

BIG-C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Redington Shores



North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Madeira Beach
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

MINUTES

City of Madeira Beach

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

The May 25th BIG-C Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Hamilton-Wollin at the City of Madeira Beach Commission Chambers, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Florida 33708.

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The pledge of allegiance was led by President Hamilton-Wollin
- 2. ROLL CALL: (According to the "Sign-In Sheet.")**

Present:

Belleair Beach	Mayor Leslie Notaro
Belleair Shore	Mayor Bob Schmidt
Clearwater	Mayor George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Vice Mayor Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores	Councilor Bill Smith
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Madeira Beach	Mayor Travis Palladeno
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Maria Lowe
Treasure Island	Mayor Bob Minning

Guest Speaker: Rodney S. Chatman, AICP, Planning Section Manager, MPO, Forward Pinellas

Guests Present: Sea Marshall-Barley, Support Specialist, Madeira Beach
Deanne O'Reilly, City Clerk, Indian Rocks Beach
R.B. Johnson, Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Diantha Schear, Councilor, Indians Shores
Pat Soranno, Councilor, Indian Shores
Trisha and Dennis Rodriguez, Clearwater Ferry
Anne Lindberg, Reporter, Florida Politics
Al Zimmerman, President, SKCA
Sandra Cuddington, Planner, Pinellas MPO (Forward Pinellas)
Bob Esposito, Government Affairs, FDOT
Bill Priakos, Tourist Development Council, Barefoot Beach Resort
Rodney Chatman, Planning Manager, Pinellas MPO (Forward Pinellas)
Fred Steierman, Vice Mayor, Redington Beach

Mark Deighton, Commissioner, Redington Beach
Cookie Kennedy, Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach,
Mary Scott Hardwick, Pinellas County
Trent Phillips, Aide to Senator Brandes
Ed Hoofnagle, Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach
Bob Myers, Project Manager, Hubbard's Marina & Ferry Project
Bonnie Epstein, PSTA
Captain Mark Hubbard, CEO, Tampa Bay Ferry
Colleen Hartman, Florida House District 69 Aide

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Palladeno; the motion passed unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 30, 2016 BIG-C MEETING MINUTES** – A motion to approve the April 30, 2016 minutes as presented was made by Councilor Bill Smith and seconded by Mayor Maria Lowe; the motion passed unanimously.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL TREASURER'S REPORT** – The balance as of April 1, 2016 was \$2,065.17 and there was one disbursement to the City of Indian Rocks Beach for a trophy reimbursement totaling \$109.14. The remaining balance as of April 30, 2016 was \$1,954.03.

A motion to approve the April Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Maria Lowe; motion passed unanimously.

6. **DISCUSS FISCAL YEAR 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET** – Vice Mayor Hamilton-Wollin noted that due to the delayed transition of the Secretary/Treasurer position, there is not yet a proposed budget draft to discuss at this meeting.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a. Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber Resolution in Support of Waterborne Transportation
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Guest Speaker:** Rodney S. Chatman, AICP, Planning Section Manager, Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization – Summary from the Beach Access Listening Session.

Rodney Chapman: Mr. Chapman presented a summation of a listening session that was held on May 3, 2016 at the City of Madeira Beach on Enhancing Beach Community Access. Forward Pinellas has been working on this project for the last few months. This topic was chosen to address because traffic congestion is a threat to the enjoyment of the beaches by visitors and residents. The study area will cover the entire west cost of Pinellas County.

The goals are to look at opportunities to improve access to and transportation along the Gulf Beaches while persevering existing neighborhoods. They have developed eight guiding principles: economic development, safety, mobility and multimodal access, emerging technologies, land use, community and health, resilience and sustainability, and interagency coordination/public involvement.

The May 3, 2016 Listening Session was one of the most successful they have ever had – nearly seventy residents attended and many gave public comment during the meeting. The biggest concerns included better signage, bike lanes, speed, transit, and enforcement.

There were also many references to land use issues – the preservation of “Old Florida”, the identity of the area, speed limits lowered and enforced, safer pedestrian crossings, and better transit service on the beaches.

A short survey was also distributed among residents on the beaches. A large majority, about 81% noted that they use their personal vehicles to travel throughout the county. However, many were willing to bike or use the trolley if more available. The three most likely alternative modes of transportation included water taxi, bus rapid transit, and bike sharing. Respondents also noted that they would feel unsafe walking along Gulf Boulevard – nearly 60% urged for greater pedestrian safety measures.

The next steps using this information include a two-year initiative of the State Road 60 Multimodal Implementation Strategy. They will also identify viable mixed-use areas and evaluate local regulations and polices that support the mixed-uses. Infrastructure gaps and barriers must also be addressed and a Vision Zero Implementation Plan needs to be developed with cooperation from various partners.

Mr. Chapman asked the Council to stay in touch and follow Pinellas Forward on their social media sites and to take the survey if they have not already done so.

Mayor Minning: Bike and pedestrian safety was noted as an issue – what will be done about this?

Mr. Chapman: The lack of a bicycle lane or sidewalk could be a contributing factor as well as the level of enforcement of speed limits and stopping at crosswalks. They are working on determining the cause of safety issues in different areas and education for the public in regards to pedestrian safety. The community has reported a few areas to address and the system

Whit Blanton, Executive Director: We are also looking at green bike lanes that will be presented at their next meeting on June 8, 2016. These areas will focus on intersections and areas with issues and painting the lanes green.

