

Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach



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

OFFICERS

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October 28, 2009

Minutes

Present:

Belleair Beach	Mayor Lynn Rives
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilmember George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Terry Hamilton Wollin
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Mayor Pat Shontz
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Bert Adams
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Mayor Robert Minning

Guest Speaker: Mr. Phil Compton, Sierra Club

Guests Present:

Nancy G. Gonzalez	City Manager, Belleair Beach
David Dumville	Councilmember, Belleair Beach
Bill Priakos	Chairman, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber
Dennis Jones	Florida Senate
Jim Frishe	Florida House of Representatives
Jack Latvala	Candidate for State Senator
Dean Scharmen	Public Services Dir, Indian Rocks Beach
Chuck Coward	City Manager, Indian Rocks Beach
Cori Cuttler	Community Affairs, SWFWMD
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association

Sandra Knoebel	Planner, Pinellas County Planning Council
Linda Fisher	Planner, Pinellas County Planning Council
W.D. Higginbotham, Jr.	City Manager, Madeira Beach
Jim Parent	Commissoner, St. Pete Beach
John Branch	Vice Mayor, Redington Shores
Tom Rask	President, Logical Sites, Inc.
Frank Yurasko	Redington Beach
Robin Grabowski	President, Tampa Bay Beaches C of C
John Wolbert	Friends, Gulf Beaches Library, Madeira Bch
Phil Compton	Regional Rep, Sierra Club
Peter Cavalli	Community Services Dir, Belleair Beach
Jerry Knight	Vice Mayor, North Redington Beach
Bill Smith	Councilor, Indian Shores
Carole Irelan	Councilor, Indian Shores
Joan Herndon	Vice Mayor, Indian Shores
Jose L. Coppen	Resident, Indian Rocks Beach
Bob McClure	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Phyllis Johnson	Sand Key Sun

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council was hosted by the City of Belleair Beach. Mayor Rives welcomed everyone to the City's new Community Center.

President Lawrence called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with each person present introducing themselves.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Adams to approve the Agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Approval – September 2009

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hamilton Wollin and seconded by Mayor Shontz to approve the September 2009 minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – September 2009

Secretary/Treasurer Cretekos advised there were no expenses or income for the month of September. Balance remaining was \$2,064.75.

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Commissioner Hamilton Wollin to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2009.

The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

New Business

A. Presentations and Q & A for and against Offshore Oil Rig Drilling.

Mayor Lawrence stated it had been planned to have representatives from the pro and con side of the offshore oil drilling debate. However, he had received calls Monday from Mr. Mike Emis of Florida Oil Incorporated, and Mr. David Mica of the Florida Petroleum Counsel, stating that based on the BIG-C unanimous resolution opposing oil drilling, they did not feel it would be a valuable opportunity to speak as the BIG-C had already gone on record as being against it. Mayor Lawrence advised he did later receive a follow-up call from Mr. Emis requesting to come back at another time to speak.

B. Mr. Phil Compton, Sierra Club.

Mayor Lawrence introduced Mr. Phil Compton from the Sierra Club.

Mr. Compton spoke briefly regarding fertilizers and the landscaping industry.

He addressed offshore oil drilling, tourism, jobs created, oil spills and alternative energy sources.

C. Mr. Thomas Rask, President, Logical Sites, Inc.

Mr. Rask requested to speak on the 'pro' side of the issue. He stated he had worked for the oil industry from 1990 through 1996 on offshore installations in the Middle East. He advised there were people who did want offshore oil drilling, such as some beachfront hotel owners, but agreed renewable energy was also needed. He believes tourism and pristine nature can be combined by using responsible risk management. He felt tourism can recover from accidents, and that tarballs have nothing to do with offshore drilling, but are naturally occurring. He stated he was driven on this issue by his desire to keep money in the U.S. He felt strongly that government today tries to use their power to stop business efforts instead of thinking in terms of finding reasons not to stop private business efforts.

There were no questions.

Old Business

A. Oil Rig Drilling Sub-Committee Report.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council plans to distribute a letter stating their policy of opposing offshore drilling within 100 miles of the coast of Florida and include a list of issues and items to be considered if in favor of offshore drilling. The letter will be sent to

Legislators. It is a strong position from TBRPC, an entity comprised of not just people on the Coast, but Inland as well.

Further discussion followed regarding visits to Tallahassee, revenue from drilling being much less than was claimed, and a forum being presented on WTSP TV.

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Commissioner Hamilton Wollin to have the subcommittee draft a letter for approval by the BIG-C, stating their position, to forward to Tallahassee.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding costs for the committee to travel to Tallahassee to present the briefs and the BIG-C resolution. It was agreed to discuss under *Invoices*.

Legislative Update.

