

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA
Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair, welcomed all and members were introduced. She explained the purpose of the Council is to advise the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership on management issues and on-going operations.

The minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting were approved with one change. The funding priorities ad-hoc meeting was held in January, not June.

Citizen Science

Marc Albert, NPS Stewardship Program Manager, gave an overview of citizen science programs happening in the park. His presentation is attached. Council members asked how volunteers are recruited; he explained that it really varies on project, but is still mostly opportunistic at this time. He said the park's Island Ambassadors will ramp up their involvement this year and will contribute a steady source of data.

Heather Deschanes, New England Aquarium, gave an overview of a regional citizen science effort the Aquarium is involved in. They are working with many youth groups to monitor rocky intertidal areas along the east coast. One of their study sites will be Boston Harbor. They are working with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and Harbor Discoveries Camp on Long Island to collect the data in the park.

Council Business

Pat Morss said that he, Elizabeth Solomon and Suzanne Gall Marsh served on a Nominating Committee and were charged to recommend nominees for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Partnership members that will represent the Council for the text term. He said the Nominating Committee recommends Maureen Cavanaugh and Jennifer Ferre to remain in their positions as Chair and Vice-Chair, Greg Ketchen and Maureen Cavanaugh as Voting Partners, and Charlie Norris and Chris Montgomery as Alternate Partners. He opened the floor for recommendations. There were none given. There was a motion made to accept the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mary Raczko, NPS Partnership Liaison, gave an update on member status. Out of the 28 members, 12 members' terms are expiring, 6 seats are pending (awaiting appointment for the Director of the NPS), and there are 8 vacancies. Mary reminded all that members serve until replaced, but those with expiring terms should submit a resume or biography showing a relationship with the organization they are representing along with a new requirement to include home address, home phone number and date of birth. Mary also suggested nominees also submit a support letter from their organization addressed to Bruce Jacobson. Maureen Cavanaugh suggested a small group have a conference call to discuss how to fill the vacancies.

Ask the Superintendent

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, responded to several questions. A summary of answers are below:

- ✧ Bruce said there is nothing new to report on the messaging project. The next step is for designated pilot groups to meet with him and discuss specifics. He has not been available to initiate meetings.
- ✧ Bruce announced NPS will hold the lease on land designated for the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion located on Parcel 14 of the Rose Kennedy Greenway between Quincy Market and Marriott Long Wharf. Congress designated \$5M to build the pavilion, but construction cannot begin until the Federal Highway Administration approves the lease and the plans. It is hoped that construction can begin in spring. He announced a ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for May 3. Bruce mentioned that once the construction fencing goes up, interpretive materials will be posted and rangers will be present near the site at times of peak visitation.
- ✧ The new park website was launched on March 2. Members were invited to go to bostonharborislands.org and comment.
- ✧ Bruce responded to a question about Squantum Point becoming a gateway for the Harbor Islands. He said Adams NPP is involved in a local effort to increase visitation to Quincy and a study was funded that includes looking at how the space in Squantum (700 car parking lot and pier) could be utilized. One thought is it could be used to connect Adams NHP, Boston Harbor Islands NRA Kennedy Presidential Library, downtown Boston, and the "Cultural Coast, though that would require major funding for pier improvements and water transportation services.
- ✧ Bruce announced that ferry service is scheduled to start on May 8. Park managers are still looking for funds to support the interisland ferry; last year DCR contributed \$175k and NPS contributed \$20k. This coming year's financial contributions are in question from both agencies, due to budget constraints. Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA) has applied for a partnership grant from DCR and is hopeful funds can be identified.
- ✧ Bruce gave a brief update on Peddocks Island Improvements. He said several buildings were identified for restoration, stabilization, and demolition. BHIA does have funds identified to begin work, but the process is stalled. It is likely Peddocks will be closed to the public this year. Joel Reck, BHIA Board Chair, attributed the delay to the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and expressed his frustration with the process and the many safety concerns of current conditions.
- ✧ Bruce reminded members the Council participated in a public scoping session for Georges Island pier improvements. He said the draft plans were available for all to

read and comment. Plans will become final after the public comment period which will close April 2.

New Business

Members requested a field trip to the islands be scheduled for Partnership and Advisory Council members. Mary Raczko, NPS, said that when these types of trips are offered, not many members take advantage of them. She suggested the park could instead subsidize trips for members on trips that are already planned.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh announced a new program offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of Massachusetts–Boston, *Exploring the Boston Harbor Islands—On Land, Sea and the Islands*. She said she is teaching the class with a former Advisory Council Chair, Jack Wiggin. It involves 4 classroom sessions and 2 field trips and was becoming very popular.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
3-3-10 Meeting Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT (X)

1. John Anderson*	X
2. Jennifer Bender	X
3. Victor Brogna	X
4. Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair	X
5. Theresa Czerepica	X
6. Maria Freddura*	
7. Sean Glennon	X
8. Bill Hale	
9. Mel Harris*	X
10. Mary Anne Hendricks*	
11. Rick Kasseli*	
12. Greg Ketchen	
13. Steve Kirk	
14. Phil Lemnios	
15. Dale Linder*	X
16. Rob Moir*	
17. Chris Montgomery	X
18. Pat Morss	X
19. Charlie Norris	
20. Karen O'Donnell*	
21. Bill Reardon	X
22. Peter Rosen	X
23. Claudia Smith-Reid	
24. Elizabeth Solomon*	
25. Lauri Webster	
26. Matt Wolfe	
27. Vacant Seat	
28. Vacant Seat	

*pending member

OTHERS PRESENT

Marc Albert, NPS	X
Richard Armenia, NPS	X
Kelly Fellner, NPS	
Diane Haynes, BHIA	
Bruce Jacobson, NPS	X
Carl Johnson	X
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	X
Suzanne Gall Marsh, FBHI	X
Jim Peters, MCIA	
Tom Powers, BHIA	
Joel Reck, BHIA	X
Mary Raczko, NPS	
Chuck Smythe, NPS	
Dawn Tesorero, NPS	
Tara Weaver, NPS	
David Weinstein, TIOBEC	

BHIA – Boston Harbor Island Alliance
 DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation
 FBHI – Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands
 MCIA – MA Commission on Indian Affairs
 NPS – National Park Service
 TBHA – The Boston Harbor Association
 TIOBEC-Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center