

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)
MARCH, 2004 MEETING MINUTES
March 31, 2004
Town of Redington Beach Town Hall Assembly Hall

PRESIDENT: Honorable J.J. Beyrouti, Mayor, Town of Redington Shores
VICE PRESIDENT: Honorable Michael Kelly, Mayor, City of Belleair Beach
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Honorable Tom DeCesare, Mayor, City of Madeira Beach

President Beyrouti called the March 31, 2004 meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL Each person present was asked to introduce him/herself

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting member – V; Alternate member – A)

Belleair Beach	Honorable Mike Kelly, Mayor (V)
Belleair Shore	Honorable John Robertson, Mayor (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Honorable Jim Palamara, Commissioner (A)
Indian Shores	Honorable Donald Taber, Mayor (V)
Madeira Beach	Honorable Tom DeCesare, Mayor (V)
North Redington Beach	Honorable Harold Radcliffe, Mayor (V)
Redington Beach	Honorable Bob Fountaine, Mayor (V)
Redington Shores	Honorable J.J. Beyrouti, Mayor, (V)
St. Pete Beach	(None present)
Treasure Island	Honorable Richard Kraus, Commissioner (A)
Clearwater	(None present – Vice Mayor Hamilton called at last minute)

GUESTS

Katherine Burbridge, AICP, County of Pinellas Administration – Intergovernmental Liaison, **Pete Blank**, St. Pete Beach, **Bob MacPherson**, Beach Beacon Newspaper, **John R. Leahy, Jr.**, Chief, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue, **Steve Sutch**, Indian Shores Property Owners’ Association, **Honorable Bill Smith**, Town of Indian Shores Council, **Honorable Joan Herndon**, Town of Indian Shores Council, **Honorable Jerry Knight**, Town of North Redington Beach Commissioner, **Kristi Cottier**, Clearwater Gas, **Rand Baldwin**, Southwest Florida Water Management District, **Vince Robertiello**, The Reporter, **Honorable Mary Maloof**, City of Treasure Island Mayor, **Honorable John Wolbert**, City of Madeira Beach Commission, **Maureen Byrne Ahern**, St. Petersburg Times, **Nancy Lohr**, Progress Energy

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

President Beyrouti recognized and thanked the catering group known as “Santa’s Angels Catering”; President Beyrouti also recognized **Lynne Hawthorne**, representing “Santa’s Angels” who briefly explained the mission and operation of the group (taking care of needy families during the December holiday season).

APPROVAL OF MARCH, 2004 TREASURER’S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Tom DeCesare presented the March, 2004 Treasurer’s Report which showed a balance as of March 8, 2004, of \$1,226.63. A Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion approved by affirmation. The report included a payment of \$5,000.00 on 3/2/04 to the FSBPA for the BIG-C 2004 Beach Watch membership.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

A Motion was made to approve the 2/25/04 Meeting Minutes as presented; the Motion was seconded. The Motion passed on a voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKER: Carl M. Kuttler, Jr., President, St. Petersburg College

President Beyrouti introduced President Kuttler who began his remarks by noting that he is married to a former “Miss Treasure Island”. President Kuttler then went on to note that St. Petersburg College has many “contacts” with the beach communities – from sea turtles to sea birds. The College has a long and lustrous history in Pinellas County – starting as a 2 year private college, then going to a 3 year college, and then back to a 2 year program. St. Petersburg College has had a different history than other Junior or Community Colleges, with a much higher percentage of its graduates going on to 4 year colleges than most other 2 year schools. In 1948, St. Petersburg College became a part of the County School system; in 1968, it came under the State Board of Regents for Community Colleges. In the 1970’s, St. Petersburg College was the main West Central college for Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando and Pinellas counties. President Kuttler also noted the following distinguishing points about St. Petersburg College:

- #1 Internet College in United States
- Internet Vet Technician Program (said it couldn’t be taught on Internet)
- Speech Program on Internet (also had been told “impossible” to do)
- Studies have shown that Internet Classes have more / better participation by students than traditional classroom setting
- In the past three years, St. Petersburg College have added 64 new degrees
- Now have a Pharmacy Degree and just added a Dental School (Dental School serves between 15,000 – 18,000 underprivileged persons at the school)
- New EMS Training program is working with Summer Olympics training EMS personnel
- New Hospitality program in “partnership” with Florida International University (St. Petersburg College is now in “partnership programs” with fourteen other Universities)

In response to a question from Beach Beacon Reporter Bob McPherson, President Kuttler noted the following St. Petersburg College campuses – Allstate Center Campus, St. Petersburg Main Campus, Downtown Campus, Clearwater Campus, 66TH Street Admin. Center, 66TH Medical Science Campus, Tarpon Springs Campus, and the Seminole Campus (ICOT Campus to open in December, 2004).

