

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003**

PRESIDENT: Mayor J. J. Beyrouti, Town of Redington Shores
VICE PRESIDENT: Mayor Mike Kelly, City of Belleair Beach
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Mayor Tom DeCesare, City of Madeira Beach

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, held at the Indian Rocks Beach City Hall, 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, was called to order by President J. J. Beyrouti at 9:00 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

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

Belleair Beach	Mayor Mike Kelly (V)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner James R. Palamara (V)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Mayor Tom Decesare (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Bob Fountaine (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor J. J. Beyrouti (V)
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Peter J. Blank (V)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Maureen Byrne Ahern	St. Petersburg Times
Nancy Ayers	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Wayne Ayers	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Robert H. DiNicola	Mayor, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Barbara Blush	Vice Mayor, City of Treasure Island
John Coffey	Acting City Manager, Indian Rocks Beach
Dan Coleman	Lobbyist, J. D. Coleman Associates
Kristi C. Cottier	Clearwater Gas
Bert Cutler	City of Belleair Beach
Lee Daniel	St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area CVB
Nicole Elko	Pinellas County Coastal Management
Rod Fischer	Pinellas Co. Construction Licensing Board
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas Planning Council

Nick Fritsch
Hoyt Hamilton
Jacqueline Hand
Joan Herndon
R. B. Johnson
Jerry Knight
John R. Leahy, Jr.
Nancy Loehr
Mary Maloof
Rick McMillen
Doreen Moore
Mike Nadeau
Bill Ockunzzi
Marshall Reynolds
Vince Robertiello
Bill Smith
Steve Schwalb
Steve Sutch
Keith Wicks
Jon Zsch

Sand Key Civic Association
Commissioner, City of Clearwater
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Town of North Redington Beach
Fire Chief, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue
Progress Energy
Mayor, City of Treasure Island
U. S. Army Corp. Of Engineers
Commissioner, City of Madeira Beach
Building Official, Town of Redington Shores
Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Commissioner, Redington Shores
The Reporter, Treasure Island
Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
CEO, Digital Eel, Inc.
President, ISPOA Indian Shores
Pinellas County Administrators Office
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce

2. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2003:

The Treasurer's Report for October 2003, was presented by Mayor DeCesare, with a balance on hand as of October 8, 2003, of \$2,618.30.

Mayor DeCesare stated there had been a question about paying the American Coastal Coalition (ACC) annual dues, noting that the February minutes reflect that the BIG-C was going to wait until the merger was complete. He stated confirmation has been received from Commissioner Blank that the merger is going to be completed; therefore, the \$500 dues will be paid in November 2003.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Kelly to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2003, MINUTES:

Motion made by Mayor Kelly, seconded by Mayor Robertson to approve the September 24, 2003, minutes. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

[Agenda Item 5, Beach Renourishment - Nick Fritsch, was heard at this time; however, for consistency purposes, the minutes are transcribed as the item appears on the agenda.]

**4. GUEST SPEAKERS: Nicole Elko, Pinellas County Coastal Management
Jackie Hand, U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers
Rick McMillen, U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers**

Nicole Elko, stated she is the new Coastal Coordinator for Pinellas County Coastal Management, and introduced Jackie Hand, U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers and Rick McMillen, U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers, stating they look forward to working with the BIG-C.

Mr. McMillen provided a brief update on the condition of the beaches and funding for the beach nourishment projects, stating that due to the good condition of the beaches, future projects have been delayed until 2006. He stated that enough sand has been identified for the duration of the beach nourishment projects. Mr. McMillen stated regarding Upham Beach located in St. Pete Beach, the intention is to renourish that beach beginning in the spring. A brief question and answer period followed.

5. BEACH RENOURISHMENT - NICK FRITSCH:

Mayor Beyrouti introduced Nick Fritsch, Sand Key Civic Association, who has agreed to chair a Beach Media Relations Committee, which will maintain contact with the State and Federal governments on behalf of the BIG-C, regarding beach renourishment issues.

Mr. Fritsch distributed a copy of a resolution drafted by the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, supporting continued beach management funding of \$30 million annually from documentary stamp tax revenue, for consideration and approval by the BIG-C. He stated it is very important that the funding be continued, so there will be no problems when the project for the beach renourishment of the beaches in Pinellas County is to be done in 2006.

Mr. Fritsch stated he has agreed to chair a Beach Media Relations Committee, which would be made up of the following individuals: (1) Nick Fritsch; (2) Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner R. B. Johnson; and (3) Redington Shores Mayor/President of the BIG-C J. J. Beyrouti. Mr. Fritsch reviewed an execution plan for beach nourishment in 2006, which he had prepared, as well as a chart of BIG-C - Sand Key beach nourishment political events.

