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BIG-C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Redington Shores



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

MINUTES

City of Madeira Beach
Wednesday, May 27th, 2015

Courtyard Marriott

601 American Legion Drive
Madeira Beach, FL 33708

9:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call** (according to sign-in sheet)

Treasure Island
Indian Rocks Beach
Madeira Beach
Redinton Beach
Redington Shores
North Redington Beach
St. Pete Beach
Belleair Shore
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Clearwater

Mayor Robert Minning (President)
Commissioner Terry Hamilton Wollin
Mayor Travis Palladeno
Mayor Nick Simmons
Mayor Bert Adams
Mayor Bill Queen
Mayor Maria Lowe
Mayor Bob Schmidt
Mayor R.B. Johnson
Mayor Jim Lawrence
Mayor George Cretekos

Indian Shores
Indian Shores
Indian Shores
Indian Shores
Indian Shores
Redington Shores
North Redington Shores
PSFRD
Pinellas Planning Council
Charlie Justice's Office
Sand Key Civic Association
Valbridge Property Advisors

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator
Mike Petruccelli, Councilor
Bill Smith, Councilor
Diantha Schear, Councilor
Pat Soranno, Vice-Mayor
John Branch, Commissioner
Gary Curtis, Commissioner
Sal D'Angelo, Chief
Linda Fisher, Principal Planner
Ralph Reid
Al Zimmerman, President
Mike Twitty, Senior Managing Director

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Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Tampa Bay Newspaper
MPO
MPO
Pinellas County
Pinellas County
Pinellas County
Pinellas County Emergency Management
State Representative



North Redington Beach

Redington Beach

Madeira Beach

St. Pete Beach

Treasure Island

Ken Sulewski, BOA Chairperson
Walt Knepper
Bob McClure, Editor
Sandra Knoebel, Planner
Sarah Ward, Interim Exec Director
Mary Scott Hardwick, Administrator
Andy Squires, Coastal Manager
John Morroni, County Commissioner
Sally Bishop, Director
Kathleen Peters, Representative

3. Approval of the Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes from April 29, 2015 Meeting

The motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2015 meeting was made by Mayor Queen and seconded by Mayor Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of April 2015 Treasurer's Report

The balance ending on April 30, 2015 was \$2,152.92 with only one disbursement for \$61.25 for the Florida Division of Corporations.

6. Correspondence

May 5, 2015 Letter from Mayor Robert Minning to Honorable Anthony Foxx, United States Department of Transportation, regarding Support for the Pinellas Trail Loop – TIGER VII Application

7. New Business

Mayor Minning introduced Pam Dubov, Pinellas County Property Appraiser. She gave a brief presentation.

Property Appraiser Pam Dubov reported an increase of 6.44%, with Belleair Shore earning the highest at

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a 9% increase. She advised that she had handouts to pick up after the meeting if needed. New construction is back on the rise, the construction number has doubled since last year, broke \$600 million this year.

Two other items she brought up to consider: in the next couple of weeks, local government leaders will receive a request (Diane Nelson), with approval of taxing authorities, use a vendor to stamp out homestead fraud. The County can no longer afford the labor intensive ways of doing it before and a vendor will be hired to help alleviate the problem. The vendor would find where people own property - 30% of lien value to vendor - all they will do is identify possible cases (leaves 2016 PA); Her office will be sending a MOA with contract from vendor to give up 30% of proceeds to pay this. The payment really comes from any liens - 50% back taxes, penalties, and interest; cities receive the back taxes and the fee is essentially the property owners' penalties. Cities needs to agree to do this before she can proceed.

Diane Nelson, increasing number adopting ordinance for uniform collection of special assessments of the tax bill to handle nuisance finds. She feels very strongly that nuisance special assessment do not apply to special assessments. You can't know budget ahead of time, or benefited - will NOT do it through the tax bill, summary on position in handout. If anyone has any questions, she can be reached after the meeting.

Mike Clay, Meteorologist from Bay News 9, to discuss Tropical Weather

Presented a tropical misconceptions list, what people get wrong about tropical weather. He began by explaining that the season started with an El Nino in the Pacific but the predictions (up or down) do not affect the Gulf. The example he gave was that Andrew was in a quiet season - there a lot of examples where storms start in the Gulf that cause a lot of damage. Chances of the Atlantic season are not very high this year. He then began his list of common misconceptions about tropical weather.

Misconceptions:

Storms Now are Worse Than Ever: Not really, we are more vulnerable because more people and more homes on the beach front; the insurance claims on these properties have gone up; no evidence that storms are increasing in intensity; we are also seeing more of the weather - everyone is taking pictures, reporting, etc. instant communications make people think its crazier.

Not all storms are bad. Storms put water back in our aquifer, it balances the heat to the cold; if it

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weren't for hurricanes, we might have something worse; tropics get so hot, it has to release some of that heat;

Katrina was a Category 5 – FALSE. Katrina was a category 3 at landfall, the storm surge was a category 5 in Louisiana. Storm surge is the big problem, not necessarily the category; cannot say "it's only a category 1"; a category 1 can be a killer.

