

**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**

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**May 31, 2006**

**Minutes**

The Meeting of the Barrier Island Governmental Council was hosted by the City of Treasure Island, but due to construction on the Treasure Island Bridge was held at North Redington Beach City Hall, 190 173rd Avenue, N. Redington Beach, FL 33708. The meeting was called to order by President Bill McQueen at 9:01 a.m.

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

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

Belleair Beach:	<i>No Representation</i>
Belleair Shores	<i>No Representation</i>
Clearwater:	Commissioner Hoyt Hamilton
Indian Rocks Beach:	Commissioner James Palamar
Indian Shores:	Councilor Bill Smith
Madeira Beach:	Commissioner John Wolbert
No. Redington Beach	Mayor Bill McQueen
Redington Beach	<i>No Representation</i>
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong

St. Pete Beach                      Commissioner Mike Finnerty  
Treasure Island                      Commissioner Richard Kraus

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

Martha Boos	Commissioner, Madeira Beach
Neil Brickfield	SUCA
Kristi Cheatham	Clearwater Gas
Marlene Clausen	Councilor, Indian Shores
Jose Copen	Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach
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
R.B. Johnson	Vice Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Dennis Jones	State Senator, Florida State House
Rod Jones	District 54 Republican Candidate, Florida State House
Jerry Knight	Vice-Mayor, North Redington Beach
Sandra Knoebel Gamache	Planner, Pinellas County MPO
Jim Lawrence	Mayor, Indian Shores
Bob McPherson	Beach Beacon
Charlie Parker	Mayor, Madeira Beach
Ed Ruttencutter	Commissioner, St. Pete Beach
Reid Silverboard	City Manager, Belleair Beach
Ralph Stone	City Manager, Treasure Island
Steve Sutch	Councilor, Indian Shores
Betsy Valentine	District 54 Democratic Candidate, Florida State House

- 3) APPROVAL OF AGENDA-May 31, 2006. All were in favor of the Agenda.
- 4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES-April 26, 2006. No discrepancies regarding the minutes, motion to accept, all in favor.
- 5) APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2006 TREASURER'S REPORT: No discrepancies, all voted to motion to accept.

6) **OLD BUSINESS**

- *Tribute to Tourism Report*

- o Missy Pyke spoke about a luncheon of 150 people where there were several speakers and Mayor Ward Friszolowski received an award for his endeavors with tourism
- o Carol Ketterhagen of the Convention Visitor's Bureau discussed the countywide tourism convention held at Tropicana Field working with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. There were about 400 people at the event. New statistics will be mailed out discussing the 85,000 new full time jobs and the \$6 billion positive impact on tourism.

- *Pedestrian Safety*
  - o Jody Armstrong discussed the importance of June's Pedestrian Safety Month. T-shirts were given to all the BIG-C delegates and they were asked to wear them at their next Commission Meeting. Flyers were given the delegates as well. These flyers may be distributed to all residents.
  - o Bay News 9 was invited to the meeting but never showed up.
  - o It was brought to attention that there needs to be a change in culture, and residents need to be more aware of the crosswalks.
    - Suggestions: Hand out the flyers to all residents.
  - o Bill McQueen suggested all the beaches unite on this so Gulf Blvd. will become safer.
  - o Nick Fritsch suggested putting flags at all crosswalks (down Gulf Blvd.) for consistency.
    - Pedestrian Safety consists of three (3) measures: 1) Engineering {crosswalks, speed bumps, etc...}, 2) Education and 3) Enforcement
    - Ed Ruttencutter suggested a catchy slogan (ex: "Click it or Ticket") to get the point across

## 7) **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Hurricane Preparedness (Jody Armstrong)*
  - o The NIMS (National Incident Management System) Courses have been put into affect by FEMA. This system has been implemented in an effort to unify the approach to "incident management; standard command and management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management."
    - If each town/city is not compliant by the end of the fiscal year they may not receive FEMA grants or reimbursements
    - There are several courses to complete and they must be completed in consecutive order. Each class is approximately 3-4 hours long. These courses are available online <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm>
  - o St. Pete Beach's Reentry process was used as an example of what could be done in the event of a hurricane.
    - A hang tag (for the mirror) with the residents' name and specific color for each city/district could be implemented.
  - o "Ready-Alert" is a service that allows one to send and receive emergency alerts, quickly and easily via text message
    - It can advise citizens of problems, tell them to evacuate and also discuss reentry options.
    - **TO JOIN:** 1.888.689.8905 (follow the prompts)
    - Other options will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 8) **MISCELLANEOUS**

- *Legislative Update*
  - o \$71 Billion dollars and a 8.6 % increase was approved for public school funding

- A \$300 million tax break was approved for Hurricane Preparedness and School Supplies
  - \$310 million was spent on the purchase of the Babcock Ranch
  - Senator Dennis Jones indicated the State insurance system had \$1.7 billion in debt. The State appropriated \$710 million toward the debt and the remainder will be applied over time cost of the insurance policies
  - In the area of Beach Restoration, \$65 million was appropriated by the State and \$65 million by the federal government for a total of \$130 million
  - There were concerns expressed regarding continual increase in property taxes. Any solutions will require constitutional amendments. Legislature will be addressing this issue in the future.
- *Beach Update* (Nicole Elko)
- Sand Key Nourishment Project
    - Indian Rocks Beach is done.
    - Indian Shores should be done within 2-3 weeks.
    - Public Education is very important. One approach to making the public aware is by handing out one of 1400 postcards to hand out to visitors.
    - Treasure Island and St. Pete Beach are to be scheduled for September
    - Re-nourishment coming soon to Ft. De Soto.
    - They have been giving away sea oats for planting for the Beach Vegetation Project.
    - Residents can sign up to act as monitors for the Dr. Beach Project. (there are 20 volunteers so far)
- *Council Updates*
- Jody Armstrong was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association.
  - Monday, June 5 is the last meetings for Charter Review Committee at the St. Pete Chamber of Commerce.
  - A thank you went out to all the cities for supporting our troops. Over 500 boxes of food and supplies were collected.
  - Phil Graham has been retained by the county to refine the preliminary cost estimates for the Gulf Blvd. underground utilities and streetscape program.