

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



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

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**OFFICERS**

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**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)**  
**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2004 MEETING**  
**Town of Indian Shores Town Hall**

**PRESIDENT:** Mayor Mike Kelly, City of Belleair Beach  
**VICE-PRESIENT:** Mayor Donald Taber, Town of Indian Shores  
**SECRETRY-TREASURER:** Mayor Ton DeCesare, City of Madeira Beach

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, held at the Indian Shores Town Hall, 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, Florida, was called to order by President Mike Kelly at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Belleair Beach	Mayor Mike Kelly (V)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Clearwater	Commissioner Hoyt Hamilton (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Jim Palamara (A-1)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Vice Mayor John Wolbert (V)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Harold Radcliffe (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Bob Fountaine (V)
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Ed Ruttencutter (A-1)
Treasure Island	Vice Mayor Richard Kraus (A-1)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Katherine Burbridge	Intergovernmental Liaison, Pinellas County
Martha Boos	Commissioner, Madeira Beach
Doris Bucus	Senator Dennis Jones' Legis. Assistant
Joe Burdette	Census Group, Belleair
Bob DiNicola	Mayor, Indian Rocks Beach
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas Planning Council
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association, Clearwater
Richard Giehring	Economic Development, Pinellas County
Gina Harvey	Pinellas County
Dave Healey	Exec. Dir., Pinellas Planning Council
Joan Herndon	Councilor, Indian Shores
Phyllis Johnson	Sand Key Sun
R.B. Johnson	Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach
Debra Kaunaugh	District Safety Engineer, FDOT
Nancy Loehr	Community Relations, Progress Energy
Bob MacPherson	Reporter, Beach Beacon
Vince Robertiello	The Reporter, Treasure Island
Steve Schwalb	CEO, Digital Eel, Inc.
Karen Seel	Commissioner, Pinellas County
Steve Sutch	Pres., Indian Shores Property Owners Association
Tina Skaggs	Mayor's Assistant, Belleair Beach
Bill Smith	Councilor, Indian Shores
Brian Smith	Pinellas County
Gary Thompson	Traffic Operations, FDOT
Ben West	Deputy, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Laura Wojcicki	FDOT
Pete Yauch	Dir. of Trans., Pinellas County Public Works

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Agenda was approved, subject to the addition of: Update by Nick Fritsch on Beach Renourishment; Report from DOT/Sheriff's Department relative to pedestrian safety on Gulf Blvd; Report by Steve Schwalb regarding the Website; and a presentation by Commissioner Karen Seel.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Minutes of October 27, 2004 were approved as submitted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mayor Fontaine presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2004, stating that the balance on hand as of November 8, 2004 was \$3,188.39. On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously

carried, the Treasurer's Report for November 2004 was accepted.

**UPDATE ON BEACH RENOURISHMENT:**

Nick Fritsch, Sand Key Civic Association, reported meeting with Nicole Elko, Pinellas County Coastal Coordinator, who advised him the Army Corps of Engineer wants to move the barrier islands project forward, to begin in March 2005. Congressman Young and the County worked diligently for this project in establishing the 1% bed tax to fund the project. The State of Florida has not yet set aside funds for the project. Mayor Kelly is scheduled to address the Pinellas Delegation and Mr. Fritsch suggested Mayor Kelly and Mayor Beyrouiti meet with Representative Rice and Senator Jones to bring them on board. He also suggested Representative Rice be invited to the next Big C meeting and the Big C draft a letter to Governor Bush requesting his attention to the state's share of \$2.5 million toward the \$15 million project.

**REPORT ON WEBSITE:**

Steve Schwalb, Digital Eel, Inc., reported the web site was launched approximately one year ago, and to date there have been 2,809 visits, 5,258 page views, 64,000 hits and visitors form Australia Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France and several other countries. In addition, the site has expanded to 29 pages. The Cities of North Redington Beach, Belleair Beach and Indian Rocks Beach have links to the site. Mr. Schwalb suggested adding links to national weather service, FEMA, and Pinellas County Emergency Management, and adding the Mile Markers.