Senator Dennis Jones thanked everyone that had gone to Amelia Island to represent the BIG-C at the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Convention. He stated the beaches have always been a priority economic force in Florida (at \$52-65 billion a year in tourism) to be put at risk for the small amount of money that drilling may produce in 15 to 20 years from now. Jobs would not be created from this State for the oil platforms, as they already have employees for them. He offered a thought for consideration - that 30 to 50 lobbyists have been hired for something that doesn't even have a Bill number yet and the contributors of this effort don't want to be identified. He advised that if the air space or water space of the four to five military bases in the Panhandle were impacted those airbases would go to the desert, resulting in loss of jobs. Another concern is pipelines being in the way of sand sources for beach renourishment. He stated that at this point the issue is not a high priority in the Senate and there was still a need to stay vigilant and continue to put the facts out. Senator Jones questioned why- if we have just had the largest gas find in our history, from Tennessee to New York, and the largest oil deposit in Montana and South Dakota- would they need to drill in the Gulf. There are nine million acres in the Gulf that are already under lease that have never been drilled, why would they need to drill off St. Pete Beach.

Representative Jim Frishe advised there was a lot of money being spread around hiring lobbyists without anyone knowing where it was coming from. The intent is to stampede this through, but he stated we are not going to be stampeded, but take this deliberately. He stated he and Senator Jones have a lot of allies around the State who will provide help and bring rationality to this discussion.

Senator Jack Latvalla stated he felt the most important vote to get was Jeff Atwater, President of the Senate, as the future of this bill is in his hands.

B. Beach Watch Invoices

Councilor Smith, BIG-C representative to the FSBPA Board, advised appropriation funds had been affected by the fact that documentary stamp revenue has been down. He stressed that the lobby effort for those funds needs to be supported. He stated the

FSBPA has not taken a position on the offshore drilling issue because of the complexity of the makeup of the Board and the support for FSBPA, but was very supportive at the annual meeting by allowing a session on the subject, even though the FSBPA could not take a position. The FSBPA will be pushing to get a larger percentage of the documentary stamp revenue for beach renourishment. A separate invoice had been sent for a contribution to the legal fund for the Walton County Erosion Control Line Supreme Court Case, which has to do with the State's ability to do renourishment. He stated the annual Beach Watch invoice for FSBPA operating expenses and lobbying effort was \$5,000.00 and a \$1,000.00 invoice for the contribution to the legal fund for the Walton ECL case – would equate to \$545.45 for each of the eleven communities.

Discussion followed regarding the two invoices. Councilor Smith briefly explained the court case and advised that if the case was lost in the Supreme Court it would affect the State's authority to do beach renourishment as it does now. It was agreed to get additional information for the December 9, 2009 BIG-C meeting regarding the \$1,000.00 contribution invoice on how the case has proceeded, what the legal arguments were, what had brought it to the Supreme Court, and what impact it would have in Pinellas County.

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Rives to assess each member \$454.51 for the \$5,000.00 annual invoice.

The motion carried unanimously.

The \$1,000.00 invoice was tabled until the December meeting.

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Cretekos to add an assessment of \$100.00 to each member, for continuing operations of the BIG-C, to be included along with the invoice for the Beaches Association.

MOTION was made by Councilmember Cretekos and seconded by Mayor Shontz to amend the assessment to \$550.00 for each member.

The motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Update on ASBPA Conference.

Mayor Lawrence stated several BIG-C members had attended the ASBPA Conference where the BIG-C was presented with the ASBPA 2010 local government award. Dr. Nicole Elko was presented with a plaque for her service and a \$150.00 gift card for her new child.

Sandra Knoebel, Pinellas County Planning, gave a brief update on traffic signs and brought brochures from FDOT regarding bicycle and pedestrian lanes adjacent to the roadway. Mayor Lawrence requested that everyone take them back to their municipalities for distribution.

Beach Update.

Mayor Lawrence advised he and others had met earlier in the week with Mr. Will Davis and Mr. Andy Squires from Pinellas County, and Jackie Keiser of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, regarding the beach renourishment permitting process and environmental issues. He stated it had been a very informative meeting. Mr. Squires would be the 'go to' person for any coastal issues and he would forward Mr. Squires' contact information to everyone.

November/December BIG-C Meeting.

Mayor Lawrence proposed December 9, 2009 for the next meeting. All agreed. He stated he had received a call from Mr. Ryan McCorkle from WUSF Radio asking if a BIG-C representative would like to participate in the November 6 taping of an oil rig drilling forum on *Florida Matters* with commentator Carson Cooper. The consensus was approval to participate.

Councilmember Cretkos reminded everyone the Ironman Triathlon would be in Clearwater in two weeks.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Jim Lawrence, President
Barrier Islands Governmental Council
Mayor, Town of Indian Shores