

BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)
November 28, 2007
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, hosted by the Town of Indian Shores was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, Florida.

President Bill Queen called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance.*
- 2. Roll Call:*

Members Present:

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

Guests:

<i>Jim Frishe, State Representative</i>	<i>District 54</i>
<i>Mary Maloof, Mayor</i>	<i>Treasure Island</i>
<i>Marlene Clausen, Councilor</i>	<i>Indian Shores</i>
<i>Ed Ruttencutter, Commissioner</i>	<i>St. Pete Beach</i>
<i>David Jolly</i>	<i>Resident, Indian Shores</i>
<i>Lynn Webb</i>	<i>American Cancer Society</i>
<i>Jerry Knight, Commissioner</i>	<i>N. Redington Beach</i>
<i>Sandra Knoebel</i>	<i>Pinellas County Planning</i>
<i>J. J. Beyrouiti</i>	<i>Redington Shores</i>
<i>Melissa Seixas</i>	<i>Progress Energy</i>
<i>Linda Fisher</i>	<i>Pinellas Planning Council</i>
<i>Steve Sutch, Councilor</i>	<i>Indian Shores</i>
<i>Jose Coppen, Commissioner</i>	<i>Indian Rocks Beach</i>
<i>Bill Smith, Councilor</i>	<i>Indian Shores</i>
<i>Joan Herndon, Vice Mayor</i>	<i>Indian Shores</i>

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3. Approval of Agenda for November 28, 2007 Meeting

◆◆ **No changes were made to the Agenda.**

Mayor Lawrence of Indian Shores 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.

◆◆ **Vice Mayor Wolbert reported the Minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 2007 reflected him as “Mayor” instead of “Vice Mayor”.**

Vice Mayor Wolbert of Madeira Beach moved for the Minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 2007 to be approved, subject to amending to correctly identify him as “Vice Mayor” instead of “Mayor”. The motion to approve the Minutes was seconded by Mayor Lawrence of Indian Shores. The motion to approve the Minutes was carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Report for October 2007.

Vice Mayor John Wolbert reported balance as of the beginning of October 2007 at \$2,189.23, no deposits, and expenditures of \$263.40 to Digital Eel, Inc. for one (1) year of web-hosting, and an ending balance for October of \$1,925.83.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by Mayor Robertson of Belleair Shore, seconded by Mayor Armstrong of Redington Shores. Unanimously carried by voice vote.

6. New Business:

A. Relay for Life - American Cancer Society.

Ms. Lynn Webb stated she was the beaches representative for the American Cancer Society, which is a nationwide voluntary organization and are funded through the community event “Relay for Life” on March 28-29, 2008 at Egan Field.

Ms. Webb invited everyone to participate in a luncheon and walking event to be held next week.

Ms. Webb addressed the breakdown of funding and reported that 60% of funds remain in Pinellas County, 35% go to Tampa for research projects and 5% are for administrative costs.

Ms. Webb encouraged everyone to get involved on some level.

B. *Historic Preservation Task Force.*

Commissioner Karen Seel reported this Task Force will be coming up with creative incentives to keep and renovate present structures County-wide.

Commissioner Seel further reported that initially Commissioner Duncan was the Chairman, with the Board having 12 members from municipalities, and was an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Seel reported some basic criteria has been developed for a draft Ordinance, which all communities will have the opportunity to consider adopting. She reported Pinellas County has hired a company to update the inventory and will be coming to each city. She stated the preliminary report reflects 10,031 historic structures in Pinellas County (with only 52 destroyed), 31 historic bridges and 8 cemeteries, noting all will be updated in about seven (7) months.

Commissioner Seel summarized the enabling draft Ordinance, which lays out groundwork, noting other ordinances would follow. She advised of important wording which would restrict demolition of historic sites to allow time to explore other options.

Councilor Clausen of Indian Shores questioned how the committee was comprised, and stated she would like to serve on this committee.

