

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



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

**MINUTES**

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL (BIG-C)**

The Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at IRB Banquet Hall, 416 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Minning called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming comments by Indian Rocks Beach Mayor R.B. Johnson.

**2. Roll Call *(according to the Sign-In Sheet)***

**Present:**

Belleair Shore	Mayor Bob Schmidt
Clearwater	Mayor George Cretekos
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor R.B. Johnson
Indian Shores	Mayor Patrick Sorrano (Secretary/Treasurer)
Madeira Beach	Mayor Maggi Black
Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
Redington Shores	Vice Mayor Tom Kapper
St. Pete Beach	Mayor Alan Johnson
Treasure Island	Mayor Robert Minning (President)

**Guest Speakers:**

Christy Herig, Rotary Club of Gulf Beaches  
Robert H. Brotherton, P.E., F.NSPE, Brotherton Engineering, Inc.

**Guests Present:**

Larry Ahern, Florida Representative, District 66  
Robert H. Brotherton, President of Brotherton Engineering, Inc.  
Brett Burke, Forward Pinellas Planner  
Rebecca Carter, Sand Key Civic Association  
Jose Coppen, Indian Rocks Beach Resident  
Ray Cox, Indian Rocks Beach Resident  
Sandra Cuddington, Forward Pinellas Planner  
Robert Esposito, FDOT District & Government Affairs Liaison  
Bob Griffin, Neighborhood Newsletter/Griffin Productions, Inc.  
Mike Hackerson, Indian Shores Councilor  
Tom Kapper, Redington Shores Vice Mayor  
Cookie Kennedy, Indian Rocks Beach Vice Mayor  
Chris Licata, State House District 69 Candidate  
Pam Middleton, Treasure Island Deputy Clerk

Bob Myers, Intracoastal Transit Manager  
Deanne O'Reilly, Indian Rocks Beach City Clerk  
Kristi Cheatham Pettit, Clearwater Gas Sales Public Manager  
Shayra Rosario, Legislative Aide, Florida Representative Larry Ahern  
Rhonda Sanborn, Florida Craft Art Development Manager  
Bill Smith, Indian Shores Councilor  
Phil Wrobel, Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner  
Al Zimmerman, Sand Key Civic Association

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Mayor Simons, seconded by Mayor R.B. Johnson, to approve the September 27, 2017 agenda as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Motion made Mayor Alan Johnson, seconded by Mayor Sorrano, to approve the July 26, 2017 and August 30, 2017 BIG-C minutes, as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

### **5. Approval of August 2017 Treasurer's Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Sorrano briefly reviewed the August 2017 Treasurer's Report, stating the ending balance as of August 31, 2017 is \$2,020.21.

Motion made by Mayor Simons, seconded by Mayor Alan Johnson, to approve the August 2017 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

### **6. Correspondence**

- Nomination of the BIG-C's PCCLB Board Member Nominations 2016-2018.
  - August 30, 2017 Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board Letter.
  - Email chain regarding the PCCLB Board Member Nominations 2016-2018.

President Minning introduced the agenda item, stating this item deals with the BIG-C's nominations to the PCCLB Board from 2016 through 2018. President Minning inquired if the Council should go through the formality to submit three names, as the Board might be defunct in a couple of months.

Mayor Cretekos stated there was a Legislative Delegation Meeting on September 25, 2017, wherein there was some discussion as to what would happen if the PCCLB ceases to exist and whether Pinellas County municipalities would go off on their own with their own guidelines and restrictions. He stated that was a concern that was expressed at the Delegation Meeting.

Mayor Cretekos stated it would be important for each beach municipality to decide should the PCCLB cease to exist would the Council be comfortable with a county-wide organization setting the standards for the entire county. Representative Ahern confirmed Mayor Cretekos' remarks.

Motion made by Mayor Alan Johnson, seconded by Mayor Simons, to postpone consideration of the PCCLB nominations until the October meeting. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

### **7. New Business**

Christy Herig from Rotary Club of Gulf Beaches, to discuss "*Plant a Tree for Every Rotary Member*"

President Minning introduced and provided a brief bio on Christy Herig.

Christy Herig provided a PowerPoint Presentation to the Council. Below are highlights from that Presentation:

- The Rotary International Plant-A-Tree for Every Member Initiative.
- The Six Main Areas of Focus of Rotary International.
- Rotary Club of Gulf Beaches Focus on Youth.
- Four fundraisers per year for charitable donations and community contributions.

