

BIG – C

Barrier Islands Governmental Council

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



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

OFFICERS

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Meeting Minutes **July 25, 2012**

Present: Belleair Beach
Belleair Shore
Clearwater
Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Shores
Madeira Beach
North Redington Beach
Redington Beach
Redington Shores
St. Pete Beach
Treasure Island

Mayor Kathy Mortensen
Mayor John Robertson
Mayor George N. Cretekos
Vice Mayor Terry Hamilton Wollin
Councilor Bill Smith
Mayor Travis Palladeno
Mayor Bill Queen
Mayor Nick Simons
Mayor Bert Adams
Commissioner Jim Parent
Mayor Robert Minning

Guest Speakers:
Pinellas County Administrator
Pinellas County Planning/MPO

Bob LaSala
Sandra Knoebel

Guests Present:
Clearwater Gas
Clearwater
City of Belleair Beach
City of Belleair Beach
City of Belleair Beach
City of Belleair Beach
Town of Belleair Shore
City of Indian Rocks Beach
City of Indian Rocks Beach
Indian Rocks Beach
Town of Indian Shores
Town of Indian Shores
Pinellas County
Pinellas Planning Council

Kristi Cheatham
Kim Campbell
Councilmember Leslie Notaro
Councilmember Wanda Schwerer
Patti Gentry
Nancy G. Gonzalez
Bonnie Dhonau
Mayor R.B. Johnson
Commissioner Cookie Kennedy
Jose L. Coppen
Vice Mayor Joan Herndon
Councilor Carole Ireland
Andy Squires
Linda Fisher

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Progress Energy	Melissa Saixas
Town of Redington Beach	Vice Mayor Fred Steiermann
Town of Redington Shores	Vice Mayor John Branch
Sand Key Civic Association	Doug Chandler
Southwest Florida Water Management District	Cara Martin
Tampa Bay Newspapers	Bob McClure
City of Treasure Island	Commissioner Carol Coward
Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater	Rhonda Sanborn
City of Clearwater Board Reporter	Patricia O. Sullivan

BIG-C President George Cretokos called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Belleair Beach Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcoming comments by host, Belleair Shore Mayor John Robertson

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

3 - Approval of Agenda

Mayor Robertson moved to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

4 - Approval of Minutes – May 30, 2012 meeting.

Mayor Robertson moved to approve the minutes of the regular BIG-C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) meeting of May 30, 2012, as submitted in written summation to each member. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5 - Approval of Treasurer's Reports for May and June 2012.

BIG-C Secretary/Treasurer Hamilton Wollin reviewed the Treasurer's Reports: 1) May 2012 balance was \$2,063.39 and 2) June 2012 balance was \$1,887.65. She reported moving the BIG-C account from Wells Fargo to Home Bank.

Mayor Robertson moved to accept the May and June 2012 Treasurer's Reports. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

6 - Correspondence: None.

7 - New Business:

a) Bob LaSala – Pinellas County Administrator

Pinellas County Administrator Bob LaSala thanked cities for their due diligence for the beach renourishment partnership, which is important to the BIG-C and County. He thanked Town of Indian Shores Mayor Jim Lawrence for his stewardship of the local program. He said providing beach access and parking for the public is essential to avoid a \$200,000 penalty and future difficulty in obtaining funds in a highly competitive market. He said the State will not accept inconsistencies to beach nourishment obligations; Belleair Beach

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needs to provide parking. He expressed deep concerns regarding risks the County will face if the parking obligation is not met as beach maintenance is important to the vitality of Pinellas County.

Mr. LaSala said BIG-C is responsible for uniting around this issue and seeking compliance and participation from all project members or Pinellas County's beach renourishment program will be jeopardized. He said Belleair Beach needs to budget funds to pay for necessary parking to meet beach access requirements and parking created on Gulf Boulevard within the target zone would meet State requirements. He said if the County is disqualified from obtaining future beach renourishment funding, it will be difficult to qualify again for that money. He encouraged BIG-C members to attend the City of Belleair Beach workshop on July 30, 2012, and encourage support of meeting beach renourishment requirements. In response to a question, Mr. LaSala said the source of the County's portion of beach renourishment funds is from the TDC (Tourist Development Council).