Easy forecast vs. difficult forecast - if we do get one here, the forecast will be difficult. Throughout forecasting history, all sorts of crazy things happen. You have to be ready to throw the plan out of the window and be prepared for different situations. The last thing we want is rapid intensification right before landfall; any storm that intensifies will be devastating. It is better to be over-prepared. The cone on weather maps is not a forecast, it is the average error; the cone gets a little smaller every year, but it is never exact.

There are two different types of hurricane forecasts: track and intensity. The track forecast has gotten a little bit better based on statistics, and storms haven't been crazy the past few years. Dr. Neil Frank "I think we are giving people a false sense of security" with the cone forecast. Mike Clay would prefer not to predict the intensity and he stressed that you don't want to base your life on something meteorologists admittedly don't have a lot of skill.

He then explained the spaghetti plot. As a meteorologist they are trained to understand how these plots work – the average person does not know all that. For example, one of the lines on the spaghetti plot, the Clipper model, is a climatology model and essentially worthless. If all of the models are saying the same thing, more confidence in the forecast. Another problem is social media. He gave an anecdote about a man in Pinellas County with computer model put a tropical storm 300 miles off the shore of Florida and people all over the country are thanking him - he's literally just a guy with a computer predicting a phantom storm. A bigger example of this would be "the blizzard that never was" in Maryland - firefighters used a flawed European model.

You Evacuate from the Wind - no, evacuate from the water. Storm surge is the real threat and people don't fully understand how dangerous that surge really is. He advised to evacuate close to home with a friend, relative nearby instead. Barrier islands are the first to get evacuations. He also advised that you know where to go. Do not have the attitude of "I'm just going to a shelter", you don't want to do that either. PLAN ahead or figure out where to go.

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Tampa bay hasn't been hit since 1921so it isn't a big possibility – FALSE. A hurricane hit Anna Maria then moved up to Pasco County in the 40s. The eyewall hit Pinellas in the 50s, and the labor day of the 60s was only a few miles away – there have been lots of really close calls. "Tampa Bay has been damned lucky". Just because it's been a long time doesn't mean something can't happen this year or the next.

Beware of bad Apps: Apps that send out forecasts based on one model are not good. He introduced Bay News 9+, and explained that they spent about a year working on the app. Live radar that comes about 60 seconds after sent from the radar in Pinellas Park. There is an option called Safety-Net that notifies you of certain weather events. It is based on your geographical position and you can add up to three locations for you to follow. The forecasts comes from real people, not a computer.

Sally Bishop, Director of Pinellas County Emergency Management added some input on storm surge. It will depend on where the storm is coming in. On the main website on Pinellas County emergency management to look up your evacuation level. You will find a storm surge protector - what level you live in and what height of storm surge you are vulnerable to. This tool will show your type of home and how it would look with the height of the storm surge; this is worst case scenario but it makes it personal. There are also some actual videos from storm chasers - Mississippi during Katrina - live video of surge; Katrina in Biloxi, etc.

Emergency Management gives the evacuation orders. They tell the meteorologists to tell the people and spread the word. Barrier Islands are evacuated for ALL hurricanes; even though there are some areas that are high enough, bridges can go out and you will be stranded.

8. Old Business – None

9. Legislative update

Representative Kathleen Peters - session back on Monday; mostly budget, water issues; beach re-nourishment still funded (she will fight); passed 238 bills, good bills, good policy. Mayor Minning invited to come back after session.

County Commissioner John Morrioni - Budget, budget, budget; great news from Pam, up 6.44%. They are trying to get a couple extra people in the Emergency Management budget. A report will be given after it passes.

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It was explained that it is sea turtle nesting season; identify the lights, light ordinances enforced by City code enforcement. It is up to the cities to verify if there is a violation. FWC has tremendous information and is working with the sea turtle conservatory with Gainesville, to teach officers about beach lighting. He also stressed articles on the beach should be removed at night - try to get beach chairs, etc. off the beach.

10. City Events

Indian Rocks Beach will be holding a flag retirement ceremony this weekend.

Belleair Shore had a great Memorial Day celebration that was attended by David Jolly. The EMS Satellite Facility is under renovation and should be operational by July 4th. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for July 7th.

St. Pete Beach thanked Bob Espesito and FDOT for the project on the South Bay Way Bridge. There is a problem with tolls being bypassed and FDOT has made that problem a priority.

Madeira Beach announced that the Summerland Tour 2015 featuring Everclear will be performing at the new band shell at the City Centre on June 14th.

The other cities reported no big news or events.

11. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m. The next meeting will be hosted by St. Pete Beach and will be held at the St. Pete Beach Community Center on June 24th.



Mayor Robert Minning
BIG C President