Ms. Herig asked the Mayors to designate someone in their municipality to be the contact person for planting trees in their communities.

President Minning stated perhaps the Rotary Club Plant-A-Tree Program could be intertwined with the Gulf Boulevard Beautification Project.

## **8. Old Business**

Robert H. Brotherton, President of Brotherton Engineering, Inc.

Mayor Sorrano stated over the last several months, the beach communities have been struggling with the Sand Key Beach Renourishment Project issues centered around the necessity for beach easements.

Mayor Sorrano stated Indian Rocks Beach Resident Jose Coppen advised that the Army Corps of Engineers' required beach easement were not necessary for beach renourishment, so he contacted his Town Engineer Bob Brotherton to do an analysis on the actual construction plan.

Mr. Brotherton stated he reviewed the plans and specifications on-line to determine the design project and how it was actually designed. Mr. Brotherton contacted Pinellas County Public Works to discuss the erosion on the beach based on the current plans to renourish the beach in sections because of the lack of beach easements from property owners. Pinellas County Public Works did not disagree with his concerns if the beach is renourished in that fashion, it will be subject to erosion at a very high rate and will be a waste of government funding. He was advised by Pinellas County Public Works that it was not too late in the process to make any changes.

Mr. Brotherton presented to Pinellas County Public Works Staff a draft letter to the Army Corps of Engineers stating that he would like to request that the Army Corps of Engineers fully re-nourish the beach, through proper contract(s), up to elevation 4.3 NAVD on lands west of the "Erosion Control Line (ECL) for the full length of the re-nourishment project(s). Failure to re-nourish the beach for its full length will result in premature failure of the re-nourishment work as it will not be laterally supported by sand at the same elevation. It is his understanding that all lands west of the ECL are State owned lands. It is important that this work be performed in a way that will maximize the value of the expenditure of all government funds."

Mr. Brotherton recommended the beach municipalities forward the draft letter to Laural Reichold, E.I., Project Manager, Army Corps of Engineers, and to Rahim Harji, P.E., Pinellas County Public Works Director. He stated time is of the essence. Mr. Brotherton expressed his concern to Laurel Reichold, Engineering Intern, Project Manager, Army Corps of Engineers, about not installing the full and proper renourishment of the beach, and, in fact, that the beach will quickly erode based on the plans to renourish the beach in sections. He indicated to her that 98% or more of the project is west of the ECL, which is all State lands. He stated Ms. Reichold was receptive of his concerns and indicated that she would be glad to receive the letters from the beach municipalities, and stated she will bring this issue up with her higher level up managers at the Army Corps of Engineers, so this is not a dead issue.

Mr. Brotherton advised the Sand Key Beach Renourishment Project will begin in 90 days; however, it is possible to revise the contract before the contractors start work or by a change order after the project starts. Mr. Brotherton advised that Ms. Reichold indicated to him that Congress is in the process of providing additional funding for the beach renourishment project due to Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Brotherton stated he would like to see the beach renourished continuously because renourishing it the way it is currently planned in sections will open the beach up to immediate erosion. He stated the lateral support of the sand to support itself is the key in renourishing the beach and reiterated the beach has to be supported laterally and continuously or it is a waste of government funding.

Jose Coppen, Indian Rocks Beach resident, stated elected officials should contact their State and Federal Representatives and Senators to assist and help the beach communities resolve the beach easement issue with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Coppen stated about 15 years ago, the City of Indian Rocks Beach developed a Beach Management Plan that endorsed a dune preservation zone. It was abandoned because businesses wanted to have a pristine sandy beach. He stated sea oats and sand dunes on Indian Rocks Beach near Whitehurst Avenue are beyond the ECL. He stated sea oats and sand dunes are excellent ways to preserve the beach and encouraged Beach Mayors to promote the planting of sea oats and sand dunes on a voluntary basis.

Mayor Cretekos stated he would like to hear from Pinellas County because if this project gets delayed because of this action, then everyone suffers, not just a couple of the communities. Mr. Brotherton stated the project will not be delayed, explaining the Army Corps of Engineers will be issuing a contract in the next two days, then the Army Corps of Engineers will give a notice to proceed within 60 days, and the contractor has to start work within 30 days.

