

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)

MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2005

(Meeting Held at Redington Beach Town Hall)

PRESIDENT: Mayor Don Taber, Town of Indian Shores
VICE PRESIDENT: Vacant
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Mayor Bob Fountaine, Town of Redington Beach

President Taber called the March 23, 2005 BIG-C meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Taber let the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **President Taber:** President Taber read former Belleair Beach Mayor Mike Kelly's letter of resignation (dated March 9, 2005) as President of the BIG-C. President Taber then presented a plaque of appreciation to former President / Mayor Kelly for his service as BIG-C President for 2004 – 2005.
3. **Roll Call:** Each person was asked to introduce him / herself.

Members present: (Voting member – V; Alternate member – A)

Belleair Beach	Mayor Rudy Davis (V)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Clearwater	Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner James R. Palamara (A)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Vice Mayor John Wolbert (A)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Bob Fountaine (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor J. J. Beyrouiti (V)
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Ed Ruttencutter (A)
Treasure Island	Councilmember Richard Kraus (A)

Guests:

Doris Burns, Senator Dennis Jones' representative; **Rand Baldwin**, Southwest Florida Water Management District; **Mike Kelly**, former Mayor, City of Belleair Beach; **Nick Fritsch**, Sand Key Civic Association; **Kristi Cheatham**, Clearwater Gas; **Ronnie Duncan**, Commissioner, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners; **Phyllis Johnson**, Sand Key Sun; **Len Ciecieznski**, Pinellas County Communications; **Linda Fisher**, Pinellas Planning Council; **Katherine Burbridge**, Pinellas County; **Vince Robertiello**, The Reporter; **Martha J. Boos**, City of Madeira Beach; **Art Thomas**, City of Madeira Beach District 3 Commissioner; **Missy Pike**, President / CEO, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce; **Debra Kennaugh**, Florida Department of Transportation District 7 Traffic Operations; **Bob MacPherson**, Beach Beacon Bee Reporter; **Sheila Mullane Estrada**, St. Petersburg Times Reporter; and, **Larry W. Bittner, CMC**, Town of Redington Beach Town Clerk. Other guests were present but did not sign in.

President Taber gave "thanks" to Kathryn Cormier for catering "...a wonderful breakfast" for the members and guests of the BIG-C.

4. **Approval of Agenda:** There were no changes to the Agenda that was published and distributed.

5. **Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2005 Meeting; and,**

Approval of March, 2005 Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Fontaine presented the February 23, 2005 Meeting Minutes and the March, 2005 Treasurer's Report (showing a balance of **\$2,769.98** as of March 8, 2005).

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2005 and the March, 2005 Treasurer's Report. All showed their favor by voice vote.

7. **Guest Speaker: Honorable Ronnie Duncan, Pinellas County Commissioner**

President Taber introduced **Ronnie Duncan**, Commissioner, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Duncan addressed the members and assembled guests, and stated:

- ✓ He is a "rookie" commissioner; he wants to "listen and learn" and be a part of the process of the BIG-C
 - ✓ Mentioned J.J. Beyrouti as his campaign opponent and that they are now friends and he's got a great deal of respect for the Mayor and the work he's done with the BIG-C and throughout the Beach communities
 - ✓ Spoke of "common goals and objectives throughout Pinellas County"; thanked "all elected people who are present for their time, service and dedication to their communities and the larger community"
 - ✓ "Shared" the following:
 - A. Thanked Kathryn Cormier and said that "the County needs to hire her to cater some of their functions"; and,
 - B. Spoke of his "Grandmother's Cart with a Wobbly Wheel" – noting that Pinellas County is "out of balance" and is "wobbly".
 - ✓ Said he believes that:
 - A. The County "needs to make Gulf Boulevard a PRIORITY project in Pinellas County from the following perspectives: 1) Architecturally; 2) Safety; 3) Transportation, and 4) Stormwater Management – make Gulf Blvd. "a true corridor".
 - Step 1: County and Beach Communities agree on a (comprehensive) plan
 - Step 2: Figure out a way to pay for it
- Noted that at a recent County Board Visioning Meeting Commissioners **Bob Stewart**, **John Morroni**, **Karen Seel**, and **himself** all said they "...want to bring the Gulf Boulevard issue back to the table and make it a PRIORITY issue." And, also believes that:
- B. County leaders have to build "bridges of trust" – there's a lack of trust in Pinellas County. Noted that "building trust" means working together and "trying to keep the lawyers out of the process".
- After closing, several members addressed Commissioner Duncan:
- Mayor J.J. Beyrouti:**
Apologized for arriving late; said he "likes what I've heard (from Commissioner Duncan)"; but, there is a "need for new leadership at the County level" and there is a "need to change the trend vis-à-vis relating to the BIG-C and the Beach communities – less of an 'individual approach' by Commissioners and more of a concerted effort by the entire B.O.C.C."
- Mayor Fontaine:**
Made remarks re: "lobbying of smaller communities on behalf of big Cities like St. Petersburg"
- Mayor Robertson:** "Primary role of BIG-C is to speak with one voice; there is seemingly no coordination at County level when Beach projects are undertaken and a lack of coordination when there are several simultaneous County-sponsored projects going on at the same time"
- Mayor Taber:**
Said he recently "met with County and FDOT officials re: coordinating a project in Indian Shores along Gulf Blvd. – his City had to initiate the coordination between the two outside agencies.
- James Palmara** and other audience members spoke to Commissioner Duncan about concerns that they had.