

September 24, 2008

Minutes

Present:	Belleair Beach	Councilmember Kathy Mortensen
	Belleair Shore	Mayor John A. Robertson
	Indian Rocks Beach	Vice Mayor Terry Hamilton Wollin
	Indian Shores	Mayor Jim Lawrence
	Madeira Beach	Mayor Pat Shontz
	North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen
	Redington Beach	Mayor Nick Simons
	Redington Shores	Mayor Jody Armstrong
	Treasure Island	Commissioner Phil Collins

Guest Speaker:	FEMA	Carl C. Kuehn II
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Guests Present:	Pinellas Co. Commission Candidate	Neil Brickfield
	Visitor	Jerry Brunton
	State Senator Dennis Jones' Office	Doris Burns
	Resident	Jose Coppen
	Pinellas Planning Council	Linda Fisher
	State Rep District 54	Jim Frishe
	Resident	Laura Gervosi
	Indian Shores	Vice Mayor Joan Herndon
	Madeira Beach	City Manager W. D. Higginbotham
	Indian Shores	Janet Hoppe
	Indian Shores	Councilor Carole Ireland
	North Redington Beach	Jerry Knight
	Pinellas County Planning	Sandra Knoebel
	Madeira Beach	Commissioner Terry Lister
	Beach Beacon Bee	Bob MacPherson
	Treasure Island	Mayor Mary Maloof
	Tourist Development Council	Doreen Moore
	Indian Shores	Councilor Bill Smith
	Indian Rocks Beach	Interim City Manager Danny Taylor
	Indian Rocks Beach	Commissioner Daniel Torres
	Redington Beach	Frank Yurasko

1 - Pledge of Allegiance

Big-C President Lawrence called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Civic Auditorium, Indian Rocks Beach, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 - Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with each person present introducing themselves.

3 - Approval of Agenda

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Queen to approve the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

4 – Approval of Minutes – August 2008

MOTION was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Mayor Armstrong to approve the Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

5 – Approval of Treasurer’s Report – August 2008

President Lawrence indicated that Vice Mayor Cretekos was absent, however, the Treasurer’s Report was attached, and inquired if everyone reviewed the Report. **MOTION** was made by Mayor Robertson and seconded by Councilmember Mortensen to approve the Treasurer’s Report. The motion carried unanimously.

6A – New Business

President Lawrence introduced Carl C. Kuehn II, Assistant External Affairs Officer/FEMA Outreach Program, Region IV (Atlanta) who provided an overview of the Program.

External Affairs handle all of the public information for FEMA, intergovernmental affairs, congressional affairs, community outreach through the Community Resource staff and new products and planning. Only 5 External Affairs staff members exist within the agency, which have been in existence for approximately ten years. External Affairs was developed as a means of getting the right people to the right places; i.e. community resources staff going door to door explaining the process to disaster victims (registration, benefits available and not available); public assistance specialists (engineers) to work with the infrastructure and hazard mitigation specialists. External Affairs strives to eliminate confusion and be an adjunct to municipalities’ staff.

The Intergovernmental Affairs area is tasked to work with the governor, state legislature, county governments, (municipalities and tribal). In Florida there are 26 recognized tribes and only 2 federally-recognized tribes. Tribes are special nations and are treated as a protectorate and come under a slightly different program purview. Each tribe has a different treaty with the United States, for example, the Seminole Tribe has a treaty with the Federal Government while the Miccosukees do not.

Mr. Kuehn reviewed Individual Assistance, a program where outreach is provided to homeowners and renters affected by disasters. For the current disaster, the maximum assistance allowable is \$28,800.00 comprised of all types of assistance and changes from year to year based on inflation.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kuehn’s presentation, President Lawrence opened the floor to questions.

A question was raised regarding FEMA’s involvement with flood insurance and the new policy of the community rating discounts on policies and a change where FEMA is removing the discount from any property which does not have its first living floor above base flood elevation. There is a number of buildings currently losing the discount. Mr. Kuehn was not aware of this change.

Mr. Kuehn stated that whether individuals live in a designated flood plain or not, flood insurance should be obtained.

6B - Oil Rig Drilling Resolution

President Lawrence reviewed the resolutions received, and summarized a recent news article stating that Congress would permit the ban, expiring September 30, 2008, to end. He continued excerpting from the Associated Press article: "The White House will lift the long-standing drilling moratoriums for both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts; a drilling ban in waters within 125 miles of Florida's western coast will remain in force under a law passed by Congress in 2006." Therefore, although expiring, it will not revert to 50 miles off Florida's coast, it will remain at 125 miles.

Rep. Frishe commented that the military reservation is farther out, approximately 230 miles out.

6C – Big-C Representation: TDC/FSBPA

Mayor Armstrong gave an overview of representation on the Tourist Development Council and the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association in anticipation of her decision to refrain from running for re-election.

Mayor Armstrong indicated that both appointments must be from the ranks of elected officials who also are Big-C representatives, i.e. one of the 11 on the Board of the Big-C, however, there may be some flexibility.

Mayor Armstrong stated the receipt of an e-mail from Debbie Flack, FSBPA lobbyist, which states that instead of the beaches' fixed rate funding of \$30 million, the doc stamp allocation for the next fiscal year is currently earmarked at \$10.7 million, and will likely be further reduced by November estimates.

FSBPA

Mayor Armstrong provided a description of the FSBPA Board of Directors which includes engineers, FDEP personnel, Army Corps of Engineers and coastal managers, making up the most educated board members who inherently believe in Florida's beaches and preservation.

The duties require attendance at board meetings and giving legislative support and lobbying for sponsors for various conferences.

