

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES - July 27, 2005**

Present: Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Belleair Beach	Mayor Rudy Davis
Clearwater	Councilmember Hoyt P. Hamilton
Indian Rocks Beach	Vice-Mayor James R. Palamara
Indian Shores	Councilor Bill Smith
Madeira Beach	Commissioner Art Thomas
North Redington Beach	Vice-Mayor Jerry Knight
Redington Beach	Vice-Mayor Linda Wilson
Redington Shores	Commissioner Lee Holmes
St. Pete Beach	Vice-Mayor Deborah Nicklaus
Treasure Island	Commissioner Richard Kraus

Guests: Mike Kelly, Resident	Belleair Beach
Chuck Warrington, Managing Dir.	Clearwater Gas System
Phyllis Johnson	Sand Key Sun
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association
Missy Pike	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Dennis E. Jones	State Senator, Treasure Island
Steve Sutch, ISPOA	Indian Shores
Joan Herndon, Vice-Mayor	Indian Shores
Marlen Clausen	Indian Shores
Vince Robertiello, Reporter	St. Pete Post
Ed Ruttencutter, Commissioner	St. Pete Beach
Sandy Shuler, Councilmember	Indian Shores
Nicole Elko, Coastal Coordinator	Pinellas County
Steve Verzwylvelt, Tampa Bay Clean Energy Organizer	Florida Public Interest Research Group
Michael Yakes, Mayor	Gulfport
Katherine Barbridge, Intergovern. Liaison	Pinellas County
Ralph Stone, City Manager	Treasure Island
Mary Maloof, Mayor	Treasure Island

Mary Burrell, Editor
Kristi Cheatham, External Affairs Mgr
Patricia O. Sullivan, Board Reporter

The Beacon
Clearwater Gas System
Clearwater

Barrier Islands Governmental Council Vice-President, Belleair Shore Mayor John Robertson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Palm Pavilion Restaurant, Clearwater, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, a welcoming statement by Host, Clearwater Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton, and Roll Call.

3 - Approval of Agenda

Mayor Robertson reported additions to the Agenda: 1) Steve Verzwylvelt and 2) Michael Yakes.

Indian Rocks Beach Vice-Mayor James R. Palamara moved to approve the agenda, as amended. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

4 – Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2005

Belleair Shore Mayor John Robertson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 30, 2004, as recorded and submitted in written summation to each board member. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

5 – Approval of Treasurer’s Report – June and July 2005

There were no comments/questions regarding the June and July 2005 Treasurer’s Reports.

Redington Shores Commissioner Lee Holmes moved to approve the June and July 2005 Treasurer’s Report, as submitted. The **motion** was duly seconded and **carried** unanimously.

6 – Correspondence – None.

7 – Old Business

Gulf Boulevard Speed Limit

Redington Beach Vice-Mayor Linda Wilson reported that Redington Beach Mayor Bob Fountaine had a meeting scheduled on August 9, 2005, with Governor Jeb Bush to discuss traffic safety issues along Gulf Boulevard.

Indian Rocks Beach Vice-Mayor Palamara reported a meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2005, to discuss a consistent speed limit along Gulf Boulevard, south from SR 688 to the Don Cesar.

Beach Facts Brochure

Nick Fritsch, of the Sand Key Association, reviewed sub group efforts to develop and distribute economically a beach brochure, intended to educate mainland residents regarding the benefits of beach renourishment.

Fifth Cent Bed Task

Discussion ensued regarding the County Commission's recent approval of the fifth cent bed tax, following the adoption of supporting resolutions by various municipalities. Clearwater Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton reported that Clearwater had encouraged use of a first cent to recognize the arts community and market cultural arts, as rainy day diversions for tourists. St. Pete Beach Vice-Mayor Deborah Nicklaus recommended allowing the TDC (Tourist Development Council) to determine the best use for the funding. Missy Pike, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, encouraged municipalities to write the TDC in support of increased funding for Chamber of Commerce efforts.

8 – New Business

Presentations

PIRG representative Verzwyvelt

Steve Verzwyvelt, Tampa Bay Clean Energy Organizer, Florida Public Interest Research Group, reviewed his organization's new energy futures campaign that encourages the use of renewable energy sources, etc.

It was stated that this meeting is an improper forum for advocacy presentations.

Gulfport Mayor Yakes

Gulfport Mayor Michael Yakes reviewed problems experienced by his municipality related to abandoned vessels off Gulfport and in the hurricane hold at Bay Pines. Derelict, abandoned boats pose a danger to other vessels. He reviewed the lengthy procedures currently required to remove these vessels and requested BIG-C support to streamline the process by changing State law and allowing local governments to gain control of submerged lands, allowing them to control and remove derelict vessels that endanger public safety. The lack of proper registration by illegal vessels significantly delays current processes.

Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator Nicole Elko reviewed County authority to remove vessels. While the State's grant program has not been reinstated during the last two years, the County uses boating related monies to fund the removal of derelict vessels by a salvage company which takes them to a dump. Sarasota has had success with its mooring ordinance, which establishes maritime law and gives them authority to act after a vessel has been moored illegally for 72 hours. Resident Mike Kelly of Belleair Beach reported that municipality has a similar law that is enforced by the Marine Patrol.

Consensus was for each BIG-C municipality to report on the status of this problem in each community at the August 2005 meeting.

10 – Miscellaneous

Legislative Update

Senator Dennis Jones provided a brief update of legislative issues. He cited a *Miami Herald* article that reported that beach renourishment is a good value, with an average return of \$10 for every \$1 in cost.

He encouraged BIG-C members to attend a conference on this topic at the Ocean Reef in Key Largo, Florida, on September 28-30, 2005.

Beach Renourishment Update

Ms. Elko reported the US Army Corps of Engineers had awarded a beach renourishment contract for the Clearwater portion of Sand Key. The low bid was \$30-million. Fuel prices have increased costs from \$8.50/cubic-yard to \$21/cubic-yard. The quality of the sand is important to the beach community. The project will be funded with State, local, and Federal monies. A public, coordination meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 18, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Sand Key.

While not finalized, the project should start in mid-September on the north end, with sand from Egmont Key being offloaded from barges. If possible, the project also will add sand to the north end of Treasure Island.

Concern was expressed the meeting date conflicts with the opening day of the annual FLC (Florida League of Cities) conference in Orlando. Ms. Elko reported she will review the meeting date with representatives of the County, Contractor, and Army Corps of Engineers, who are planning to attend.

Clearwater Gas System Announcement

CGS (Clearwater Gas System) External Affairs Manager Kristi Cheatham said after CGS worked with TECO to install a transfer station in Redington Beach, service to beach communities was not interrupted after a contractor hit the gas line in Indian Shores. Clearwater Gas provides 99.999% reliability, on the beaches, south through Redington Beach.

Clearwater Councilmember Hamilton thanked CGS for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

8 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

President
Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Attest:
