

# BIG-C

## Barrier Islands Governmental Council

*Belleair Beach*

*Belleair Shore*

*Clearwater*

*Indian Rocks Beach*

*Indian Shores*

*North Redington Beach*



*Madeira Beach*

*Redington Beach*

*Redington Shores*

*St. Pete Beach*

*Treasure Island*

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### OFFICERS

**Jim Lawrence**  
**President**

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**Secretary/Treasurer**

Councilmember, Clearwater  
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### April 30, 2008 Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council was hosted by the City of Madeira Beach at Madeira Beach City Hall located at 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708. President Lawrence called the meeting to order by at 9:03 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** President Lawrence led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcement.** President Lawrence:

- Thanked Mayor Shontz and City Clerk Schlegel for hosting the meeting, providing the breakfast, and taking the minutes.
- Reminded everyone to place their cell phones on stun, so the meeting will not be disturbed.

2. **Roll Call.** President Lawrence turned to his left and requested that each person introduce him/herself.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting = V; Alternate 1 = A1; and Alternate 2 = A2)**

Belleair Beach	Vice-Mayor Kathy Mortensen (A2)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Clearwater	Councilmember George Cretekos (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence (V)
Madeira Beach	Mayor Patricia Shontz (V)
North Redington Beach	Mayor William Queen (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong (V)
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty (V)
Treasure Island	Commissioner Phil Collins (V)

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Ronnie Duncan	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick	Scientist, Mote Marine Laboratory

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Mary Burrell	Communication Specialist, Pinellas County
Bruce Bussey	Community Development, Pinellas County
Doris Burns	Representative, Senator Jones Office
Kristi Cheathan	External Office Manager, Clearwater Gas
Marlene Clausen	Councilor, Indian Shores
David Drillick	Commissioner, Redington Beach
Linda Fisher	Program Planner/Web Master, Pinellas Planning Council

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Nick Fritsch	Beach Chairman, Sand Key Civic Association
George Gonzalez	Candidate for FL House Representative 54
Melinda Greene	Reporter, Barrier Islands Gazette
Joan Herndon	Vice-Mayor, Indian Shores (A2)
R.B. Johnson	Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Carole Irelan	Councilor, Indian Shores
Jerry Knight	Vice-Mayor, North Redington Beach (A1)
Bob Lasher	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Bob Mac Pherson	Writer, Beach Beacon-Bee
Derryl O'Neal	Fire Chief/Acting City Manager, Madeira Beach
Mary Maloof	Mayor, Treasure Island
Denise Schlegel	City Clerk, Madeira Beach
Bill Smith	Councilor, Indian Shores (A1)
Fred Steierman	Commissioner, Redington Beach
Steve Sutch	Councilor, Indian Shores
Daniel Torres	Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach (A1)
Frank Yurask	Resident, Redington Beach

President Lawrence advised the BIG-C had two guest speakers for the meeting. Ronald E. Duncan, a Pinellas County Commissioner, who will speak on the Mayors' Green Action Accord and Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick, of Mote Laboratory, who will speak on the new red tide program.

- 3. **Approval of Agenda. Motion** made by Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos, seconded by Mayor Armstrong, to approve the April 30th, carried unanimously.
- 4. **Approval of Minutes of March 2008. Motion** made by Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos, seconded by Mayor Shontz, to approve the minutes of March 28th, carried unanimously.
- 5. **Approval of the Treasurer's Report for March 2007.** Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos provided the Treasurer's Report for March 2008

Register balance as of March 1, 2008.....	\$1,679.59
Total deposits/credits .....	\$0
Total disbursements/debits .....	\$48.75
02/29/08 Digital Eel, Inc./Inv. 7146 for posting agendas and minutes.....	\$48.75
Register balance as of March 31, 2008.....	\$1,630.84

**Motion** made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Queen to accept the March 2008 Treasurer's Report, as presented, carried unanimously.

