

**Minutes – January 28, 2009**  
**At the Redington Shores Town Hall**

<b>Present:</b>	Belleair Beach	Council Member Kathy Mortensen
	Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
	Treasure Island	Commissioner Phil Collins
	Belleair Shore	Mayor John A. Robertson
	Clearwater	Vice Mayor George Cretelos
	Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
	Indian Rocks Beach	Vice Mayor Terry Hamilton Wollin
	Madeira Beach	Mayor Pat Shontz
	North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
	St. Pete Beach	Mayor Mike Finnerty
	Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
 <b>Guest Speakers:</b>	 Debbie Flack, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association David Baggs, Tampa Bay Rays	
 <b>Guests Present:</b>	Jim Frishe	State Representative, District 54
	Dennis Jones	Senator, District 13
	Betsy Collins	Office of Senator Dennis Jones
	Joan Herndon	Vice Mayor, Indian Shores
	Bert Adams	Vice Mayor, Redington Shores
	Carole Irelan	Council Member, Indian Shores
	Steve Sutch	Council Member, Indian Shores
	Bonnie Dhonau	Indian Shores
	Jerry Knight	Vice Mayor, No. Redington Beach
	Alan Bildz	Treasure Island
	W.D. Higginbotham	City Manager, Madeira Beach
	Sandra Knoebel	Planner, Pinellas County Planning
	John Verila	Gulf Beaches Gazette
	Kristi Cheatham	Ext. Affairs Mgr, Clearwater Gas
	Bob McClure	Editor, Tampa Bay Newspapers
	Jose L. Coppen	Indian Rocks Beach
	Mary Sutch	Pres, Indian Shores Women's Club
	Frank Yurasko	Pres, LaContessa Condo, Redington Beach

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor Lawrence thanked Mayor Jody Armstrong for hosting the meeting, and Deputy Town Clerk Patti Herr for taking minutes. Mayor Lawrence introduced Bert Adams, Vice Mayor of Redington Shores, as the new Mayor effective March 2009.

**3 Approval of Agenda**

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson, seconded by Mayor Armstrong, to approve the Agenda for the Big-C Meeting of January 28, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes of December 2008.**

Motion was made by Mayor Robertson, seconded Mayor Shontz, to approve the minutes of December 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Treasurer's Report of November 2008**

Vice Mayor Cretekos reported a balance of \$911.19 after a disbursement of \$250.00 for reimbursement of Beach Facts publication. Motion was made by Mayor Roberts, seconded by Vice Mayor Hamilton-Wollin to approve the Treasurer's report for December 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. New Business:**

Mayor Lawrence introduced Debbie Flack, Governmental Affairs Director FSBPA. Ms. Flack explained that since 1957 the cities and counties have maintained "Beach Watch", lobbying local governments for their beach initiatives. Ms. Flack has been the only Director for 23 years, and commended Senator Dennis Jones as its main advocate. The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association has spearheaded every beach initiative since its inception. In 1998 there was \$30 million dedicated funding from documentary stamp taxes. In recent special session of state government the beaches escaped cuts, but in October only \$5.22 million was allotted from doc stamps. Ms. Flack stressed the importance to preserve the dedicated funding for beaches, and to use monies for immediate projects, not for future planned projects. The beach renourishment for Pinellas County looks promising for 2010.

Mayor Lawrence explained that the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter for Indian Shores is coming up, and the Town would like to plan a "Rays Day" for the area beach towns. David Baggs, Sales Executive with the Rays, showed a brief video about the Tampa Bay Rays baseball season, and asked the members if there were

any interest in having a special Rays Day. There was much enthusiasm for the event. Mr. Baggs offered 2 promotion ideas: selling lower box tickets and a free

ball cap for \$30.00 (\$60.00 regular price); or offering discount seats with an “all you can eat” ticket for some food courts. Mr. Baggs also suggested that Friday night or Sunday afternoon games would be the choices. Bonnie Dhonau of Indian Shores has offered to be the contact for the activity. Mayor Lawrence proposed that the game date be made later in the summer, in order to organize the project throughout the beach communities.

## **7. Old Business**

Mayor Lawrence said that he, Mayor Simons and Vice Mayor Cretelos will be able to fulfill their commitment to the BIG-C for the upcoming year due to their respective remaining terms in office.

Mayor Lawrence asked the members for input on future meetings, and would like suggestions for presentations at the meetings. A representative from SWFWMD has been scheduled for the next meeting to speak on water shortages. Some of the suggestions for speakers that were made were the new County Administrator, Commissioner John Morroni, and the Coast Guard along with a Sheriff's representative.

Mayor Lawrence asked the members if they would like to explore the consolidation of local municipalities into one. The response was negative. Mayor Queen offered the possibility of consolidating some services, but not boundaries. Mayor Robertson also mentioned possibly using a County level building official to assist the towns.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

Senator Dennis Jones provided a brief legislative update, first complimenting Debbie Flack for her excellent representation of the beach communities. Senator Jones explained that he and Representative Frishe have to deal with a \$10 billion cut in the budget, affecting the areas of education and social services. There may be \$3-4 billion cut out of the next budget. Representative Frishe said that he met with the County Commission and there are tough times ahead. Monies are programmed to be available more in the long term rather than the short term.

Phil Collins, Treasure Island, announced a Mardi Gras to be held February 20, 21, and will include a 5K run, classic car show, bands and other activities. It is organized by the Kiwanis and proceeds will go to charities.

Vice Mayor Hamilton-Wollin, Indian Rocks Beach, said the Girlfriends of Indian Rocks Beach will hold a garage sales February 1 to benefit food pantries.

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Mayor Queen, North Redington Beach, reminded members that the FDLE awards a \$1,000 JAG grant each year that can be used for law enforcement overtime, etc. If individual towns are not receiving this grant he asked the members to check on this.

Mayor Simons, Redington Beach, said that he had received a request for reimbursement from Indian Shores for the Gulf Blvd. beautification project, and encouraged all towns to keep working on their beautification projects.

Council Member Kathy Mortensen, Belleair Beach, said the roof is on the new town hall and the bridge construction is going well.

Mayor Finnerty, St. Pete Beach, announced a 6:30 p.m. meeting tonight to “Save the Gulf Beach Elementary School.” On Saturday, January 31, the Trade Winds will host a celebrity flag football event.

Mayor Lawrence, Indian Shores, reiterated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for his community, and announced a white elephant sale hosted by the Women’s Club to be held on February 14.

Kristi Cheatham, External Affairs Manager for Clearwater Gas, expressed thanks for the towns’ cooperation in the recent Half Marathon held along Gulf Blvd.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the BIG-C will be held at North Redington Beach on February 25.