

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 30, 2003**

PRESIDENT: Mayor J. J. Beyrouti, Town of Redington Shores
VICE-PRESIDENT: Mayor Mike Kelly, City of Belleair Beach
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Mayor Tom De Cesare, City of Madeira Beach

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, held at the City of Belleair Beach City Hall, 444 Causeway Boulevard, Belleair Beach, Florida, was called to order by Vice President Mike Kelly at 9:05 a.m.

1. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (Voting = V; Alternate 1 = A1; and Alternate 2 = A2)

Belleair Beach	Mayor Mike Kelly (V)
Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Bill Ockunzzi (A1)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Mayor Tom De Cesare (V)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Harold Radcliffe (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Bob Fontaine (V)
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Peter J. Blank (V)
Treasure Island	Mayor Mary Maloof (V)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Leon Atkinson	Treasure Island Resident
Wayne Ayers	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Nancy Ayers	Tampa Bay Newspapers
Barbara Blush	Vice Mayor, City of Treasure Island
Joe Burdette	Consus Group
Betsy Collins	Representative for Senator Dennis Jones
Al Cowan	Director of Business Development/SimSag/Sunwest
Kristi Cottier	External Affairs Manager, Clearwater Gas
Lee Daniel	Assistant Director, St. Pete/Clearwater Area CVB
Bob Dinicola	Mayor, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Linda Fisher	Program Planner, Pinellas Planning Council
Joan Herndon	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
R. B. Johnson	Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach

Gay Lancaster	Chief Assistant County Administrator, Pinellas County Office
Nancy G. McCollum	City Clerk, City of Belleair Beach
Mike Nadeau	Building Official, Town of Redington Shores
Larry Pflueger	Principal Planner, Pinellas Planning Council
Vince Robertiello	The Reporter, Treasure Island
Steve Schwalb	CEO, Digital Eel, Inc.
Stan Sofer	Councilmember, City of Belleair Beach
Keith Wicks	Public Works Director, Pinellas County

1. **TREASURERS REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Report for July 2003 was presented by Mayor De Cesare and the balance on hand as of July 8, 2003, was \$3,475.67.

A motion was made by Mayor Taber, seconded by Mayor Radcliffe, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Taber, to approve the Minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2003. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

1. **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Vice-President Kelly introduced the Guest Speaker, Ralph Stone, Assistant City Manager for the City of Clearwater who gave a presentation on Beach by Design.

Mr. Stone explained he had been asked at the last Convention Visitors Bureau Meeting to make some comments on resort redevelopment and whether or not it is being experienced on Clearwater Beach. He spoke regarding what is driving some of the challenges out there particularly regarding land values that are responding to an extra hot "condo" market. He discussed things that have been put in place through Beach By Design that are intended to create some incentives for reserving development.

He pointed out that after being three years or so into the program, it was a reflection on what we did and why we did it, particularly in regard to resort perspective and what is holding us up.

He referred the audience to a key slide presentation that showed a portion of Clearwater

Beach that in his opinion, within the next five years will be completely redeveloped from so called Mom and Pop Motels. He stated when he spoke before the Convention Visitors Bureau, that week there were five knock downs on Clearwater Beach.

He mentioned three years ago when the program began, those involved were members from City Government, consultants, residents on North Clearwater Beach, residents on cul de sacs on South Beach, members of the business community and members from both Chambers.

He stated some of the important issues that needed to be attended to were existing regulations on the beach were not adequate to create an environment for new resort redevelopment, the infrastructure on the beach needed to be attended to and capital projects needed some incentives to do that.

He discussed the following Beach by Design Strategies for Revitalization:

Creation of an attractive and efficient “arrival and distribution” system at the intersection of State Road 60 and North Mandalay and Coronado; transformation of North Mandalay into an attractive, pedestrian friendly street which provides a high quality address for retail restaurants uses; renovation of South Gulfview to the west to create a unique two-way, local street as part of a destination quality beachfront place; improving traffic circulation to the south of State Road 60; improving sidewalks and creating an entire beachfront transit system; constructing new parking facilities south of Pier 60 Park to support beach visitors and North of Pier 60 Park to support the North Mandalay retail/restaurant corridor; promoting a small number of catalytic redevelopment projects and the adoption of design guidelines which are necessary to achieve the objectives of Beach by Design.

Discussion ensued in regard to any density issues that came up during the early stages of the Beach by Design Project.

Mr. Stone stated in the Beach by Design Project there is a set of design guidelines that have to be addressed and have engaged at times with an independent architect to review the design proposals.

Lee Daniel, St. Pete/Clearwater Area CVB Assistant Director explained that we do not want to lose any customers to another location in Florida, but keep them and relocate them from that motel that is going away on Clearwater Beach or some place else in Pinellas County. He encouraged everyone if they know of a motel property that is about to close to please let the Convention and Visitors Bureau know as soon as possible in order to contact the motel owner and see if a list of clients that already have reservations for next winter, contact them with a personal letter and ask to help in relocating them to another suitable property in Pinellas County. Vice President Kelly thanked Mr. Stone for his presentation and for attending the Meeting.

Vice Mayor Kelly made a change to the Agenda. He asked that under Old Business, B. - Legislative Issues be moved to A., as Joe Burdette had to leave the Meeting early.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES.

Joe Burdette discussed the proposed legislative bill that would allow municipalities flexibility in making density decisions in the Coastal High Hazard Zone. He explained the bill did not pass because it did not have enough teeth to it. He stated amendments were added to the bill that made the DCA angry. He further stated it was our intention to open the door and start doing this at a slow process. He advised he had been informed that Senator Dennis Jones will be driving that bill next year. He explained it is not something we have to do, but something that each Council/Commission can decide on a case by case basis.