**6. New Business**

**A. Mayors' Green City Action Accord**

Ronald E. Duncan, a Pinellas County (PC) Commissioner, advised:

- PC Officials are seeking to build community support for the Green City Action Accord because it has become too costly for many middle-class people to live and work within the county.
- The proposal would require future residential developments containing 20 units or more to include a portion of affordable housing based on the total number of units. It would also provide density bonuses of up to 50 percent making it more conducive for the developer to create affordable housing based upon adjusted mean income levels.
- For built-out municipalities, additional options might be offered; such as allowing builders to set aside land off-site to be earmarked for affordable housing or contribute to a trust fund for affordable housing.
- The county cannot have affordable housing unless the county has an efficient transportation system.

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- PC is seeking input from the municipalities on the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance.
- His definition of Affordable Housing is housing that can be reached by all people in the community.

Mary Burrell advised there is a "Mayor's Green City Action Accord group signing ceremony" on May 3rd to underscore countywide commitment to green initiatives.

Kristi Cheathan or Clearwater Gas elaborated that all the Mayors have been invited to attend the Mayors' Green City Action Accord on Saturday, May 3rd at 10 a.m. on the third floor of the Harborview Center located at 300 Cleveland Street in Clearwater. It will be the opening event of the Pinellas Living Green Expo.

Commissioner Duncan also answered questions of the BIG-C members and the audience.

**PC News Releases.** President Lawrence took a moment to compliment Mary Burrell on her News Releases, because they are informative and enjoyable to read. Mary Burrell advised if other people wished to receive her News Releases, they can contact her at mburrell@pinellascounty.org.

### **B. Solutions to Avoid Red Tide (START) Program**

Dr. Barbara Kirkpatrick, RET and a Scientist at the MOTE Marine Laboratory, advised:

- On a program called "Solutions to Avoid Red Tide" (START). The program was implemented in January 2008 in five counties (Pinellas to Collier County) with 23 beach locations, two of which are in PC. One site is at Ft. DeSoto State Park and the other at Caladesi Island.
- She would love to have more beach locations.
- Her primary research focus is on the red tide aerosol. She works with a multi-disciplinary group funded from the National Institute for Environmental Health Science to investigate who is at risk and what are the risks of these toxic aerosols. They have been studying a group of people who have asthma; and they have been able to document that after a one hour exposure on the beach, during red tide, they can measure changes with breathing tests and symptoms. The people remain symptomatic for five days after that one hour exposure on the beach. This week she will conduct a non-exposure or a controlled study as well, just to make sure that it's just not the marine aerosol irritating the air way and that it is indeed red tide.
- By using the Mote website ([www.mote.org/beaches](http://www.mote.org/beaches)) or calling 1-941-beaches, people can find out if their beach has red tide or any other air and water-borne pathogens including red drift algae and/or dead fish on the beach along with the color of the water, the wind direction, and surf conditions. The information is available seven days a week with updates at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Red Tide and other respiratory ailments caused by environmental factors are becoming and emerging public health concern; and people just want to know if they can go to their beach and will not be coughing all day.
- Blackberry cell phones are used to transmit the beach conditions. The annual cost per Blackberry is approximately \$2,300; and the cost for a computer hookup is approximately \$1,500 per site.
- They have changed the name of the report from "The Red Tide Report" to "The Beach Report".

Dr. Kirkpatrick also answered questions of the BIG-C members and the audience.

## **7. Miscellaneous:**

### **A. Legislative Update**

Doris Burns advised although the budget will be very tight this year, Upham Beach will receive \$1 million of state funding, Treasure Island \$400,000, and Sand Key \$150,000.

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Senate Bill 1672 also passed. It relates to inlet management legislation by Senator Jones. It recommits state efforts to address beach erosion caused by inlets. It provides financial incentive for local governments to better replicate the natural flow of sand. Senator Jones is excited about the potential benefits.

Nick Fritsch elaborated that the reason for the inlet management is because a Professor in Alabama said that 80-85% of all beach erosion is caused by inlets installed to help boaters get to the Gulf and Atlantic quicker.

Mayor Armstrong stated the overall intent is to include inlets into the beach renourishment program.

