

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

The Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at the Indian Rocks Beach Civic Auditorium, 1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

President Minning called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by welcoming comments by Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Minning.

2. Roll Call

BIG C Representatives

Mayor Robert Minning (President)--Treasure Island
Commissioner Terry Hamilton-Wollin (Vice-President)--Indian Rocks Beach
Mayor Travis Palladeno (Secretary/Treasurer)--Madeira Beach
Councilmember Wanda Schwerer--Belleair Beach
Mayor Bob Schmidt--Belleair Shore
Mayor George Cretekos--Clearwater
Mayor Jim Lawrence--Indian Shores
Mayor Bill Queen--N. Redington Beach
Commissioner Mark Deighton--Redington Beach
Mayor Bert Adams--Redington Shores
Mayor Maria Lowe--St. Pete Beach

Guest Speakers:

Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer--PSTA
Whit Blanton, Executive Director--PPC/MPO
Michael Crawford, Planning Director Manager--PPC/MPO

Guests Present:

Vice Mayor Leslie Notaro--Belleair Beach
Martha Stubbs Vazquez, Residen--Belleair Beach
Mayor R.B. Johnson--Indian Rocks Beach
Commissioner Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy--Indian Rocks Beach
Vice Mayor Phil Hanna--Indian Rocks Beach
Commissioner Jim Labadie--Indian Rocks Beach
Deanne B. O'Reilly, City Clerk--Indian Rocks Beach

Eddie Bie, Resident--Indian Rocks Beach
Ron McVety, Resident--Indian Rocks Beach
Brian Whitaker, resident--Indian Rocks Beach
Councilor Bill Smith--Indian Shores
Councilor Diantha Schear--Indian Shores
Matt Towson, Resident--Indian Shores
Commissioner John Branch--Redington Shores
Vice Mayor Terri Finnerty--St. Pete Beach
Representative Larry Ahern--FL House of Representatives - Dist. 66
Trent Phillips, Aide to Senator Brandes FL Senate - Dist. 22
Commissioner Janet Long--Pinellas Co. Board of Co Commissioners
Bob Griffin, Publisher--Beach Newsletters
Ilona McKinley --Chalk Fest
Kristi Pettit, Sales Manager--Clearwater Gas
Jeff Baker, Community Relations--Duke Energy
Doreen Davis, Business Manager--Duke Energy
Melissa Seixas, Communications Manager--Duke Energy
Bob Esposito, Government Affairs--FDOT
Mary Scott Hardwick, Intergovernmental Liaison--Pinellas County
Doyle Walsh--Pinellas County
Rick Walker--Pinellas Co. Emergency Management
Heidi Herriott, Manager --Pinellas Fair
Linda Fisher, Principal Planner--PPC/MPO
Sal D'Angelo, III, Fire Chief--PSFRD
Bonnie Epstein, Planner --PSTA
Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer--PSTA
Al Zimmerman, President--Sand Key Civic Association
Robin Sollie, CEO--Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber
Bob McClure, Editor--Tampa Bay Newspapers
Chris Martin--The Ash Group

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Palladeno, to approve the September 30, 2015 Agenda as presented. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

4. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2015 Meeting

Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Mayor Lowe, to approve the August 26, 2015 minutes as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

5. Approval of August 2015 Treasurer's Report

Mayor Palladeno reviewed the August 2015 Treasurer's Report; the balance was \$2,072.67. Motion made by Mayor Queen, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton-Wollin, to accept the August 2015 Treasurer's Report as submitted. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

6. Correspondence

Letter from Debbie Flack, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FABPA), dated September 18, 2015, providing a beach update.

7. New Business

- a) PSTA-Commissioner Mark Deighton, BIG-C Representative and Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, PSTA- PSTA Bus Shelters - Adopted for a Town, or the Same on Gulf Boulevard

Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), made a PowerPoint Presentation to the BIG-C on the PSTA Shelter Match Program. Ms. Borchers advised she has provided each member with a map and a table showing the existing bus stops and amenities list for their respective city.

An audience member inquired as to the cost of a bus shelter, with Ms. Borchers responding the average cost is approximately \$10,000, which includes installation (a new pad for the shelter). An audience member inquired if a private citizen wanted to pay for one to be installed, could their name be placed on the shelter. Ms. Borchers stated that would be up to the city.

Mayor Johnson stated the City of Indian Rocks Beach has four shelters, all designed differently and meet PSTA construction standards, and donated by a civic organization, Action 2000, Inc. He stated Action 2000, Inc., is interested in donating more bus shelters; however, the city has limited right-of-way on Gulf Boulevard. Mayor Smith inquired if Redington Shores has less than 30 riders per day, will the city be able to participate in the program. Ms. Borchers stated there is a threshold of 30 riders per day to be eligible for the program; however, there might be some bus stops that can be consolidated.

Mayor Lowe inquired if there is any interest in having unified designed bus stops on Gulf Boulevard that are indicative of the Beach Trolley. She stated the Beach Trolley is the one unified thing from St. Pete Beach to Clearwater, as well as the fish mile markers.