In response to a question, Mr. Brotherton stated 4.3 NAVD is the elevation that the beach will be renourished to, and 98% or more of the entire length of this project that is the actual existing elevation of the ECL, which is typically 60 to 90 feet west of the seawalls.

Mayor Alan Johnson stated he does not believe the City of St. Pete Beach has easement problems like Indian Rocks Beach. Mr. Brotherton stated the draft letter requests that all work be done west of ECL, which does not affect easements at all. There is no easement issue relative to the draft letter.

Mr. Brotherton stated the Army Corps of Engineers wanted to obtain beach easements to facilitate future work that might be needed in the future or maybe for dredging equipment used during the project. He reiterated that 98% of the project is west of the ECL and does not require an easement to place sand on the beach to complete the project continuously. He stated the Army Corps of Engineers are requiring easements because there have been problems in the past in other areas in doing dredging. The Army Corps of Engineers' policy is to obtain easements from all property owners.

Mayor Sorreno stated this is a two-step process. The beach communities would like to receive full renourishment this time around, and the second step of the process is to obtain beach easements from all gulf-front property owners.

Mayor Johnson stated during the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association Conference, there will be discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers representatives where the Mayors will receive a much better sense of what is and is not possible from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Brotherton stated the Council should focus on obtaining funding for beach renourishment through the State and Federal Representative and Senators.

## **9. Hurricane Irma Discussion**

Indian Rocks Beach Vice Mayor Kennedy stated in Indian Rocks Beach a Facebook and text chain was started to keep residents apprised of the situation with Hurricane Irma. She stated the Council should discuss lessons learned from Hurricane Irma because it will help cities deal with future disasters.

President Minning suggested each Mayor talk to their City Manager because the City Managers meet once a month to discuss Pinellas County issues, and he is sure that this topic will come up at their next meeting.

Mayor Cretekos stated perhaps after everyone does their post-storm assessment, it might not be a bad idea to invite Pinellas County EOC to make a presentation before the Council on Hurricane Irma. It is Pinellas County that is the governing body in terms of emergency operations.

Rick Walker, Pinellas County Emergency Management Office, stated Pinellas County is developing an after action report on Hurricane Irma, and Pinellas County needs feedback from the barrier islands.

Mr. Walker stated about a year ago, Pinellas County adopted the Nextdoor App, a private social network, for communications, and stated that App worked and is a lot cleaner than Facebook to feed information back and forth.

Mr. Walker stated Hurricane Irma created a bad situation, but it was ideal to test a lot of things, and stated Pinellas County is seeing where some gaps are: (1) Debris Management — FEMA-approved contractors over-committed themselves, (2) Duke Energy realized how bad it can get; major transmission sections were down, and (3) Special needs/high risk residents — more education is needed of the special needs/high risk residents.

Mayor R.B. Johnson stated Indian Rocks Beach did not use FEMA-approved contractors, but rather used local contractors instead of waiting for debris to be picked up. He stated the City used City reserves to cover the costs. He stated Hurricane Irma was just a wind event and look how much debris Pinellas County has, and if this was significant flooding event on top of that, there would have been much more debris to deal with. He stated it just points to how important it is for cities not to be relying on FEMA reimbursement, but rather should be building up their reserves to the extent that cities are able to pull the trigger faster and take care of things themselves instead of relying on FEMA reimbursement.

## **10. Miscellaneous**

NONE

## **11. Legislative Update**

Representative Larry Ahern stated Pinellas County was very fortunate; however, the rest of the State was not so fortunate, the Keys, parts of Orlando, Jacksonville, Miami, and other cities. The Legislature is looking at some shortfalls from the State revenues, and then additional monies are needed to fix infrastructure.

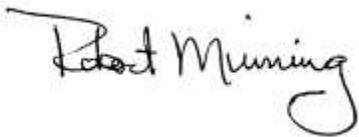
Representative Ahern stated beach renourishment is an important issue, and he will be co-sponsoring an appropriations bill for beach renourishment.

## **12. City Events**

Board members reviewed recent and upcoming events in their cities.

## **13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. and is to be hosted by the City of Belleair Beach, 444 Causeway Blvd., Belleair Beach, FL.



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Mayor Robert Minning  
BIG C President