

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2003**

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

The meeting of the Barrier Islands Governmental Council, held at the Indian Shores Town Hall, 19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, Florida, was called to order by President J.J. Beyrouti 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 Jim Palamara (V)
Indian Shores	Councilor Bill Smith (A1)
Madeira Beach	Mayor Tom DeCesare (V)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Harold Radcliff (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Bob Fontaine (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor J.J. Beyrouti (V)
St. Pete Beach	Commissioner Pete Blank (V)
Treasure Island	Mayor Mary Maloof (V)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Rand Baldwin	Southwest Florida Water Management District
Barbara Blush	Vice Mayor, City of Treasure Island
Robert Brotherton	Brotherton Engineering
Joe Burdette	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Doris Burns	Legislative Assistant for Senator Dennis Jones
Kristi Cottier	Clearwater Gas
Rodney Fischer	Pinellas Co. Construction Licensing Board
Nick Fritsch	Sand Key Civic Association
Hoyt Hamilton	Commissioner, City of Clearwater
Gina Harvey	Pinellas Planning Council
Dave Healey	Pinellas Planning Council
Joan Herndon	Councilor, Town of Indian Shores
R.B. Johnson	Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Jerry Knight	Commissioner, Town of N. Redington Beach
Jim Lawrence	Vice Mayor, Town of Indian Shores
John Loder	Sun Vista Development
Doreen Moore	Commissioner, City of Madeira Beach

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Bill Ockunzzi	Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach
Marshall Reynolds	Commissioner, Town of Redington Shores
Sandy Shuler	Council Member, Town of Indian Shores
Russ Sloan	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
Ralph Stone	Assistant City Manager, City of Clearwater
Gerry Smelt	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Brian Smith	Metropolitan Planning Organization
Keith Wicks	Pinellas County Administrators Office
Jon Zacg	Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce

2. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2003

The Treasurer’s Report for November 2003 was presented by Mayor DeCesare, with a balance on hand as of November 9, 2003, of \$2,618.65.

*Motion made and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented.
Unanimous approval by acclamation.*

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 29, 2003 MINUTES

Motion made and seconded to approve the October 29, 2003 minutes. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

**4. GUEST SPEAKERS: Brian Smith, Metropolitan Planning Organization
 Dave Healey, Pinellas Planning County**

Brian Smith addressed concerns of the beach communities regarding the replacement of tourism units with condominium and residential development, which results in gains in property tax base, but causes a loss in the tourism industry. A special evaluation/study would be commissioned to look at the value of tourism versus residential to document the impact. The County would establish the scope of the study, invite input from affected municipalities, and then commission outside expert agencies to gather the facts and conduct the study.

The scope of the study would include the following aspects:

- A. Tourist Economic Benefit Study
- B. Beach Evacuation and Facility Support
- C. Residential Policy
- D. Tourist (Transient) Units Policy
- E. Project Conditions with Triggers

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Dave Healey, Pinellas Planning Council, stated his role is to pull all the different agencies together, insuring the municipalities had all the facts necessary to understand the issue and make tough policy choices to bring development more into balance. A proposal would be developed relative to methodology and scope of services needed.

Mayor Beyrouiti stated tourism was the backbone of the state of Florida and Pinellas County and it is essential to attract tourism. He stated he would like a beach community representative on the study committee.

A discussion ensued relative to the scope of the study, standards used, evacuation polices, economic impact of development and density regulations.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

5A. Beach Watch Membership.

Mayor Beyrouiti explained that the yearly membership fee for joining the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association's lobbying component, Beach Watch, is \$5,000 for the Big-C, or \$500 per year per city. Thus far, there has been a good response, with approximately eight communities participating. He stressed the importance of staying alert regarding this issue, as the \$30 million designated for beach renourishment might be in jeopardy.

5B. Gulf Boulevard Mile Marker Update

Brian Smith, MPO, displayed the design for the new mile markers and explained the numbering system along the beach communities. Markers will be approximately seven feet from the ground, with the tops reaching approximately twelve feet; two-sided; and placed on both sides of the highway.

Indian Shores has offered storage facilities and the Big-C will coordinate the Highway Sign Maintenance agreements. Funds left from the Beach Beautification study might be applied to the sign marker project.

5C. M.P.O. Representative

Mayor Beyrouiti stated the Big-C had urged the appointment of a rotating voting representative on the Pinellas County MPO, to represent approximately 38,000 permanent residents on the barrier islands. However, the request had been turned down.

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He encouraged the beach communities to continue to pass the supporting resolutions in their respective cities, as he believed a representative from the barrier islands would be an asset to the organization and he intended to pursue the matter further and deliver the resolutions to the MPO.

Brian Smith explained that the MPO was not opposed to adding a representative from the barrier islands; however, discussion of additional members would have opened up a Pandora's Box, with larger cities requesting additional members also.

Councilor Bill Smith, Indian Shores read his statement of support into the record, which statement is hereby attached as Exhibit A, and made part of these minutes.

Motion made and seconded to advise all barrier island communities to expedite passage of the resolutions supporting representation on the Pinellas Metropolitan Planning Organization and thereafter delivery of these resolutions to the MPO. Unanimous approval by acclamation.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6A. HB0435/SB25688, The Coastal Redevelopment Hazard Mitigation Demonstration Act.

Dave Healey, Pinellas Planning Council, described the pending bills as essentially amendments to Growth Management, which would allow groups of communities state-wide to apply to the Department of Community Affairs for amendments to their Comprehensive Plans. Increases in density had been perceived negatively in the past; however, more flexibility was needed, particularly on the barrier islands, which could involve selective increases in density. Allowances would be made in the Coastal High Hazard Areas if a case is made.

Mayor Beyrouti stated the Big-C should support the bill and assured members this bill would not force municipalities to participate or to be anything other than what they wanted to be, but shifted the authority to local entities for deciding the best plan for their own residents.

Motion made and seconded that the Big-C will support any one of the ten communities which may choose to apply as a demonstration project as part of the Coastal Redevelopment Hazard Mitigation Demonstration Act. Voting in favor - 2; Voting in opposition - 8. Motion failed.

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Additional discussion ensued and further explanations and clarifications were presented relative to the above matter and another vote was taken.

Motion made and seconded to recommend the Big-C support HB0435/SB25688, The Coastal Redevelopment Hazard Mitigation Demonstration Act and that such supporting documentation be sent to the Legislative Delegation. Voting in favor - 9; Voting in opposition - 1. Motion passed.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Beyrouti asked members to consider a proposal to include a Clearwater Beach representative as a member of the BIG-C.

Nick Fritsch, Chair of Beach Renourishment Committee, reported Mayor Beyrouti had appeared before the Pinellas Delegation to speak on behalf of the barrier island communities in support of using funds from document stamp tax revenues to fund beach management.

Mayor Beyouti reported that the Delegation supports us and therefore, we will support their actions in Tallahassee whenever needed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Mayor J.J. Beyrouti, Town of Redington Shores

Prepared by: Elaine Jackson, Deputy Town Clerk, Town of Indian Shores