Several members stated they are not interested in unified designed bus stops throughout the beaches as several cities already have city-unique bus stops. Matt Towson inquired if the primary funding for this program is from a federal grant or is it internal funding from PSTA revenue for their cost share of the bus shelters. Ms. Borchers stated PSTA receives an annual allocation from the federal government that PSTA uses for capital programs, which includes bus shelters.

Mayor Minning requested Ms. Borchers to summarize the funding aspect of the PSTA Shelter Match Program in an email to him, which he will then distribute to the members.

b) MPO/PPC-Commissioner Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy & Whit Blanton, Executive Director of the MPO/PPC – Mixed Use Presentation

Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner Kennedy, Executive Director Whit Blanton, of the PPC/MPO, and Planning Director Manager Michael Crawford, of the PPC/MPO, made a PowerPoint Presentation to the BIG-C on "mixed use." There were no questions from the Council or the audience.

8. Old Business

a) Ms. Heidi Herriott, Manager of the Greater Pinellas Country Fair.

Heidi Herriot, Manager, Greater Pinellas Country Fair, spoke on the upcoming Fair, and encouraged everyone to support the Fair, from November 12-15, 2015, at the England Brothers Park in Pinellas Park. She stated for further information go to: pinellasfair.org.

9. Legislative Update

Indian Shores Councilor Bill Smith, BIG-C representative on the FSBPA Board of Directors, reported on the 2015 FSBPA Conference in Duck Key, Florida. Councilor Smith advised that FSBPA's objective is to increase statewide project funding to at least \$50 million for FY 2016/17. He encouraged members of the BIG-C to advocate for beach nourishment through their state representatives.

Councilor Smith stated there will be a \$500 increase in BeachWatch dues and a \$50 increase in city memberships for FY2016. Councilor Smith stated the Board also talked about a transition period when Debbie Flack retires; she is only a few years away from retirement. As a way of making that transition, FSBPA is going to have an additional position, an executive director position, who will move up when Debbie Flack retires.

Councilor Smith thanked the BIG-C for giving him the opportunity to serve on the FSBPA Board of Directors for the past six years. He stated FSBPA By-Laws have a term limit provision and the limit is two three-year terms, and his second term will expire on December 31, 2015. However, Andy Squires, of Pinellas County, will serve on the Board of Directors beginning in January 2016; therefore, Pinellas County will still have representation on the Board of Directors.

Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long stated the Board of County Commissioners will be discussing the 6% Tourist Development Tax rate.

State Representative Larry Ahern announced the Pinellas Legislative Delegation Meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 2015, and since they are currently having committee meetings, so now is the time to discuss priorities with state representatives.

10. City Events

Mayor Lawrence stated the Town of Indian Shores ran into a problem with the Division of Alcohol Beverages and Tobacco derecognizing municipalities as bonafide civic non-profit organizations, which meant that they would not issue the one, two, or three day liquor licenses that are used during city events. He thanked Representative Ahern and Representative Peters for putting pressure on the Division who then rescinded that interpretation, and Indian Shores' one day temporary license was issued. He stated the Division's legal department is looking into the language to determine if cities fall within the category of nonprofit organizations.

Mayor Cretekos announced the following events:

October 11-12, 2015 Hispanic Heritage Concert
October 15-20, 2015 Jazz Holiday

Mayor Palladeno announced the following events:

October 10, 2015 Rock Park Grand Opening
October 16, 2015 City Hall Grand Opening
October 29, 2015 John's Pass Seafood Festival

Commissioner Hamilton-Wollin announced that Indian Rocks Beach has mini libraries at three of their beach accesses, and Indian Rocks Beach has wayfinding-style type signs saying "Please Leave Nothing but Your Footprints" at all the city's beach accesses. She announced the following event:

October 10, 2015 Oktoberfest & Kinderfest

Commissioner Deighton announced the following event:

October 3, 2015 Oktoberfest / Craft Beer Fest

Mayor Lowe announced the following events:

October 2, 2015 Concert in the Park
October 4, 2015 Cory Avenue Sunday Market Kick Off

Mayor Schmidt stated he serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida Orchestra, and invited everyone to come to the Florida Orchestra on October 3, 2015, for debut of Michael Francis.

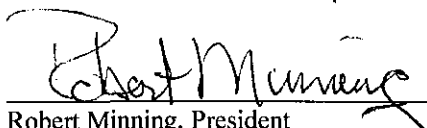
Mayor Queen stated that Mayor Simons, Mayor Palladeno, and himself participated in the "Blessings in a Backpack," where they packed lunches for at-risk children who do not eat over the weekends. He stated it was a very humbling experience, and encouraged his colleagues to look into this organization.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

October 26, 2015
City of Belleair Beach
Belleair Beach City Hall
444 Causeway Boulevard


Robert Minning, President
Barrier Islands Governmental Council
Mayor, City of Treasure Island