### **B. Announcements**

Mayor Armstrong advised:

- She attended the National Hurricane Conference, and it's time to start thinking along those lines. The major message from the conference was "We are survivors"; and she was encouraged to hear about a joint effort of public and the private partnerships working together.
- On May 7th, she will be attending the next Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) meeting, and she should provide an update on beach renourishment at the next BIG-C meeting.
- May 4th-10th is National Tourism Week and there are a lot of events going on throughout the county. She encouraged the membership to promote tourism, because it is the life of the economy in Pinellas County.
- On Thursday, May 1st Turtle Nesting Season begins and encouraged people to please turn out their lights on the gulf front as to not detour the sea turtles from nesting. Last year Pinellas County had 38 nests and this year it is hoping for more.

Mayor Simons advised that on Saturday, May 3rd at 10 a.m. in Friendship Park, across from Redington Beach Town Hall, Redington Beach will be holding a ground breaking ceremony for a resident who has donated an original sculpture commemorating 9-11. They will also be having commemorative bricks for sale.

Mayor Finnerty:

- Stated he looked forward to seeing everyone at the next BIG-C meeting on May 28th, which will be held at St. Pete Beach's new Recreation Center.
- Advised that if anyone would like to take a swim afterwards in their new pool, they will be welcome.

Commissioner Collins invited everyone to attend the Sun, Sand, and Swing on Saturday, May 24th, presented by the Treasure Island Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the City of Treasure Island. It is on the beach at 104th Avenue.

Mayor Queen advised he wanted to address the issue of the turtle lighting and the conflict that North Redington Beach is having with the Department of Health. He stated Nicole Elko is working on it, but the Department of Health is mandating 3 candle-power to light up the decks and the pools along the beach, which is in conflict with the Sea Turtle Nesting Ordinance that tells people to turn them off.

Mayor Armstrong suggested they use red lights, because turtles can't see red.

Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin advised:

- Indian Rocks Beach is holding its first Charrette involved with the USF Study for Gulf Boulevard, which will ultimately impact all the beach communities. She invited interested parties to attend.
- That affordable housing works at the Truman Annex, which is one of the most high-end real estate developments in Key West. It is a gated community, but has over 40 Affordable Houses.

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Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos apologized for not being at the BIG-C last month because he was in Tallahassee with the Florida League of Cities. He stated that last year the Legislators were sort of happy to see them, but they had no sympathy for how their budget cuts were going to impact the municipalities. This year the Legislators, again, were not happy to see us, but realized their budget cuts impacted not only the municipalities, but them too.

The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce is planning a meeting to discuss the hotel bed tax with regard to the stadium for the Tampa Bay Rays moving from Tropicana Field further into downtown St. Petersburg. It will be held on either May 8th or 15th. The Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce wishes to invite the BIG-C and its membership to be involved. He encouraged the membership to call the Clearwater Beach Chamber at 447-7600 to tell them what date you would prefer this meeting.

President Lawrence advised:

- At 7 p.m. on May 22nd Indian Shores will be holding its 2nd Annual Hurricane Awareness Party in the town hall auditorium. Bay News 9 Meteorologist Mike Clay will be the principal speaker. He stated everyone that attends will receive two free gifts.
- On May 26th Indian Shores will hold its annual Memorial Day Picnic at 2 p.m. in the pavilion behind town hall. A chicken dinner will be served and invited all to attend.

Mayor Shontz invited everyone to attend the 7th Annual John LeVique Days at John's Pass Village on the first weekend in June (June 6th, 7th, and 8th).

President Lawrence, again, thanked Mayor Shontz for hosting today's meeting and City Clerk Schlegel for organizing the breakfast and the meeting.

Mayor Shontz stated numbers were passed out during the meeting for a chance to win a door prize. Number one was drawn and Bob Lasher of PSTA received the door prize, which consisted of a wine carafe and 4 wine glasses.

- 8. Adjournment.** Being no further business to come before the BIG-C, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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James Lawrence, President  
Barrier Islands Governmental Council  
Mayor of Indian Shores