

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

MINUTES – JANUARY 31, 2007

PRESIDENT: Mayor Bill Queen, Town of North Redington Beach
VICE-PRESIDENT: Mayor James Lawrence, Town of Indian Shores
SECRETARY/TREASURER Mayor Linda Wilson, Town of Redington Beach

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, sponsored by the Town of Redington Shores, was held at Redington Shores Town Hall, 17425 Gulf Boulevard, Redington Shores, Florida was called to order by President Bill Queen at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1). ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Belleair Beach	Mayor Rudy Davis
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor William Ockunzzi
Indian Shores	Mayor James Lawrence
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
Treasure Island	Commissioner Richard Kraus
City of Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson

Guests Present:

Jerry Knight	Vice Mayor, North Redington Beach
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic
Senator Dennis Jones	Senator, District 13
Steve Spratt	Pinellas County Administrator
Keith Wicks	Assistant County Administrator
Joan Herdon	Vice Mayor, Indian Shores
R. B. Johnson	Vice Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Leslie Peck-Epstein	Vice Mayor, Redington Beach
Rodney Fischer	PCCLB
Bob MacPherson	Beach Beacon
Curtis Blocker	Commissioner, North Redington Beach
Marlene Clausen	Councilor, Indian Shores
Martha Boos	Commissioner, Madeira Beach
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Sandra Knoebel-Gamache	Pinellas City Planning
Phyllis Johnson	Tampa Bay Sun
Bill Smith	Councilor, Indian Shores
Janina Patrus	Town Clerk, Redington Beach

Rand Baldwin	SWFWMD, Government Affairs
Jose Coppen	Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach
John Doran	Council Member, Clearwater
Steve Spratt	Pinellas County Administrator
St. Pete Beach	Vice Mayor Ed Ruttencutter

2). APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Councilman John Doran to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2006 BIG-C Meeting, carried unanimously. Motion to amend page 5 of Minutes by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Lawrence. Carried unanimously.

3). TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Linda Wilson reported a balance of \$1,248.43 as of December 31, 2006, after no disbursements or income from November or December. Mayor Wilson also said she would send an invoice to the Florida Shores & Beaches, plus an additional \$100.00, in an amount discussed at the previous meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Mayor Robertson; seconded by Mayor Armstrong. Carried unanimously.

4). GUEST SPEAKER: Steve Spratt

Pinellas County Administrator Steve Spratt presented information about the Pennies for Pinellas campaign, which is in the final 40 days of its effort to raise \$50 million for the 2010-2020 time frame. Mr. Spratt's message is to have public support for improvements to roads, drainage, beach accesses, boat ramps, parks and more. After some discussion – and several questions asking about the “inequality” of County spending the dollars in the beach communities – Mr. Spratt explained that the County has to balance the money throughout the municipalities, with some jurisdictional priorities going to traffic congested areas at this time. There was discussion regarding the Gulf Blvd. beautification project, which was at a cost of \$30 million 5 years ago, then increased to \$70 million. The County had planned to provide \$70 million with the cities funding the streetscaping. The penny portion of the funding has been assessed at 35 million; the balance will be obtained through other revenues. A motion to accept a Resolution for Pennies for Pinellas from the BIG-C from Mayor Robertson; seconded by Mayor Armstrong. Carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update – Senator Dennis Jones

Senator Jones reported on the beaches' renourishment, citing a shift at the Federal level regarding matching funds, and the need for Florida to keep its matching funds. Senator Jones also reported on the Insurance CAT fund, which should have

\$40 billion in the fund and has only \$2 billion. Governor Crist is moving forward with property tax reform, and wants equality among all 67 counties. Senator Jones said that in the long term a national program on insurance could be established for all disasters and that some areas of the country would not be assessed at the same level as high risk areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Jim Lawrence made a motion to appoint Commissioner John Wolbert (Madeira Beach) as Treasurer, to replace Linda Wilson; seconded by Mayor Armstrong. Carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence reported on his participation in the first Charter Review Committee session with the municipalities and the County, stating that the mediator did an excellent job trying to get the 2 levels of government together on the issues of the County's counterclaim against the dual vote; and change the ambiguous language in Amendments 5 and 6. Mayor Lawrence was impressed with the level of mutual support among the cities.

Mayor Rudy Davis said that the BIG-C needs to maintain as much impact as possible on the election of Board of County Commissioners.

Mayor Queen announced the next Legislative Delegation Meeting on February 1, 2007 at the Largo Public Library.

Mayor Armstrong recognized Nick Fritsch from Sand Key Civic Association for his actions with the renourishment program. Mayor Armstrong has recently participated in conferences for Florida Beaches and Shores, and said that Florida leads the nation in beach renourishment management practices. She expressed her gratitude to Nicole Elko, Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Queen, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach