

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 25, 2006

The October 25th, 2006 Meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, was held at Belleair Beach City Hall, 444 Causeway Blvd., Belleair Beach, Florida.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

President Bill Queen called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Belleair Beach	Mayor Rudy Davis
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilor Hoyt Hamilton
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor Bill Ockunzzi
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Commissioner John Wolbert
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Linda Wilson
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong

GUESTS PRESENT:

Martha J. Boos	Commissioner, City of Madeira Beach
Bob McPherson	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Marlene Clausen	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Jose Coppen	Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Jim Frishe	Candidate, District 54, House of Representatives
Joan Herndon	Vice Mayor, Town of Indian Shores
Bill Smith	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
Ralph Stone	City Manager, City of Treasure Island
Mary Maloff	Mayor, City of Treasure Island
Janina Patrus	Town Clerk, Town of Redington Shores
Joe DeMoss	Engineering Supervisor, Pinellas County
Phyllis Johnson	Tampa Bay Sun
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas County Planning Council
Sandra Knoebel Gamache	Planner, Pinellas County Planning

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Lawrence to approve the Agenda, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2006.

Motion made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Armstrong to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2006 Meeting, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 2006.

The Treasurer's Report for September 2006, was presented by Treasurer Wilson, with a balance on-hand of \$1,510.83. The only disbursement was made to Digital Eel for website maintenance.

Motion made by Mayor Davis, seconded by Mayor Armstrong to approve the Treasurer's Report of September 2006, as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

5A. PEDESTRIAN EXPERT VISIT REPORT.

Brian Smith, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, presented the report made by Mark Fenton, the pedestrian expert that toured Gulf Boulevard in August. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the report via a power point demonstration. The report consisted of the general observations and core recommendations. Mr. Fenton made recommendations for each municipality, but Mr. Smith did not go over them at the meeting stating that each city had a copy of the report.

Mayor Ockunzzi mentioned the condition of the sidewalks and asked Mr. Smith if there would be any funds to improve them. Mr. Smith stated that sidewalks were part of the beautification process of Gulf Boulevard included in the undergrounding project. He also stated there would be grant money available to the municipalities for the beautification process. Mr. Smith added that he would look into the repair of the sidewalks since it was not a big road project.

Commissioner Coppen asked Mr. Smith about a proposed barrier to be constructed along the south portion of Indian Rocks Beach and Indian Shores. He felt the barrier would be unsafe for pedestrians. Mr. Smith answered that he was not aware of the barrier but look at the plans.

Mr. Smith then went over the legislation that had been recommended by a MPO committee regarding vehicles yielding to pedestrians. He read the recommendation wording as:

“The driver of a vehicle at a signalized intersection shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian, with a permitted signal, to cross the roadway when the pedestrian is either in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk. This procedure shall also apply to any crosswalk where signing indicates that this stop procedure applies.”

Mr. Smith stated that the MPO had not found a sponsor for the legislation. He added that he would appreciate the support of all of the municipalities on the issue.

Mayor Robertson remarked he had witnessed a PSTA trolley failing to stop at crosswalks twice within the last week. Mayor Queen replied that he had spoken with our PSTA representative who stated the drivers should be ticketed.

7A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

There was no legislative update due to Senator Jones being unable to attend.

7B. MISCELLANEOUS.

Mayor Queen stated that the council needed to form a committee to research the wi-fi issues and keep the council updated on changes in the technology. He stated Mayor Armstrong, Commissioner Wolbert, Councilor Smith had volunteered and asked for anyone else was interested. Mayor Davis volunteered at that time.

Mayor Queen said the council needed to have a representative to work as a liason on the Gulf Boulevard Undergrounding Project. He added that Mayor Armstrong had agreed to be the representative to help co-ordinate the implementation.

Joe DeMoss spoke regarding the undergrounding project. He stated the interlocals had been signed and they would be beginning with Indian Shores and then jumping to St. Pete Beach. He asked that any municipality that had not given him information on the contact person for their city, please do so as soon as possible.

Councilman Hoyt Hamilton said he was relocating to Atlanta and this would be his last meeting. He expressed his appreciation to everyone connected with the council and reminded everyone that if the beach isn't healthy, the county wouldn't be healthy.

Mayor Wilson stated the haunted house in Redington Beach had been cancelled. She also spoke about House Bill 391 regarding homeowners association. She stated the bill inadvertently extinguished deed restrictions if they hadn't been renewed in the last 30 years. She asked that the cities keep an eye on the bill since it could have consequences to local governments.

Mayor Ockunzzi gave information regarding the Suncoast League meeting on Oct. 28th. He stated the property appraiser from Citrus County would be in attendance as well as a representative from Jim Smith's office. Mayor Ockunzzi stated that Citrus County uses the income approach of taxation whereas Pinellas County uses the highest and best use approach. He encouraged attendance for the meeting.

Mayor Lawrence gave an open invitation for the Indian Shores Veteran's Day ceremony being held on November 11th at 10:00 a.m. Congressman Bill Young will be the guest speaker.

Ms. Gamache stated the half mile fish signs were almost completed. She had new Pinellas County maps which included the mile fish signs which she distributed to those interested.

Mayor Queen stated he had invited Lee Arnold of the Insurance Reform Committee to speak at today's meeting but Mr. Arnold could not attend. Mayor Queen asked that everyone watch what is happening with the property insurance. He urged everyone present to pursue changes with legislators in how they accept money from insurance companies and where property insurance is headed in the future. Discussion ensued regarding the meetings of the Insurance Reform Committee. Mayor Queen gave the website that the meetings may be viewed on video.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Armstrong made a motion of adjourn which Mayor Robertson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Bill Queen, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach