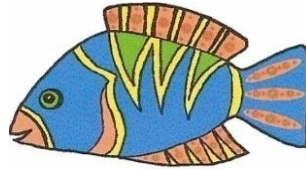


# *BIG C*

## *Barrier Islands Governmental Council*

*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**

**George N. Cretekos**  
President  
Mayor, Clearwater  
PO Box 4748  
Clearwater FL 33758  
727-562-4040 FAX 727-562-4086

**Robert Minning**  
Vice-President  
Mayor, Treasure Island  
120 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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**Terry Hamilton Wollin**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Commissioner, Indian Rocks Beach  
1507 Bay Palm Boulevard  
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785  
727 517-0204 FAX 727 595-4627

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## **Meeting Minutes**

### **January 29, 2014**

Present: Belleair Beach  
Clearwater  
Indian Rocks Beach  
Indian Shores  
Madeira Beach  
North Redington Beach  
Redington Beach  
Redington Shores  
St. Pete Beach  
Treasure Island

Councilmember Wanda Schwerer  
Mayor George N. Cretekos  
Commissioner Terry Hamilton Wollin  
Mayor Jim Lawrence  
Mayor Travis Palladeno  
Mayor Bill Queen  
Mayor Nick Simons  
Mayor Bert Adams  
Commissioner Jim Parent  
Mayor Robert Minning

Guest Speaker:  
Visit St. Pete/Clearwater  
Greenlight Pinellas

D T Minich  
Redington Beach Vice Mayor Mark Deighton

Guests Present:  
Clearwater Gas  
Florida's 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Candidate  
Florida's 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Candidate  
State of Florida – District 66  
State of Florida – District 69  
State of Florida – District 69  
Florida Department of Transportation  
City of Indian Rocks Beach  
Town of Indian Shores  
Madeira Beach  
Pinellas County  
Pinellas County/MPO  
Aide to PC Commissioner Charlie Justice  
Aide to PC Commissioner Janet Long

Kristi Cheatham  
David Jolly  
Alex Sink  
Legislative Assistant Jim Browne  
Representative Kathleen Peters  
District Secretary Eired Jackson  
Bob Esposito  
Mayor R.B. Johnson  
Vice Mayor Bill Smith  
Doreen Moore  
Andy Squires  
Sandra Knoebel  
Ralph Reid  
Mary Scott Hardwick

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# BIG C

## *Barrier Islands Governmental Council*

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority	Bob Lasher
Town of Redington Beach	Commissioner Fred Steiermann
Town of Redington Beach	Commissioner Tom Dorgan
Redington Beach Property Owners Assoc.	Walt Knepper
Town of Redington Shores	Vice Mayor John Branch
Visit St. Pete/Clearwater	Rhonda Sanborn
Southwest Florida Water Management Dist.	Estella Gray
Tampa Bay Newspapers	Bob McClure
City of Clearwater Board Reporter	Patricia Sullivan

BIG C President George Cretelos called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Redington Shores Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Redington Shores Mayor Bert Adams welcomed attendees.

**To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.**

### 3 - Approval of Agenda

Mayor Queen moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

### 4 - Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2013 meeting.

Mayor Minning moved to approve the minutes of the regular BIG C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) meeting of December 4, 2013, as submitted in written summation to each member. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

### 5 - Approval of Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2013.

BIG C Secretary/Treasurer Hamilton Wollin reviewed the Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2013; the November 30, 2013 balance was \$6,559.39 and the December 31, 2013 balance was \$2,059.39.

Mayor Lawrence moved to accept the November and December 2013 Treasurer's Reports. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

### 6 - Correspondence: None.

### 7 - New Business:

#### **a) D T Minich – Visit St. Pete/Clearwater**

Visit St. Pete/Clearwater Executive Director D T Minich provided a PowerPoint presentation. He reported that bed tax collections reached a new high; Pinellas County now is 1 of 6 high impact tourism destinations in Florida. He reviewed the tourism marketing campaign with Florida Natural Orange Juice and campaigns underway in New York, Chicago, and Toronto. He discussed distribution of *Gulf to Bay* magazine, an upcoming appearance on the *Ellen Show* to kick off the summer tourism season, and plans for marketing and staging an exclusive fall beach concert with a major headliner.

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# **BIG C**

## ***Barrier Islands Governmental Council***

In response to questions, Mr. Minich discussed web capabilities that track website visitors and personalize searches. He said the County contracts independent research to track visitors and publishes monthly reports. He reviewed increased tourism numbers, local hotel reports of near sold out conditions through April, collaboration with airlines to increase inbound passenger loads, positive results of marketing in Europe throughout the recession, and efforts to develop the South American market. He discussed plans to work with Warner Brothers re *Dolphin Tale 2*, the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Sports Commission, and the Olympics governing body re local training opportunities prior to the Brazil Olympics.

### **b) Mark Deighton, Greenlight Pinellas**

Redington Beach Vice Mayor Mark Deighton reviewed Greenlight Pinellas and the need to familiarize residents with the complex plan. He encouraged BIG C municipalities to adopt resolutions endorsing Greenlight Pinellas. A draft resolution was forwarded to each member. Presentations can be scheduled.

### **c) President appoints 3-person Nominating Committee to report at Annual Meeting**

Mayor Cretokos appointed Mayors Lawrence, Queen, and Simon to serve as the Nominating Committee, which shall nominate not more than one candidate for each office and present its report at the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2014.

### 8 - Old Business:

#### **a) Flood Insurance Update**

Mayor Minning said the White House supports retaining the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act while welcoming an opportunity to consider affordability issues. He said there is little support in the U.S. Congress to repeal or delay the act. He hoped the State would take action to provide options.

Legislative Assistant Jim Browne said work is underway to clear up discrepancies between State and Federal laws. He said the bill filed by Representative Larry Ahern is getting some pushback from the Banking and Insurance Committee.

### 9 - Miscellaneous:

#### **a) BIG C Website**

Mayor Cretokos questioned if the BIG C website is worth maintaining.

Following discussion, consensus was to invite Digital Eel to a future meeting to report on site visitor numbers and recommend improvements.

#### **Pedestrian Flag Program**

Pinellas County/MPO representative Sandra Knoebel said pedestrian flags are available.

#### **Historic Preservation Summit**

The Historic Preservation Summit is scheduled at the Largo Feed Store on February 19, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. Attendees were requested to RSVP on the Pinellas County website.

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# ***BIG C***

## ***Barrier Islands Governmental Council***

### **Beach Update**

Pinellas County Coastal Manager Andy Squires said the preconstruction meeting for the Treasure Island Long Key nourishment project was held. The schedule for the \$16.2 million project, which begins in June, is on the Pinellas County website. Affected cities will be advised re schedule for mandatory tilling of beaches nourished during the Sand Key project.

Mr. Squires expressed concern that the FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) removal of some Gulf Boulevard parking spaces may affect beach nourishment parking requirements; an annual parking inventory must be submitted to the State. Mayor Bill Queen said the Town of North Redington Beach had added parking spaces by reducing the length of bus stops.

### **FSBPA (Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association)**

Vice Mayor Bill Smith, BIG C representative to the FSBPA, said he will attend the 2014 Tech Conference beginning February 12, 2014.

### **Penny for Pinellas**

Mayor Simons said few Gulf Boulevard projects are underway and recommended that members consider construction projects while Penny for Pinellas revenues spike.

### **Legislative**

Representative Kathleen Peters requested members bring their issues of concern to her attention during the first 3 weeks of February.

Members reviewed recent and upcoming events in their cities.

### **10 - Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

February 26, 2014 BIG C meeting scheduled at  
North Redington Beach Town Hall, 190 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

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