President Beyrouti thanked President Kuttler for addressing the members and guests.

OLD BUSINESS

President Beyrouti stated that his term as President ends today and he was happy to announce that there is no “old business” to take care of since all items have been handled. He thanked his fellow BIG-C members for their support during his term of office as President.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 2004-01 – Recognition of Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young

Mayor John Robertson, Belleair Shores, read Resolution No. 2004-01. A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution. During the discussion, it was noted that the City of

Clearwater should be added to the BIG-C Letterhead and the Resolution before formally presenting it to Congressman Young. The Motion was passed on a unanimous voice vote.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee Selections for 2004/2006 Officers.

President Beyrouti made his final remarks as President. He thanked his fellow BIG-C members for their support during his term and noted that the organization is a very important one for the Beach communities (“power in numbers” concept has been proven over and over again). He urged all member communities to stay actively involved in BIG-C issues and affairs, and he urged all Mayors to get their City / Town Commissioners or Council members to take a more active role in the BIG-C. President Beyrouti noted that the Honorable Bob Fountaine is the incoming Secretary-Treasurer, the Honorable Tom DeCesare is the incoming Vice President, and the Honorable Michael Kelly is the incoming President. He then presented Certificates of Appreciation to Vice President Kelly and Secretary-Treasurer DeCesare for their years of service in those offices. President Beyrouti expressed his gratitude that the City of Clearwater had recently joined the BIG-C and noted that other, non-Beach communities (i.e. Gulfport, So. Pasadena) have expressed an interest in joining but are barred from becoming members by the organizations charter.

After Mayor Beyrouti’s remarks, newly installed President Michael Kelly said that his first order of business was to present a Plaque of appreciation to Mayor Beyrouti.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Mile Marker Program

Per Mayor Beyrouti, there are two BIG-C communities that are not participating – Treasure Island and Indian Rocks Beach. The program is on target and the signs should be installed in the first few weeks in April.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Radcliffe brought up the issue of the cost of the Beach tractor and rake that the County had donated for use by several Cities / Towns; Mayor Radcliffe said that the maintenance costs have turned out to be too great and that five of the Towns/Cities have agreed to stop using it.

Mayor Beyrouti noted that BIG-C members need to appoint or re-appoint their voting and alternate members during the month of April – send selections (as passed by the municipalities official bodies) to President Kelly.

President Kelly again thanked the “Angels” who had prepared the breakfast for today’s meeting and noted that they are available to cater other BIG-C events in the future.

Chief Leahy mentioned that the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue is holding classes.

Mayor Beyrouti again thanked Mayor Fountaine (and his wife, Michelle and the “Angels”) for hosting today’s BIG-C meeting.

Rand Baldwin, SWFWMD, reminded everyone present of the April 13 and 14 Legislative Day in Tallahassee.

Maureen Byrne Ahern, St. Pete Times Beach reporter, announced her imminent resignation from the St. Pete Times (to spend more time with her husband) – her last day will be April 10, 2004. She received a round of applause. President Kelly noted the importance of the Neighborhood Times section to the Beach communities and thanked Amy Wimmer and Maureen for “keeping the beaches on the front page”.

Rand Baldwin, SWFWMD, said that the Pinellas – Anclote River Basis Board will meet on April 14, 2004, for the next funding round.

Kristi Cottier, Clearwater Gas, made mention of the Suncoast League’s upcoming get together (and Golf Tournament).

President Kelly introduced Katherine Burbridge of Pinellas County Administration (Intergovernmental Liaison with the Towns and Cities) – she noted that one of her primary endeavors is grants.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to adjourn was made. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Bob Fountaine

Bob Fountaine, Mayor
Town of Redington Beach

ATTEST:

Larry W. Bittner

Larry W. Bittner, Town Clerk
Town of Redington Beach