

# MEETING MINUTES

## BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)

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The Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Harbourside, 401 Second Street, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

Mayor Cretekos called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Officers:**            President                            Clearwater Mayor George N. Cretekos  
                          Vice President                    Treasure Island Mayor Robert Minning  
                          Secretary/Treasurer        Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wolin

**Present:**

Belleair Beach	Mayor Rob Baldwin
Clearwater	Mayor George N. Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Mayor Travis Palladeno
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Jim Parent
Treasure Island	Commissioner Phil Collins

**Guest Speaker:**  
Paul Steinman, Florida Department of Transportation District 7 Secretary

**Guests Present:**

City of Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor R.B. Johnson
City of Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy
City of Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Jim Labadie
City of Indian Rocks Beach	City Manager Brently Gregg Mims
City of Indian Rocks Beach	City Clerk Deanne Bulino O'Reilly
Town of Indian Shores	Vice Mayor Joan Herndon
Town of Indian Shores	Councilor Carole Irelan
Town of Redington Beach	Commissioner Mark Deighton
Clearwater Gas	Jorge Hernandez
Pinellas Co. Board of County Commission	Commissioner Janet Long
Pinellas Co. Board of County Commission	Aide Mary Scott Hardwick (Long)
Pinellas Co. Board of County Commission	Aide Ralph Reid (Justice)
Pinellas Co. Construction & Licensing Bd	Rodney Fischer
Pinellas Co. Emergency Manager	Rick Walker
Pinellas Co. Property Appraiser	Pam Dubov
Pinellas Co. Metropolitan Planning Org.	Sandra Knoebel
Pinellas Co. Metropolitan Planning Org.	Sarah Ward

Florida Department of Transportation  
Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater  
Barefoot Beach Resort Tourist Dev. Co.  
Beach Scene  
Sand Key Civic Association  
Sand Key Civic Association  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber  
Tampa Bay Newspapers

Affairs Liaison Bob Esposito  
Rhonda Sanborn  
Bill Priakos  
Phyllis Johnson  
Al Zimmerman  
Todd Ellson  
Executive Director Robin Sollie  
Doug Izzo  
Bob McClure

*(To provide continuity for research, items are limited in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.)*

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Palladeno to approve the September 24, 2013 Agenda as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — AUGUST 28, 2013.**

Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Lawrence, to approve the August 28, 2013 minutes as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

**5. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT — AUGUST 2013.**

Motion made by Mayor Adams, seconded by Mayor Lawrence, to accept the August 2013 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE.**

Mayor Creketos reported that he has been forwarding information on the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and BIG-C nominations for the Unified MPO/PPC Board.

**7. NEW BUSINESS — PAUL STEINMAN, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 7 SECRETARY.**

Secretary Steinman spoke on FDOT's visions and how those visions will be implemented and the challenges that FDOT will be faced with over the next couple of years. He stated FDOT's biggest vision is to try to tie transportation to help move the economy forward.

Secretary Steinman stated FDOT is researching and working on how to move and distribute traffic in a safe manner and by maximizing available funding.

Secretary Steinman thanked the beach communities for the joint partnership with FDOT for the installation of the pedestrian flashing beacons on Gulf Boulevard.

Secretary Steinman stated in regard to Gulf Boulevard, FDOT has been in conversation with Pinellas County about possibly doing some kind of swap by giving ownership of Gulf Boulevard to Pinellas County. He stated Gulf Boulevard does not function as a State highway; it functions more as a local roadway. He stated the other option on that concept would be to transfer ownership of Gulf Boulevard to each city.

Secretary Steinman reported that the Pinellas Bayway Drawbridge Structure Project is going well, stating that the drawbridge is being replaced with a 4-lane, fixed span, high level bridge. The proposed new high level Pinellas Bayway Bridge increases vehicle and marine traffic capacity, reduces congestion, and provides local and regional mobility between the coastal communities and businesses and the interstate. Adding two additional travel lanes eliminates the traffic backups created by the frequent opening of the existing drawbridge for marine traffic, and it significantly improves hurricane evacuation for coastal residents and tourists.

Commissioner Parent stated the City of St. Pete Beach appreciates the progress on the Pinellas Bayway.

Mayor Lawrence stated the Town of Indian Shores has two issues with Gulf Boulevard, which is comprised of two miles of a two-lane highway with a bike lane and pedestrian walkway, and those are drainage and bicycle safety. In regard to the drainage issue, the Town of Indian Shores would have loved to have had the underground stormwater management that was originally proposed; however, due to costs, FDOT went with a pervious asphalt design that is draining off as designed. He stated the Town's biggest problem with the bicyclists is that they quite often travel on Gulf Boulevard in packs and use the traffic lane instead of the bike lane. He stated, if he understands it correctly, Florida Statutes states if there is a bike lane, bicyclists are supposed to use it and not impede traffic. When pulled over by law enforcement, the bicyclists advised that they are not using the bike lane because it is unsafe, i.e., it is not wide enough and the PSTA handicapped ramps.

Secretary Steinman stated FDOT could provide "Shared Lane Markings" also known as sharrows, on Gulf Boulevard, stating sharrows are used on narrow roadways where a full bike lane will not fit and there is not enough room for a car to pass a bicycle with the required 3-foot passing width. Sharrows would allow bicyclists to "take the lane" and ride in front of motorists, rather than beside them.

Commissioner Hamilton-Wollin stated the City of Indian Rocks Beach also shares some of the same problems with bicyclists riding in packs. She also stated the bike lanes are not being maintained properly and inquired who is responsible for the maintenance of the bike lanes.

Secretary Steinman stated he would have to respond back to Commissioner Hamilton-Wollin regarding the maintenance of the bike lanes.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS — FLOOD INSURANCE UPDATE.**

Pam Dubov, Pinellas County Property Appraiser, reported on the effects that the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act Reform of 2012 and the flood insurance rates will have on property values for Pinellas County. She expressed concerns that the value of beach homes will be compromised if

homeowners cannot pay higher flood insurance rates impacting the beach community tax bases and undermining the County's economy.

Property Appraiser Dubov announced that there will be a Flood Insurance Seminar on September 25, 2013, 6:00 p.m., at St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus, Digitorium, in the University Partnership Building, 9200 113<sup>th</sup> Street North, Seminole.

Property Appraiser Dubov stated she is interested in acquiring data that each municipality may have that will help her office assess the impact of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act on property values. She is looking for something that shows the property address or parcel number and shows the elevation of the living area of that property.

Property Appraiser Dubov stated she will be conducting a workshop on the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act on October 16, 2013, 10:00 a.m., at the Pinellas County Extension Office for City staff members to help her office gather information used to forecast changes to property values.

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of participation and attendance at the September 18, 2013 Committee Hearing on Implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012 from Florida legislators.

It was noted that Congressman Young did provide a "Statement for the Record" to Committee Members for the Hearing on Implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012.

County Commissioner Long stated the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners worked very hard to get on the witness list for the September 18, 2013 Committee Meeting; however, only individuals or delegates from Louisiana and Texas were allowed. She stated Pinellas County sent a very strongly worded two paragraph note to be read into the minutes during the Committee Hearing.

## **9. MISCELLANEOUS.**

### **YOUR KEY TO SAFETY CARDS:**

Robin Sollis, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber has distributed "Your Key to Safety" Cards to all the local hotels/motels, stating the card gives pedestrian "key safety tips" while visiting the beaches.

Members reviewed recent and upcoming events in their cities.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Mayor Cretokos announced that the October BIG-C Meeting will be hosted by the City of Belleair Beach.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.