Mayor DiNicola suggested that Karl Hall of the North Redington Beach Hilton Hotel, also be included as a member of the Committee.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor DeCesare to proceed with the establishment of a Beach Media Relations Committee, consisting of a membership of Nick Fritsch, Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner Johnson, Redington Shores Mayor/President of the BIG-C Beyrouti, and Karl Hall, owner of the North Redington Beach Hilton Hotel; and the implementation of the proposed plan for beach nourishment in 2006. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

Motion made by Mayor Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Palamara to approve Resolution No. 2003-03, supporting continued beach management funding of \$30 million annually from documentary stamp tax revenue. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS:

6A. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE:

Discussion ensued that there are two communities which have established a 10:00 a.m. time for selling alcoholic beverages, versus the County's 11:00 a.m. It was noted that the Mayors' Council of Pinellas County has already taken a position to establish 11:00 a.m., as the beginning time for selling alcoholic beverages on Sunday.

Motion made by Commissioner Blank, seconded by Mayor Kelly to support the time of 11:00 a.m. for the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday for all barrier island communities. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

6B. FREE PARKING PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS:

Mayor Beyrouti inquired if the membership has any specific opinions regarding this issue. To which discussion ensued regarding expanding this to include veterans from foreign wars that are over the age of 65, or whether this would be discriminatory. It was noted that the County has a number of beach parks that are all metered and has certain requirements for its parks; and if the BIG-C adopts something, it could lead to confusion.

Consensus for Mayor Beyrouti to contact the County to determine what their position is on this issue.

6C. WEB SITE:

Steve Schwalb, CEO, Digital Eel, Inc., made a presentation of the proposed BIG-C web site, which will contain the following pages: (1) Home page; (2) Mayor members; (3) By-laws; (4) Event calendar; (5) Meeting agendas; (6) Meeting minutes; (7) Resolutions; (8) Area maps; and (9) Contact information. Mr. Schwalb requested anyone having any suggestions, corrections and/or updates of information to contact him with that information.

Discussion ensued that a list of the membership should be included along with that of the mayors, and that additional links to the web site should include the Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue, and each city's web site.

Motion made by Commissioner Blank, seconded by Commissioner Palamara to proceed with the activation of the BIG-C's web site. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Beyrouti stated a letter has been received from the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA), regarding the BIG-C's interest in joining the FSBPA lobbying component, Beach Watch, which has a one time membership fee of \$5,000, and which would be approximately \$500 per city. Mayor Beyrouti stated he believes this is something the BIG-C should do as it may derive a lot of benefit from it.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of each BIG-C community paying \$250 and the County paying the balance of \$2,500; to which Nicole Elko advised the County already pays \$5,000 for its membership in the Beach Watch.

Concern was expressed why the BIG-C communities have to pay \$5,000, if the County is already paying that same amount.

Motion made by Commissioner Blank, seconded by Mayor DeCesare for each member to take the information to their respective commission or council to discuss and report back at the next BIG-C meeting. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

MISCELLANEOUS:

8A. NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MEETING DATES:

Mayor Beyrouti stated the November 26, 2003, meeting, is the day before Thanksgiving, and the December 31, 2003, meeting, is New Year's Eve, and inquired whether the Council would want to change or cancel the meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding combining the two meetings and schedule the meeting for December 10, 2003. To which it was pointed out that the Pinellas County Municipal Clerks' Association will be holding its annual holiday meeting on that date, and that a number of mayors normally attend that meeting.

Consensus to combine the November and December meetings and schedule the meeting for December 10, 2003.

8B. PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - RIDE & RUN WITH THE STARS:

Mayor Beyrouti stated the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will be holding its Annual Ride & Run with the Stars, and encouraged all who can, to participate.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Concern was expressed that a problem is developing whereby developers are purchasing hotels and/or mom and pop establishments and converting them to condominiums, which will ultimately affect and hurt the tourism income to the communities, and filter down to affect the taxes paid by the County's residents, and especially adversely affecting those residents on fixed incomes; with it being noted that one property that has been discussed is the Holiday Inn Sunspree on Clearwater Beach. Mayor Beyrouti stated he has discussed this issue with Bryan Smith, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, who has agreed to attend the next BIG-C meeting to discuss the issue. It was also determined that David Healey, Executive Director of the Pinellas Planning Council, should also be invited to attend the meeting along with Mr. Smith.

Commissioner Johnson, Indian Rocks Beach, spoke regarding a proposed resolution opposing the reapportionment of the current voting membership cities to the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and urge Governor Bush to include one representative from the BIG-C communities in the new Pinellas County MPO voting membership. It was noted that once each city has adopted a similar resolution that the resolution should be sent to the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

Motion made by Commissioner Palamara, seconded by Mayor Kelly to approve Resolution No. 2003-04, opposing the reapportionment of the current voting membership cities to the Pinellas County MPO and urging Governor Bush to include one representative from the BIG-C communities in the new Pinellas County MPO voting membership. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Mayor J. J. Beyrouti, Town of Redington Shores

Prepared by: Cheryl R. Davis, Deputy City Clerk, Indian Rocks Beach