Belleair Beach Mayor Mortensen said Belleair Beach is residential and does not have a commercial area to locate parking and the City Council will not approve parking on the ends of residential streets as parked vehicles there would impede fire truck access to neighborhoods. She suggested the project could skip Belleair Beach or charge an assessment. She said Pinellas County had assisted other beach municipalities to obtain parking. She said a solution is a long way off.

Mr. LaSala said action needs to be taken quickly or \$200,000 will be put at risk. He said the County no longer has discretionary funds and County cannot share these costs due to other budget priorities.

Mr. LaSala distributed a draft interlocal agreement for maintenance of beach nourishment eligibility and requested that BIG-C member municipalities review and adopt it as soon as possible, noting the document does not include a mediation procedure as requirements do not reflect Pinellas County rules. He requested feedback and said Councils for all BIG-C municipalities need to approve the agreement by around November 2012, before Pinellas County submits its application for additional beach renourishment funds.

Andy Squires, of Pinellas County, reviewed the draft Interlocal Agreement, which reflects Florida Statute. He offered to hold workshops with municipalities. He said the agreement will need to be updated when related Florida Statutes change. Concern was expressed that future State rules should recognize the availability of public transportation to Pinellas County beaches.

Mr. LaSala reported on his recommendation that the County adopt a millage increase of 0.2 mils to cover the County's larger share of Florida Medicare costs and 0.2 mils to cover increases to EMS (Emergency Medical Services) costs.

b) Sandra Knoebel – Pinellas County Planning

Sandra Knoebel, of Pinellas County Planning, said award certificates from the State of Florida and Florida TaxWatch, distributed to BIG-C members, recognized the Gulf Boulevard Pedestrian Flag Team. She said the pedestrian flag program is being phased out and will be replaced with RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon) systems for midblock crossings. Due to concerns expressed regarding maintenance issues, it was recommended the issue be included in a future BIG-C agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Knoebel requested that the BIG-C schedule a date and venue in September for a safety workshop.

Ms. Knoebel said the County had awarded funds to the Gulf Boulevard Beautification Program beginning October 1. She will send future correspondence directly to BIG-C members, in addition to staff.

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c) Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board Appointments

Rod Fischer, Executive Director of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board, reported every two years the BIG-C recommends appointment of a beach community building official to serve on the 21-member board. The term for Steve Andrews of Redington Shores expires on September 30, 2012.

Commissioner Parent moved to recommend a conditional appointment of Bruce Cooper of St. Pete Beach to represent the BIG-C on the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Parent said he will contact the Chair if there is a problem with this appointment.

d) August 29, 2012 Meeting

It was recommended that the August date for the next BIG-C meeting be changed as local beaches will be crowded with delegates from the Republican National Convention.

Consensus was to reschedule the next BIG-C meeting for August 22, 2012, at the St. Pete Beach Community Center. Commissioner Parent will verify that space is available.

8 - Old Business: None.

9 - Miscellaneous:

a) Beach Update

Mr. Squires reviewed the current beach renourishment project, which started on Sand Key. The County will hear this week if the Army Corps of Engineers will receive Federal emergency funds.

b) Legislative Update: None.

c) Penny for Pinellas Update

Redington Beach Mayor Simons said the subcommittee had approved Clearwater's formal request for reimbursement. He requested all BIG-C members to submit their applications to the subcommittee for review. He will keep the BIG-C apprised of the process.

10 - Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

August 22, 2012 BIG-C meeting scheduled at City of St. Pete Beach.

President, Barrier Islands
Governmental Council
Mayor – City of Clearwater

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