2009 Meeting Dates:

February 18	Tradewinds Resort <i>"National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology"</i>
May 8	Tampa Airport Marriott Annual Conference

Board meetings are conducted, in general, the morning prior to the start of the conference.

Tourist Development Council

Mayor Armstrong stated her strong support of tourism in Pinellas County as it is an economic driver.

Mayor Armstrong stated the Board is made up of 5 elected officials, 4 hotel/motel representatives and 3 tourism-related representatives.

Mayor Armstrong stated there are Grant Committees, which are subcommittees of the TDC, which occupies a large portion of time, two of which are the Tourism committee and the Special Event Funding Committee. Grant request applications are received on a yearly basis which take approximately 16 hours of reading and evaluation prior to a full-day meeting of making grant recommendations to the TDC, comprising \$750,000 of Convention/Visitors Bureau funds awarded to certain events around Pinellas County.

TDC meetings are held in the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Assembly Room the second Wednesday each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Other TDC commitments include supporting special events, tourism-related activities around the county to support, launch and promote these events.

Mayor Armstrong stated if there was any interest for participation on either of the associations, notification should be made to President Lawrence prior to the January Big-C meeting.

Mayor Armstrong reiterated that participation on the FSBPA requires membership in the Big-C.

7A – Miscellaneous – Legislative Update

Doris Burns, representing Senator Dennis Jones, expressed apologies as a result of the Senator having another commitment preventing him from attending.

Rep. Frishe commented that the legislature is continuing to work on budget issues and indicated that state economists agree that an economic turn around may occur during the 2nd Quarter of 2009, therefore, tax revenue should begin improving in the 3rd Quarter.

Rep. Frishe advised the legislature is dealing with DEP issues and may have gotten the DEP to back off of submerged land lease prices which is good news for dock owners.

7B – Miscellaneous – Beach Update

Mayor Armstrong advised that Dr. Nicole Elko has been appointed to the FSBPA Board.

Indian Shores Councilmember Smith advised that there was good representation from the Big-C at the FSBPA Conference, with discussion involving what the State would be able to contribute which may approximate \$10 million or lower.

Mayor Schontz stated she was still pursuing the project on the moratorium on new commercial docks and received a response from Sen. Nelson's office and will be meeting with Sen. Nelson's aide at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Doreen Moore (TDC) inquired regarding a pedestrian crosswalk, at 133rd Avenue and Gulf Boulevard, in Madeira Beach, stating the DOT representative responded in the negative regarding moving the crosswalk from the north side of 133rd to the south side of 133rd Avenue. The DOT's response was based on the statement that the Big-C had met with DOT in determining the placement with the various crosswalks. She continued asking if any member recalled being in charge of the placement of the pedestrian crosswalks.

Vice Mayor Jerry Knight stated he has attended meetings over the past three years and does not recall this subject arising except in the context of pedestrian safety.

Comment made by Mayor Queen who stated a representative of the DOT came to a Big-C meeting, passed out maps and talked to representatives who were on the Big-C to get back to her with recommendations for where they would like to have crosswalks, which was about the extent of Big-C involvement. The Big-C was used as a conduit for getting the information to the cities and the cities went back, individually, with various representatives of the DOT to talk about where they wanted to place their crosswalks.

Mayor Maloof stated there was a bus tour that DOT conducted, with Mayor Queen stating that only suggestions were made with the cities deciding where crosswalks were to be placed.

Ms. Moore stated that she will work with the city, city manager, commissioner and take it back to the DOT.

Mayor Robertson stated the only time his town has ever discussed anything about crosswalks was with Phil Graham and Associates during the beautification, and subsequent to that time, crosswalks were installed without DOT involvement at all. The only time there was a map was when a group was at his house for 10 minutes and decided to place it next to the access, and Belleair Beach made a design so it would not affect 6th Street so people would not be stuck at two roads.

President Lawrence commented regarding the interaction with DOT, when the design work was being done in his community, in convincing the DOT to install crosswalks at different locations than they already were; and some placements seemed obvious such as a 197th Street where 56 public parking spaces are located on the east side of the road and a beach access on the west side.

President Lawrence stated the date of October 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Redington Shores has been set for the Progress Energy Symposium. President Lawrence requested a head count for seating accommodations. He continued that a meeting has been set for Thursday, September 25, to meet with the Progress Energy representatives in Indian Shores to discuss the content of the symposium.

Big-C Meeting Schedule:

October 29	@ Indian Shores	hosted by Belleair Shore
Dec 10	@ Indian Shores	hosted by Indian Shores

President Lawrence reviewed the guests for the upcoming meetings:

Debbie Flack, FSBPA lobbyist;
D. T. Minnich, TDC, will be giving an annual update;
Capt. Tim Engle, PCSO, will be discussing the re-entry program;

Commissioner Karen Williams-Seel;

Mayor Robertson stated that after the last two storms, sand has washed up substantially over the seawalls and are buried anywhere from 3 or 4 inches of sand to over a foot. He spoke with Dr. Elko and made an application to Steve West, DEP, which is pending, and inquired if other communities experienced this problem.

Mayor Armstrong stated she is leaving elected office and will also be submitting her resignation from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Councilmember Mortensen stated the groundbreaking for the new Belleair Beach City Hall will be taking place Monday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Maloof requested adding a proclamation to each municipality's agenda announcing November 1 as Rotary International Day. Mayor Maloof stated the Rotary has joined the Gates Foundation in a commitment to ending polio throughout the world.

Mayor Maloof also announced the Annual Mayors' Prayer Breakfast is Friday, October 10, 2008 at the Treasure Island Tennis and Yacht Club.

8 - Adjournment

President Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