Bill Queen: The current speed limit on Gulf Boulevard is usually around 30 and 35 mph – are you looking to lower this?

Mr. Chapman: This was a concern that citizens brought up. Mayor Queen explained that the flexible enforcement on the speed limits is really the issue.

Maria Lowe: She explained that she had some concerns from when she took office – often presentations would be made without any real action coming from it. She urges for local policy to support these changes.

Mr. Chapman: He agrees and noted that the organization is working on a grant program and is hoping for a lot of applications for these funds for local support and construction.

Maria Lowe: She advocated for form-based code for the improvement and redevelopment of certain roadways.

Bill Smith: It strikes him that the number of response from the survey is that tourists are more likely to use their own cars. A lot of the people are here, but need a way to get around on the beaches for relatively short distances. Mr. Chapman used the example of bike sharing as a way for people to get from point A to point B. A member of the audience was concerned about the lack of bike lanes in Indian Shores.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Resolution No. 2016-01.** Requesting that the 2007 Florida Legislature repeal the 2011 Legislative Act and amended in 2014, that removes the home rule aspect of taking away our individual towns and cities' ability to regulate "short term rentals."

Mayor Simons: He wanted to give full credit to Pam Middleton for her work on putting this resolution together. The resolution was approved but has not been signed yet.

- b. **Resolution No. 2016-02.** Supporting waterborne transportation throughout the barrier islands of Pinellas County.

Mayor Palladeno: This resolution was presented at the last BIG-C Meeting.

Mayor Cretekos: He wants to stress that once this is approved, there will be some costs associated with the support of this. Mayor Palladeno responded that this resolution supports the "vision of", not the dedication of funds for certain projects. Mayor Cretekos opined that supporting the vision is support to get things done, and that will cost money.

Mayor Lowe: As long as the resolution supports the vision of, she thinks that this will be okay to support. Mayor Cretekos thinks it would be more appropriate to support as individual communities, Clearwater has already moved forward with this type of support. He, however, does not feel comfortable with pledging all the cities, some of which may not be able to budget monetary support.

Mayor Lowe: Will this consensus give the BIG-C the opportunity to present a unified vision to higher governments at the county and state level? Mayor Palladeno confirmed that would be the case and Mayor Lowe opined that she supports it.

Mark Hubbard: One of the challenge is that many entities don't exactly understand water taxi and ferry service, so he has worked with a partner to draft a "Ferry Service 101" that explains some of the details. Support of the vision does not necessarily mean pledging funds to achieve the vision. There are several examples of private as well as private-public operations. He hopes that everyone sees the vision and approves this to start somewhere. We do need a public-private partnership to connect all of the dots across the county.

Mayor Queen: Will this commit communities, like the Redington communities, that may not have a point for the water taxi?

Mark Hubbard: This will just support the vision. You can draft individual support as needed per each community.

Mayor Cretekos made a motion that the second "therefore" statement, be removed and that we should just encourage municipalities to work with the ferry service providers in a way that

most suites them and the motion was seconded by Mayor Queen; motion to approve the resolution with the recommended changes was approved unanimously.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Administer the Oath of Office to Treasurer Maria Lowe.

Maria Lowe: Wanted to take a minute to recognize the veterans and those who have served the country since it is very near Memorial Day. She made the announcement that her husband was appointed to the American Battle Monument Commission.

She brings this point up because she will need to leave the council at the end of the year. She recommended that Dr. Terry Finnerty, the Vice-Mayor of St. Pete Beach who often attends as a candidate for this position. She asked that council to determine whether or not they would want to appoint her knowing this.

Mayor Palladeno: Asked that the council reevaluate the bylaws since the Vice President role does not have many responsibilities, if it would make sense to split these roles up?

Mayor Queen: Opined that the board should wait on these thoughts and see if there were any other volunteers for the position before a decision is made.

Mayor Palladeno will submit the next month's Treasurer's Report.

11. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

12. CITY EVENTS

Indian Shores – They are hosting a Memorial Day event in the form of a barbeque dinner next Monday. A Hurricane Awareness Gathering will also take place on June 7, 2016 to prepare everyone that hurricane season will be underway

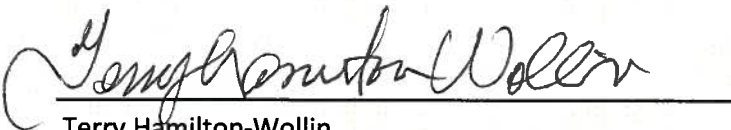
Clearwater – The tournament is there the whole week. On May 29, 2016, the Tampa Bay Veteran's Alliance will dedicate a new memorial at Crest Lake Park.

Treasure Island – Rock Around the Clock; 107th and 104th will be closed down for an old-fashioned street party. The Memorial Day parade will also take place next Monday.

Madeira Beach – The Bone Fishing Slam will take place on June 16 – 18th. There will be a big event in the recreation fields with thousands in prizes.

Indian Rocks Beach – Flag Day Ceremony at noon on Flag Day at Chic-A-Park, across from the Post Office.

- 13. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.



Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Rocks Beach Vice Mayor
BIG-C President