A rendering of the Mile Marker was displayed. It was reported that future Yellow pages maps will display the mile markers and that the Chamber of Commerce and merchants on Gulf Blvd were urged to use the Mile Markers in their advertisements. Representatives for the Big-C Municipalities were reminded to give Steve biographical information for him to post on the web site. He can be contacted at [www.DigitalEel.com](http://www.DigitalEel.com).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. RESOLUTION NO. 2004-02: CROSSWALKS ON GULF BOULEVARD.**

Action was taken on this resolution at last meeting. Deputy Ben West, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, was in attendance to gather information.

Mayor Fontaine reported that FDOT has asked for proposals from engineering companies to study pedestrian safety improvements, such as slowing of traffic, increased reaction time, improving enforcement, and islands of safety. FDOT is approaching the problem from a traffic flow standard, not from pedestrian safety. He stated he would pursue the issue and set up a meeting with the FDOT and the Sheriff's Office to specifically address enforcement issues on the beach.

Discussion ensued relative to the variance in speed limits on the Gulf Boulevard and lack of enforcement at cross walks.

Gary Thomson, Traffic Operations Engineer, FDOT, briefly explained criteria for establishing crosswalks and speed limits through engineering studies, whereby samples are taken of traffic speeds and an 85 percentile is used to determine speed at which drivers can drive safely and comfortably. FDOT provided crash data history and statutes relative to speed limits. He stated FDOT feels speed limits set are reasonable for the designated types of roadways. Crosswalks are established by doing pedestrian studies. No funds are available at this time to construct medians or pedestrian safety islands. Mr. Thompson suggested a uniform plan or compromise could be established with all the communities involved.

He also suggested new signs designed with additional colors and messages indicating warnings might be utilized at pedestrian refuge islands, as presented in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

**PRESENTATION REGARDING PHASE III ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN:**

The Honorable Karen Seel, Pinellas County Commissioner, along with Dave Healey, Pinellas Planning Council and Richard Giehring, Pinellas County Economic Development, presented an overview of the redevelopment and economic development process for Pinellas County.

Commissioner Seel announced there will be half-day summits in four convenient locations throughout the County, from February 1 - 4, 2005.

Dave Healy explained that the County is in Phase Three of a three-phase process. Phase One was to identify key development issues, and Phase Two involved two opportunity summits to solicit input from the public and develop the foundation for the plan through jobs, economic development, real estate, urban design and regulatory components.

Phase Three prepares the draft plan from feedback received at the scheduled future summits. The plan is founded on three main parts: economic issues, real estate issues and urban design and code issues. The overall vision is Pinellas County as a planned quality community, providing a framework to respect the uniqueness of each community.

Commissioner Seel stated the goal was to increase average earnings per person, increase jobs, transitions of land such as mobile home parks, affordable housing, incentives through vehicles such as land assemblage and grants, rapid transit or monorail systems, and special purpose districts.

Richard Giehring distributed a questionnaire to members of the BIG-C and requested a response be submitted within thirty days to either Commissioner Seel or Mr. Healey. Responses will be used to determine jurisdictional issues discussed at summit meetings and future plan amendments concerning growth management, and to address the economic ramifications of condo/hotel conversion.

Mayor Kelley reminded municipal officials to forward their selection by letter or resolution for representative to the Pinellas Planning Council before the decision is made on 7 December 2004.

**B. DISCUSSION OF TASK FORCE**

Commissioner Palamara read into the record a statement requesting the establishment of a task force to study and recommend a time, date and agenda for the BIG-C.

The consensus of the Council members was that the present arrangement was working well enough and that another committee was not needed.

Commissioner Palamara suggested the Council should obtain a list of top ten priorities from each community in order to make better informed decisions.

Mayor Kelly stated he is very open to items of interest from all municipalities for the BIG-B Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Radcliffe distributed a report compiled from the Pinellas County Tax Assessor's Office, regarding taxes paid by each municipality and showing the cost of beautifying Gulf Boulevard, including the conversion of utilities, is less than two years of operating taxes received.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Burns, Senator Dennis Jones' Legislative Assistant, stated she did not have anything to report at this time.

Legislative Action Days scheduled for 9:00 am on December 9, 2004 and January 18, 2005 at the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College.

Next meeting of the BIG-C will be held on January 26, 2005 in Redington Shores and the February meeting will be in North Redington Beach.

Mayor Kelly announced that the BIG-C and the Chamber of Commerce were coordinating efforts to promote the Mile Marker program.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned in due form at 10:40 a.m.

*Michael E. Kelly*

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Michael E. Kelly, Mayor  
City of Belleair Beach