

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston
June 2, 2004, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Greg Ketchen, Chair, welcomed all. There was not a quorum present (see attached attendance sheet). Greg announced that Peter Lewenberg was leaving his position at the state and that Tom Powers will be the new Island Alliance President.

Youth Programs

Frank Middleton, NPS, gave an update on the Boston Environmental Ambassadors to the National Park Service (BEAN) internship program. The Island Alliance was successful in raising money to expand the summer youth work programs into a year round opportunity. The Island Alliance and the National Park Service run this after-school internship program for Boston youth which includes office internships, career exploration, leadership workshops, environmental education, community outreach, stewardship projects, public service, and college counseling. Partnership and Advisory Council agencies are a great resource to provide office internships. The goal is to sustain and expand both the summer and after-school programs as basic offerings of the Boston Harbor Islands.

They are now gearing up for the summer NPS funded Public Land Corps youth program, which will include many youth groups doing work projects on the islands. The youth will contribute directly to the stewardship of park resources and also devote time to learning about cultural and natural resources, park management and explore career opportunities.

Spectacle Island

George Price, NPS, stated that though we hope that Spectacle Island will open on the target date of June 26, there are still several construction issues to be sorted out before the transfer of ownership from the Central Artery to the city and state can occur. The city and state, though anxious to take ownership, do not feel that they can move forward with the transfer with the island in its current state.

The legislation that would allow Island Alliance to manage the island is still stuck in the legislature and has not yet passed. Planning efforts continue. Interpretive staff have been hired for the island from both the DCR and NPS. They are working on creating a self-guided tour, gathering interpretive material and planning for the preliminary exhibits. Staff from University of Massachusetts have been maintaining the marina. The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands have had a frustrating time planning a spring tour of the island, but have finally received permission to hold it.

The Advisory Council is working on ways to support programming for Spectacle on the opening day and for the other Family Fun days. Pat Morss and Greg Ketchen are working on a photography contest and creating an exhibit for the visitor center.

Park Pavilion

George Price gave an update on the park pavilion project on Parcel 14 of the Rose Kennedy Greenway. He presented an overview of the current plans for the station.

Park Updates

George Price gave an update on the water transportation. Harbor Express won the 5-year contract and has started servicing the islands. Banners, directional signs and a ticket booth are in place on Long Wharf. He said that the boats this year are smaller (approximately 150 passengers) than the Boston Harbor Cruises boats were (300-500 passengers), but they are faster. Harbor Express is committed to covering the peak times with additional vessels. If boats are full, another boat should arrive shortly after. George stated that he will be the contact for any boat issues and concerns. He requested that people report to him immediately any safety related issues so that they can be resolved effectively. He invited people to also contact him about any serious problems as they occur.

George announced that there is a dock project underway. The NPS received funding for \$413k to repair failing docks. Another \$2.25M is expected from a transportation bill for permanent ADA accessible docks.

Holly Richardson, DCR, reported that with assistance from Harbor Express, the ramp on Georges has been repaired. She said that a replica of a Rodman Cannon was made for Georges Island and will be delivered to the island this season. They have volunteers working on clearing trails and readying the campsites. Holly said that the clivas units on Georges, Lovells and Peddocks have all been cleaned out for the season.

Holly reported that the water line to Georges is not operational. She also stated that there was release of fuel oil at Georges. Most of it was contained and much of the oil was recovered. Engineers from DCR worked with Department of Environmental Protection and Safe Harbors on the clean-up and are acting proactively to prevent another occurrence.

Seth Kaplan said that the Advisory Council should be re-evaluating its role, with all these operational issues at hand they need to figure out how the Council can improve conditions at the park.

Captain Lou stated what an important group that private boaters are to the park and that it is important to do more for them.

George Price said he continues to work on various Native American issues. Plans are in place to begin a curriculum project. Gil Solomon asked about having a Native American exhibit on Spectacle Island.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
6/2/2004 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Kurt Bornheim	
2. Stephen Comer	X
3. Theresa Czerepica	
4. John Dinga	X
5. Bernie Dreiblatt	
6. Marianne Farrington Heather Deschenes	X
7. Joe Ferrino	
8. L. Fraiser	
9. Bill Hale	X
10. Carl Johnson	
11. Seth Kaplan	X
12. Greg Ketchen, Chair	X
13. Paul King	X
14. John Lewis	
15. Vivien Li	
16. Krysten Lynch	
17. Ed McCabe	
18. Keith McClearn	
19. Pat Morss, Vice Chair	X
20. Linda Poolaw	
21. Kristin Priscella	
22. Bill Reardon	
23. Peter Rosen	
24. Ellen Silverman	
25. Linda Smith Mooney	X
26. Ben Walker	
27. Bettina Washington	X
28. Vacant Seat	

^Leave of absence

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (Education)

Russ Bowles	X
Mary Corcoran	
Dotty Merrill	
David Weinstein	
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Community)

Claudia Smith Reid	X
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Ex officio (Business and Commercial)

Peter Davidoff	
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Ex officio (Advocacy)

Suzanne Gall Marsh ^{^LOA}	
Karen O'Donnell	

Ex officio (Environmental)

Bill Geizentanner	
Lauri Webster	X

Ex officio (Municipalities)

Jim Gordon Congressman Stephen Lynch	
Daniel Ryan Congressman Michael Capuano	
Corrine Young Congressman William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Hiawatha Brown	
Mildred McCowan	
Chris Montgomery	X
Sam Sapiel	
Gil Solomon	X

OTHERS

Bruce Jacobson	
Kelly Fellner	
Steve Marcus	
Tom Powers	
George Price	
Mary Raczko	
Chuck Smythe	
Doug Welch	