

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, MA
June 1, 2005, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Pat Morss, Chair, welcomed all. He announced that the ferry passes for Advisory Council members are available. He said that the Advisory Council purchased a PowerPoint projector for the park and that it is available for members to do public presentations.

Pat said that the coming year will have many opportunities for members to become more involved in the park. The council is looking for members to increase interest from diverse groups and promote participation in the park. There are several civic engagement trips scheduled and park ambassadors are needed. There are opportunities to become involved with the “family fun days” events on Georges Island this summer. Pat encouraged members to become active with Partnership committees.

The coming year the council will also give input on how the Native American interest group fits in with the Native American consultation plan for the park.

Park Updates

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, said that the interviews are underway for the superintendent position.

Bruce announced that Island Alliance held a design competition for the harbor park pavilion and has selected a designer. Design and construction of the facility will cost \$4M.

The park is open and the summer season kick-off will be June 25. The City of Boston, DCR, and the Turnpike Authority are working on a formal agreement to allow Spectacle Island to open to the public at that time.

Bruce said that the Northeast Naturalist should be available soon. The special edition will feature the research studies highlighted at the October 2003 Boston Harbor Islands Science Symposium.

Bruce reported that Dr. Julia Rykken will fill a new Boston Harbor Islands Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Harvard Museum's Department of Entomology with responsibilities to plan and carryout the day-to-day activities of the invertebrate inventory. She will start in mid-July. The park will hold the kick-off for this project on June 6. He invited all to attend. Mary Raczko, NPS, announced three upcoming biodiversity events: a bird walk; a nature walk; and a sailing trip with scientists from Mass Marine Fisheries who are conducting an eel grass restoration program in Boston Harbor.

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, asked about the status of the islands. Bruce said that the ferry boats are currently running to Georges Island, and that the water shuttle will begin service to Lovells, Grape, Bumpkin and hopefully Peddocks on June 25. Peddocks Island is undergoing environmental testing, the results should be known soon. We also expect that some of the areas of Fort Andrews will be fenced off for safety reasons. Great Brewster will not have water shuttle service; the float is being used at Georges Island.

Tom Powers, Island Alliance, said that the utility feasibility study for Peddocks Island is complete, and that they plan to keep the Advisory Council updated as the process continues.

BEAN Program

Students from the B.E.A.N. Program (Boston Environmental Ambassadors to National Parks) were present. The students reported on their activities which raise awareness of the park, and offered ideas that could raise visitation to the park by their peer group.

The students described different games that they developed and have used at different after school programs which teach the history of the islands. They also are in charge of a grant program; B.E.A.N participants review proposals from other youth groups and issue mini-grants that fund the costs of getting to the islands. The B.E.A.N. students were present at Earthfest representing the islands in April. One of their ideas for increasing visitation was to set up a tent and information station at grocery stores, book stores and music stores to get the word out about visiting the islands. Other ideas included getting the World Series and Super bowl trophies out to Georges Island, hosting laser tag events, fishing trips, scavenger hunts or tours, and offering guided or self-guided tours. They said that they hoped the family activities would help parents spend more time with their kids and help families grow closer together. They thought the best way to attract their peers to the islands was by hosting a dance cruise in the evening, and were able to schedule one this year, later this month.

New Business

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, urged the Advisory Council to action. He said the park is losing islands and services. He described many of the problems of the park. The council discussed. They agreed that they should be a voice to the Partnership on these issues, discussed reviving the "park report card", and also encouraged members to work closely with park managers in park committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
6/1/05 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Kurt Bornheim	
2. Mary Corcoran	X
3. Theresa Czerepica	
4. John Dinga	X
5. Bernie Dreiblatt	
6. Marianne Farrington	X
7. Joe Ferrino	X
8. L'Merchie Fraiser	
9. Bill Hale	
10. Seth Kaplan	
11. Paul King	
12. Vivien Li	
13. Ed McCabe	
14. Keith McClearn	
15. Pat Morss, Chair	X
16. Linda Poolaw	
17. Bill Reardon	X
18. Chris Reilly	
19. Peter Rosen	
20. John Sam Sapiel	
21. Ellen Silverman	
22. Linda Smith-Mooney	
23. Claudia Smith-Reid, Vice Chair	
24. Bettina Washington	
25. Matt Wolfe	
26. Vacent Seat	
27. Vacent Seat	
28. Vacent Seat	

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (Education)

Russ Bowles	X
Carl Johnson	
Dottie Merrill	
David Weinstein	
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Community)

Ed Norton	
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Ex officio (Business and Commercial)

Peter Davidoff	
Greg Ketchen	X

Ex officio (Advocacy)

Suzanne Gall Marsh	
Karen O'Donnell	X

Ex officio (Environmental)

Bill Geizentanner	
John Lewis	
Lauri Webster	

Ex officio (Municipalities)

Daniel Ryan Congressman Michael Capuano	
Corrine Young Congressman William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Hiawatha Brown	
Steve Comer	
Mary Anne Hendricks	
Chris Montgomery	X
Gil Solomon	

OTHERS

Bruce Jacobson	X
Larissa Fawkner	X
Kelly Fellner	
Diane Haynes	
Steve Marcus	X
Allan Morris	
Karl Pastore	
Jim Peters	X
Tom Powers	X
Mary Raczko	
Steve Schaeffer	X
Chuck Smythe	
Doug Welch	