

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)**  
**October 31, 2007**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

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A meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, hosted by the Town of Belleair Shore was held on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 at the City of Belleair Beach City Hall Auditorium, 444 Causeway Boulevard, Belleair Beach, Florida.

President Bill Queen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**2. Roll Call:**

Members Present:

Belleair Beach	Vice Mayor Kathy Mortenson
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson
Clearwater	Councilman George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Jose Coppen
Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
Madeira Beach	Vice Mayor John Wolbert
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
St. Pete Beach	Vice Mayor Mike Finnerty
Treasure Island	Commissioner Phil Collins

Guests:

Jim Frishe, Representative	State of Florida
Bill Fox, Dept. Mgmt Svcs.	State of Florida
Pete Cavalli	City of Belleair Beach
Michael Wehle	St. Pete Beach
Bob MacPherson	Beach Beacon/Bee
Bill Smith, Councilor	Indian Shores
Jerry Knight, Vice Mayor	North Redington Beach
Steve Sutch, Councilor	Indian Shores
Joan Herndon, Vice Mayor	Indian Shores

Andy Squirer	Pinellas County DEM
C.R. Hollands	St. Pete Beach
Marlene Clausen, Councilor	Indian Shores
Linda Fisher	Pinellas Planning Council
Ralph Lair	SWFWMD
Frank & Rosallee Yurasko	Redington Beach

**3. Approval of Agenda for October 31, 2007 Meeting**

No changes were made to the Agenda. Mayor Robertson of Belleair Shore moved approval of the Agenda, Seconded by Mayor Armstrong of Redington Shores. Unanimously carried by voice vote.

**4. Approval of Minutes of September 26, 2007 Meeting**

Mayor John Robertson of Belleair Shore moved and Mayor Nick Simons of Redington Beach seconded approval of the minutes of the September 26, 2007 meeting. The motion to approve the Minutes was carried unanimously by voice vote.

**5. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for October 2007.**

Mayor John Wolbert reported balance as of the beginning of September 2007 at \$2,188.23 with a deposit of \$1.00 for a cell phone bringing the balance as of September 28, 2007 to \$2,189.23. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Mayor Robertson of Belleair Shore, seconded by Mayor Lawrence of Indian Shores. Unanimously carried by voice vote.

**6. New Business:**

- A. History of Beach Nourishment in Pinellas County presented by Nicole Elko, PhD, Coastal Coordinator, Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management. Highlights of Dr. Elko's presentation:

1. Presented the History of Beach Management in Pinellas county, a talk that was given at the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association Annual Conference, *1957 – 2007 Celebrating 50 Years of Beach Preservation, on September 13, 2007.*
2. The developed beaches of Pinellas County, like most of Florida, had very little beach to speak of in the 1960s and 70s. The beaches were lined with seawalls and groins.
3. The Pinellas County program has been successful thanks to great people such as Congressman Bill Young, the late Jim Terry, and Senator Dennis Jones.
4. The first federal nourishment project was constructed on Treasure Island in 1969. We now have a partnership with the US Army Corps by which our developed beaches are renourished at 60% federal costs.
5. Sound coastal management over the last several decades has resulted in wide beautiful sandy beaches and less frequent dredging and nourishment.

B. Technology Products – Presentation by Bill Fox, State of Florida Department of Management Services

Packets were handed out to all members including information on ways to reduce costs, reduce staffing requirements and shift some of the problems you might have with technology services to them thereby reducing some of the problems you might have. Suncom has been available over 30 years – a long distance telephone network for all of the state agencies.

Several years ago the State Legislature broadened it to include elected officials, cities and counties, community colleges and universities, non-profits that are state funded and

public schools. This created an economy of scale that allowed provision of services to state as well as to the other entities. Telecom, radio, voice, data, conference, wireless and information technology services are available.

All information covered in the presentation is included in the packets that were handed out.

No RFP required when obtaining services from State of Florida. Term contracts are not required. A simple Suncom network services agreement is included in the packet.

Bill Fox covers 14 counties along Gulf Coast and is our point of contact. Contact Bill toll free at (888)4SUNCOM.

## **7. Miscellaneous:**

### **A. Legislative Update**

Representative Frishe reports that there will be a new revised Homestead Exemption and portability to vote on January 29 for Save Our Homes Values. One of the things that will be focused on in the next session will be how property will be assessed in terms of highest and best vs. actual use because it is having a detrimental effect on our tourism industry in Pinellas County.

**Indian Rocks Beach** – Jose Coppen would like to have a presentation on the history of cable.

**St. Pete Beach** – Would like to know more about the bed tax. We send 5.5 million dollars to the county last year alone. There are three municipalities that are allowed to keep their entire bed tax in the state, would like to see how we could go about retaining bed tax. Mayor Queen stated we would check into that.

**Belleair Shore** – Bridge is on schedule and meeting expectations.

**Madeira Beach** – Facing hiring of a new City Manager. If anyone has any thoughts, please get in touch.

**Clearwater** – Lauded Nicole Elko for her efforts on behalf of Pinellas County. Reminder that Clearwater will be hosting Ironman in two weeks, encouraging everyone to come out.

**Redington Shores** – Fireworks 2008 – The Town of Redington Shores has decided to go private and is asking residents for donations and corporate sponsors to help raise necessary funds by April in order to host Fireworks like we have in years past.

**Indian Shores** – Gulf Boulevard Update: \$11 million more is still needed to build the original road plan as designed. As part of the search for \$11 million, Mayor Lawrence and Mayor Ockunzzi went to see the new County Administrator Fred Marquis on October 8. He had an interesting idea – which was redistribution of \$35 million that was dedicated to Gulf Boulevard Beautification Penny for Pinellas. Following that conversation there might be a possibility for redistribution of that money by footage of Gulf Boulevard that each Town has. According to chart that was passed out, it may be possible for Indian Shores and Indian Rocks Beach to receive as much as \$8 million to help fund the original plan for the road project should the redistribution be approved by other municipalities and the county. One of Mr. Marquis' reservations was that the other municipalities might not approve of redistribution of the funds according to the redistribution plan as outlined. There is a future meeting with Commissioner Stewart to explore this plan further and alternate plans as well. Extensive discussion ensued with regard to Beautification vs. Undergrounding with concerns raised regarding any "strings" being attached to re-distribution should that happen. Mayor Queen requested everyone check with their councils to verify that they do not have a problem with the formula to redistribute funds.

**St. Pete Beach** – November 3, 2007 will be the 77<sup>th</sup> Gulf Beaches Fish Fry from 2PM – 8PM. Also on November 9, 10, 11 the City will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

With no further business, this meeting adjourned at 10:36 A.M.

