and carried unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – December 2009

Secretary/Treasurer George Cretekos presented the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2009. Councilman Cretekos said it is time to send \$5,000 to the Beach Watch fund of the FSBPA. Mayor Lawrence said that he had left contributions to the legal fund up to the individual towns on a voluntary basis; as of this date Indian Shores has contributed \$200.00; Belleair Beach \$100.00; Treasure Island \$500.00.

Vice Mayor Mortensen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2009, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shontz and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

None

New Business

A. Andy Squires, Assistant Director, Pinellas County Environmental Management, presented a beach update. The Treasure Island – Long Key renourishment is on schedule for late May or early June, with the Notice of Intent approved. Mr. Squires will attend meetings in Tallahassee on January 28 to discuss that project as well as John's Pass. Sand Key projects are planned for the winter of 2010-2011. The plan is to pump sand from John's Pass to Treasure Island.

The Upham Beach stabilization project will coincide with the renourishment, and will involve repair of existing geotubes. Coastal Management Consulting Services is in the process of selecting a management firm to handle the contract.

B. Dean Collura and Marc Moore, Collabria LLC, gave a slide presentation of state-of-the-art communication software, having been recommended to the BIG-C by Mayor Robertson. Marc Moore explained that this software combines voice, text, data and files via laptop to instantly communicate with other users worldwide, and is completely secure. This would be helpful in first responder situations during and prior to natural disasters. Mr. Moore said the cost is \$100.00 per device per year. Collabria is now working with FEMA, FDLE and the UN to provide service.

C. Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni began the County update by introducing Sally Bishop, Director of Emergency Management for Pinellas County. Ms. Bishop said they are working on a post disaster redevelopment planning project to be offered to cities that would help implement local plans for structural and housing redevelopment after a disaster. The towns' Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) projects are being sent to the State level for approval. Grant monies for emergency management are being earmarked to have a coordinator for disaster preparation. Also, continuity of operations for the County level is being addressed. Finally, Ms. Bishop said the National Hurricane watch/warnings are being changed to extend the watches to 48 hours, and the warnings to 36 hours out. Storm surges will now be placed in a separate category.

Commissioner Morroni presented a bleak picture of the current budget, with at least \$40 million being cut from this year's budget. Furthermore, \$30-35 million may need to be cut in the following fiscal year. Penny for Pinellas funds are balanced, with about 25% reduction for projects. The Commission will look at the Gulf Blvd CIP in April. The Transportation Trust Fund is not balanced at this time, but the Tourist Development Fund is balanced. Foreclosures in the County are the worst ever – 15,400 in 2009. Commissioner Morroni said that the majority of Commissioners are opposed to offshore oil drilling, and urged the towns to continue to contact their Commissioners. Finally, the County passed the Fertilizer Ordinance, which will go into effect June 1, 2011.

Old Business

A. Councilor Bill Smith, Indian Shores, continues to remain involved in the offshore oil drilling situation, and encouraged everyone to email their legislators.

B. The Hands Across the Sand event will take place in 3 locations on Saturday, February 13, from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. at St. Pete Beach, Treasure Island and Clearwater beaches. Contact Robin Grabowski at the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce for details.

C. Mayor Lawrence said the Nominating/By-Laws Committee needs to be in place now, with the vote coming in April. Mayor Lawrence asked for volunteers to sit on the Committee; Commissioner Hamilton-Wolin, Mayor Queen and Vice Mayor Mortensen volunteered. Mayor Lawrence also asked for 2 members for the Audit Committee. Current Vice President Nick Simons and Treasurer George Cretekos will remain as officers. There will need to be a volunteer for the Treasurer/Secretary position.

Miscellaneous

A. Legislative Update: Representative Jim Frishe said that the State budget is ongoing. In the transportation area bridges are under discussion. Mr. Frishe asked that the individual towns keep him informed of all issues.

B. Sandra Knoebel, Pinellas County Planning Department, referred an updated handout showing the estimated costs for individual towns for the Gulf Blvd. Beautification project. Mayor Simons asked that the Towns prepare information on their town projects for the next meeting; and reiterated that this beautification project must remain a commitment between the Gulf Blvd. Towns and the County Commission. With regard to other projected expenses, Mayor Queen referred to the request from the Dali Museum to receive \$5 million from the Tourist Development Council, stating that this is too much for the TDC to provide at this time.

C. Tampa Bay Rays Appreciation Day: Mayor Lawrence said that last year's event was very well received, and he is working with the Ray's promoter to set up on-line ticket purchases to facilitate the process. Consensus was that another Gulf Beaches Rays Day would be welcomed.

City Updates

Commissioner Hamilton-Wolin said that Indian Rocks Beach had a problem with FDOT, when an osprey nest had been torn down. After resolving the issue with FDOT, volunteers from the town restored the nest to another location. Luckily, the ospreys have returned to the nest.

Mayor Finnerty, St. Pete Beach, announced that their Police Chief was named Captain of the Tampa Bay Police Chiefs.

Vice Mayor Mortensen, Belleair Beach, said that the grand opening for the causeway has been postponed to a later date.

Mayor Shontz, Madeira Beach, reminded everyone of the Food for Thought event at the Gulf Beaches Library on February 27, 2010.

Mayor Lawrence, Indian Shores, invited everyone to the groundbreaking ceremony for the new town hall on Friday, January 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Councilor Bill Smith, Indian Shores, said he will attend the FSBPA meeting next week as Director.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

President, Barrier Islands
Governmental Council
Mayor – Indian Shores