

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



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

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**OFFICERS**

**William Queen**

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**February 28, 2007**

**Minutes**

The Meeting of the Barrier Island Governmental Council was hosted by the Town of North Redington Beach, at Town Hall located at 190 173rd Avenue, N. Redington Beach, FL 33708. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Queen at 9:00 a.m.

- 1) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President Queen led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) **ROLL CALL:** President Queen reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones, there would be a \$1 fine if the phone were heard ringing. President Queen then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**MEMBERS:** *(According to the Sign in Sheet)*

Belleair Beach:	Rudy Davis
Indian Rocks Beach:	Commissioner Jose Coppen
Indian Shores:	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach:	Commissioner John Wolbert
No. Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Linda Wilson
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Mike Finnerty

GUESTS: *(According to the Sign in Sheet)*

Marlene Clausen	Councilor, Indian Shores
Gary Curtis	Commissioner, North Redington Beach
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas Planning Council
Nick Fritsch	Beach Chair, Sandy Key Civic
Joan Herndon	Councilor, Indian Shores
Jerry Knight	Vice-Mayor, North Redington Beach
Sandra Knoebel Gamache	Planner, Pinellas County MPO
Bob McPherson	Beach Beacon
Ed Ruttencutter	Commissioner, St. Pete Beach
Janina Patrus	Town Clerk, Redington Beach
Joe DeMoss	Pinellas County
Martha Boos	Commissioner, Madeira Beach
Steve Sutch	Councillor, Indian Shores
Jim Frishe	State Representative
Phyllis Johnson	Tampa Bay Sun
Nick Simons	Redington Beach
Fred Steiermann	Redington Beach

- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-February 28, 2007.** A motion to approve was made by Mayor Armstrong, seconded by Mayor Davis. All approved.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES-January 31, 2007.** Mayor Armstrong asked that John Doran, Martha Boos and Linda Wilson be added as attending the January meeting. A motion to accept was made by Mayor Wilson, seconded by Mayor Davis. All approved.
- 5) **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2007 TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mayor Wilson stated there was no activity in the account for January, however invoices had been sent to all of the cities for lobbying funds in the amount of \$454 with an addition \$100 going into the council's reserve. She stated all cities had responded with the exception of Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores and St. Pete Beach. Mayor Wilson said when all the funds had been collected; the check would be cut for the lobbying. A motion to approve the report was made by Mayor Lawrence, seconded by Mayor Davis. All approved.

President Queen noted the attendance of Representative Frishe and congratulated him on being appointed to the Tourism & Trade Committee by Speaker Rubio. President Queen added that Representative Frishe would be speaking to the Big C at a later meeting.

President Queen also stated that a letter had been sent to Governor Crist inviting him to a future meeting.

## 6) NEW BUSINESS

A. Joe Widlansky, Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Mr. Widlansky presented information regarding sea turtle lighting along the beach. Mr. Widlansky stated there were 115 nests along 23 miles of beach in Pinellas County in 2006. He gave information on how lighting can dissuade a nesting turtle from coming onto the beach as well as confuse new hatchlings about the direction to the water. Mr. Widlansky stated the season runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> and any lighting that could shine on the beach should be extinguished or shaded from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

Mr. Widlansky urged all cities to put a lighting ordinance in place if they do not already have one. He also requested that if the city has an existing ordinance, that they take time to ensure the ordinance was updated. Mr. Widlansky passed out a copy of a model ordinance to the attending members.

#### B. Joe DeMoss, Engineering Supervisor for Pinellas County

Mr. DeMoss presented updated information regarding the undergrounding and beautification project for Gulf Boulevard. He stated he has met with all of the cities and all eleven of the cities were now onboard with the project. Mr. DeMoss added that Pinellas County staff is doing much of the work instead of hiring consultants, which is saving a significant amount of money.

Mr. DeMoss informed the members that each city would be receiving an electronic file with each jurisdiction that can be posted for residents to see what how the project will be developed. Mayor Queen asked if the electronic view would show where the boxes need to be located. Mr. DeMoss responded that it would not. He explained that Progress Energy would not do the work because they must be reimbursed and the project was not at that stage. He stated they do have non-binding costs from all of the utilities.

Mr. DeMoss stated most of the cities costs have come down in price since the original estimates. Ms. Gamache spoke regarding funding of the project. She stated they have spoken with DOT and with Katherine Burbridge at Pinellas County regarding grants. She said it is still in the beginning stages but they are trying to get Gulf Boulevard deemed a scenic corridor. Ms. Gamache added there was more funding if the designation was granted.

Mr. DeMoss urged all of the cities to review the project. He stated if any of the cities drop out of the project the costs would change for the remaining cities. Mr. DeMoss added he would be presenting the project to the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners on April 13<sup>th</sup> and urged all of the cities to send representation in support of the project. He reiterated that he was trying to get the electronic files out to the cities on the Friday prior to the meeting. Mayor Queen asked about the easement costs being in the estimates. Mr. DeMoss replied that the land acquisition costs would be included but is broken down on the side so it could be removed if the city was getting the easements at no charge. Mr. DeMoss explained one new development with the project being Progress Energy wants to require the applicant to be responsible for any relocation costs unless they receive their own private easement along the entire strip. He added this was a substantial impact when spread over 20 miles.

Mr. DeMoss stated he would continue to make contact via the Big C meetings as the meeting with Pinellas County gets closer.

Mayor Lawrence offered help to any cities with easement questions.

The questions were raised regarding where the project stood if the Penny for Pinellas did not pass. Mr. DeMoss explained the failure of the Penny would not kill the project since the Board of Commissioners could find alternative funding.

Mr. DeMoss responded to a question regarding the start date. He said the start date would be 2009 barring any problems with the agreements.

## **7) MISCELLANEOUS**

President Queen read a letter from MPO requesting volunteers for two of their committees. He asked that anyone interested to please let him know.

President Queen gave an update on Gary Vickers condition. He added that Mr. Vickers was scheduled to give a presentation to the Big C in May. He said he would contact Pinellas County Emergency Management to see if another speaker would be available.

President Queen thanked members of the council that are not running for re-election this year including Mayor Wilson, Mayor Davis, Commissioner Krauss and Commissioner Nicklaus. He added the website would be updated after the elections.

President Queen informed the council and guests that the speaker for March would be Leslie Waters. She will speak on property taxes and insurance.

Vice-Mayor Joan Herndon, of Indian Shores, gave a brief overview of the CRC meeting of the previous week. She stated Mayor Baker, of St. Petersburg, applauded the beach communities for standing with them on the issues. The agreement was approved by the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners by a 5-2 vote.

Commissioner Wolbert stated Dr. Nicole Elko was named citizen of the year in Madeira Beach.

Mayor Davis thanked the council and guests for the pleasure of working with them.

## **8) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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Mayor Bill Queen  
Town of North Redington Beach