Commissioner Seel stated that prior Chairman, Commissioner Duncan, and Brian Smith selected members for the committee from interested persons, and that County Planning Funds in the amount of \$58,000.00 were encumbered for this Task Force.

Mr. Smith stated the original criteria was based on persons having some background involving historic preservation.

Mayor Queen questioned if the preservation would be voluntary or forced on cities.

Commissioner Seel stated that was not the intent of the ordinance, and Mr. Smith stated it is a work in progress and not set in stone advising the County will do an ordinance and the cities can do an ordinance.

Mayor Queen addressed a prior request for information on the bed tax.

Commissioner Seel presented a breakdown of tourist bed tax dollars as relates to the Dome in St. Petersburg as follows:

- ◆◆ County's financial support in relation to the city's obligations to the Dome started in FY 86.**
- ◆◆ Since 2000 full proceeds of the 4th cent of the tourist development tax has been paid to the city.**
- ◆◆ The 4th cent can be used to fund construction/debt service on a professional sports facility.**
- ◆◆ For FY 08, the 4th cent is estimated to generate \$5.1 million.**
- ◆◆ Through fiscal year ended 9/30/07, \$75.5 million has been contributed by the County towards the City's outstanding debt.**
- ◆◆ County's obligation to the City expires in 2015, as does the authorization for the 4th cent.**
- ◆◆ Based upon projected growth in the bed tax, the total contribution is estimated to be \$117.9 million.**

Commissioner Seel reported the County collected \$25 million last year.

Mayor Robertson inquired how was he to tell his citizens that the Town of Belleair Shore paid \$5.5 million to the Dome.

Commissioner Seel stated there may be a re-opener on the lease.

Representative Frishe stated it was his understanding it would be considered a leasehold improvement and the City of St. Petersburg leases to the ball team and has control of the building even though Pinellas County owns the land.

C. *Livable Communities.*

Brian Smith, Executive Director, Pinellas County Planning, reported the focus of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is on transportation and this Livable Communities Committee is looking at ways to make development more compatible, and is focused on revising impact fees requiring developers to do certain thing and recommend policy to the MPO.

Mr. Smith advised they are researching ways to have communities get out of their cars and move by other means. He reported a package containing a Resolution has been sent to all municipalities, and it was noted there was not a lot of response from the beach communities and in one opinion it was stated that some communities were not open to the mention of density and policy.

Mr. Smith stated they are receptive to this concern of the cities and will work with everyone and re-think the policy to make it more palatable and re-send the package.

7. *Miscellaneous:*

A. *Legislative Update - No report.*

B. *FSBPA 2008 Membership Dues - \$5,000/\$455 per municipality.*

Mayor Queen reminded all members of the F SBPA membership dues that are to be paid. He will invoice each BIG-C municipality for their share.

C. *Vice Mayor Wolbert reported on a Constitutional Amendment Petition being circulated for a cap on property tax at 1.35% of the highest taxable value of the property, and recommended all become familiar with the petition.*

D. *Mayor Ockunzzi congratulated Vice Mayor R.B. Johnson on being named Chairman of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board.*

E. *Mayor Lawrence announced that Indian Shores and the Redingtons' Boat Parade would be held on December 16, 2007, with activities beginning in the Town's Pavilion at 7:30 P.M.*

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- ◆◆ **Mayor Queen briefly mentioned the November 13, 2007 Gulf Boulevard meeting with Commissioner Stewart and County staff, and the follow-up meeting that will be held in Late January 2008.**
- ◆◆ **Mayor Queen wished everyone Happy Holidays and announced that Redington Shores would host the next meeting on January 30, 2008.**
- ◆◆ **Vice Mayor Finnerty and Commissioner Collins wished everyone Happy Holidays.**

With no further business the BIG-C Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

**Minutes of November 28, 2007 BIG-C Meeting
Prepared By: Marcia Grantham, Town Clerk
Town of Indian Shores**