B. GULF BOULEVARD UNDERGROUNDING AND BEAUTIFICATION REPORT.

Mayor Kelly advised that the 2% gas tax did not pass this year.

Gay Lancaster stated Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners did approve last night a Resolution as requested in respect to supporting the proposal to go for grant funding, federal funding specifically for Gulf Boulevard as long as it is not in conflict with the previously set priorities. She further stated right now the gas tax is not getting a good reception. She explained it will be a slow process, but is possible to get done.

Keith Wicks spoke about a meeting that was held last week with Public Works Directors from various municipalities where the gas tax was discussed. Discussed was mainly what the County was going to do, but the cities were asked to keep in mind what they were going to be doing. He stated there are three more Public Meetings scheduled with the Commission and Staff throughout the County and there will be at least one more meeting with the Public Works people. He asked that any city who would be interested in having a presentation, to please contact him.

Gay Lancaster stated we have to reauthorize the current tax.

Kristi Cottier explained she is on a Transportation Task Force Committee through the Chamber and they are looking to have a summit sometime later in the year to discuss Gulf Boulevard, the gas tax and all the issues surrounding transportation in the County.

C. AMERICAN ASSEMBLY.

Gay Lancaster spoke regarding an interim report that has been put out on the website. She gave the website address as pinellasco.org and stated it could be pulled up on the left hand menu, all events and all of the committees. She stated the Commissioners and the Chairman of the Mayors Council will be meeting with the Chairs of the Committees. She further stated the groups have been meeting every other week since the beginning. She advised it looks as if things will not be divided between City and County issues. She explained we may end up with some Charter Amendments on the table.

D. WEBPAGE.

Steve Schwalb reported that Sandy Shuler, Indian Shores Councilor, has graciously volunteered to work on the logo. He stated the designers are working on the layout in conjunction with that and have most of the content assembled. He further stated he hoped to have a power point presentation for the next BIG-C Meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PINEY POINT PROJECT.

Commissioner Blank stated he had asked to put this on the Agenda mainly because some people in his area were concerned with going only out 70 miles and after he had it placed on the Agenda somebody had told him it would go out 120 miles which is somewhat better. He further stated we need to be actively looking at this. He advised 120 miles may not be enough and there are still some questions out there that need to be answered. He suggested we need to be on top of this as a group because it will affect the whole beach area.

Mayor Maloof advised she had a letter she will forward to Commissioner Blank concerning this issue. She explained this is treated water, they are double lining it before they spray it out into the water and Manatee County and the City of St. Petersburg are using it in their reclaimed system.

Mayor Kelly read from an article from the Bay News website stating the dispersal process will begin as soon as the barge reaches its destination in the Gulf. The DEP is trying to remove as much water as possible from Piney Point as quickly as possible, because every inch of rainfall generates 12.4 million gallons of new acidic wastewater at the site.

Mayor Maloof stated it is a time bomb and it has been called possibly one of the worse ecological situations in the State of Florida.

B. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ORDINANCE CHANGE.

Commissioner Blank explained he was asked to get a poll of everyone here as to whether or not they are thinking about an Ordinance change. He stated St. Pete Beach has not placed the issue on their Agenda. He explained grocery stores such as Kash N Karry and Publix are concerned because they cannot serve anything until 1:00 p. m. and with tourists coming in on Sunday to stay at condos and resort hotels, they want to go and get their supply of refreshments and cannot do it. He stated there is pressure on us to change the time to 10:00 a.m. and wanted to go around room to see if anyone is going to do anything.

Mayor De Cesare stated Madeira Beach is taking it up at their Workshop.

Gay Lancaster advised the County is doing some research because with respect to that particular law, when it was passed originally in 1965 it had the effect of a Special Act and the intent language in that Special Act says is intended to apply Countywide. She explained the Charter that passed in 1980 reserves certain powers to the Special Act. She further explained they believe right now, that particular element comes under the Special Act status still which means you cannot pass individual ordinances.

She stated the County is not opposing any city's desire to do this, but you need to bare in mind if that applies, then the work you have done is null and void. She asked that everyone let the County finish the research and we willet you know what the status is. She explained the language from the Special Act says that no one can pass an ordinance other than a common ordinance.

7. MISCELLANEOUS:

Mayor Kelly advised he had received a letter from Mayor Tabor regarding EAR Comprehensive Plan and read the letter to BIG-C Members.

Commissioner Blank referred BIG-C Members to a letter distributed in their packets regarding forming a Task Force to foster understanding of and to accomplish changes to Federal policy on floodplain management. He explained St. Pete Beach is under enormous pressure right now with FEMA. He further explained St. Pete Beach has over 100 properties where we are having to hassle people to the point where we are becoming the bad guys not FEMA because we are the ones saying you have to stick a whole in your wall or garage door, you have to do this or you do not have to do that. He stated we need to get our hands around this collectively get some power to talk to the people from

FEMA who do not want to talk to you and who say this is the way you do it. He further stated these people from FEMA are a very hard nose group of people and are very uncaring.

Mayor Kelly mentioned the possibility of canceling the August 27, 2003, BIG-C Meeting.

Mayor Robertson stated it is the Wednesday before Labor Day and suggested the BIG-C cancel the August Meeting and the next BIG-C Meeting will be hosted by the Town of Belleair Shore at Belleair Beach City Hall on Wednesday, September 24, 2003.

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Taber to cancel the August 27, 2003, BIG-C meeting and to hold the September 24, 2003, BIG-C Meeting for Belleair Shore at Belleair Beach City Hall. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mayor Kelly thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

(Signature on File)

Michael E. Kelly, Mayor, City of Belleair Beach