

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium
University of Massachusetts-Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard,
Healey Library, 11th Floor, University Club
March 5, 2003, 6:00 PM – 8:07 PM

Greg Ketchen, Chair, welcomed all. There was a quorum present.

Island Images

Bob Michelson presented a slide show of his underwater images of life in Boston Harbor. He was a diver for many years and gave visual perspective to the dramatic positive changes in the health of the harbor over the last 15 years.

Nominations

The nominations for the vacant seats and the changes to ex-officio members on the council were announced as follows:

Advocacy – Vivien Li as voting member; Karen O'Donnell, as ex-officio

Business and Commercial – Bernie Dreiblatt, as voting member

Community Groups – Ed McCabe, Ben Walker, Theresa Czerepica, as voting members

Education and Cultural – Sherman Morss, Jr as voting member; Johanna Mendillo and Linda Smith-Mooney as ex-officio members (remove Nick Haddad and Sukey Padawer as ex-officios)

Environmental – nomination not given from the group

Municipalities – Joe Ferrino, Kristin Pricella and Chris McCabe as voting members

Native American – Linda Poolaw as voting member

Community Outreach Program

Paul Botticello, Interaction Institute for Social Change, gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the process of the community outreach program as well as the connections with the park's strategic goals. At previous council meetings, obstacles to participation were defined and many ideas were listed to increase participation. Four main strategies were defined. These were to: develop, conduct and promote new programs to attract new visitors; engage policy makers/key decision and legislators; improve information about access and improve access to the islands; Reach out to and involve communities.

The next steps in the process are to: incorporate these ideas into a 3-yr marketing plan; identify individual actions and projects the Advisory Council can implement and/or support; and identify ideas requiring grant funding and develop proposals for their implementation. The council discussed.

Park Update

George Price, National Park Service, thanked the council for their continuing efforts and their extraordinary time commitment to the park. He said that he looks forward to working with the council as the park moves from the planning phase into the implementation phase.

George was asked about the status of the reorganization. George said that the state was looking at a process to reorganize its agencies in order to save money and possibly improve efficiency. Unfortunately, downsizing or restructuring is very hard on staff that has worked in these organizations for many years. George recognized that many of our associates and friends are under a great deal of stress at this time. He also said that at a recent press conference he attended, Governor Romney and Secretary Herzfelder expressed support for parks and the long term protection of cultural and natural resources and keeping them open to the public.

George reported that the Partnership has developed a visitor counting system for the park which is ready for implementation this year. Developing a comprehensive visitor statistics collection program was a priority since the establishment of the national park area. Last season, Island Alliance was able to secure the talents of Ricardo Monteiro, an intern with the Environmental Careers Organization, who built upon work done by agency staff members and research from other national parks that have similar island resources to launch this major effort.

George said that Island Alliance received \$5.3M from a portion of the harbor gas pipeline project mitigation settlement, which will be dedicated to improvements on Peddocks Island. The funds will be used to support the infrastructure needed for the eco-family camp project. Work on the guardhouse is also underway.

Also underway is a safety walkway and railings project on Georges, as well as many continuing research projects. A science symposium and education conference is planned for October. Two more 41' vessels have been passed through NPS to the harbor law enforcement agencies to assist with their responsibilities to the park.

Public Comment

Ed McCabe, Hull Lifesaving Museum, announced an annual rowing race this weekend.

Karen O'Donnell, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the cruises the friends offer.

A request was made for the Partnership to offer another island orientation tour.

The meeting was adjourned.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

March 5, 2002
Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Edith Andrews	X
2. Regina Burke	X
3. Stephen Comer	X
4. Mary Corcoran, Vice Chair	
5. Peter Davidoff	X
6. John Dinga	X
7. Bernie Dreiblatt	X
8. Joe Ferrino	X
9. Patricia Foley* (Ben Kelly)	
10. William Giezentanner	
11. Bill Hale*	X
12. Carl Johnson	X
13. Seth Kaplan	X
14. Greg Ketchen, Chair	X
15. Phil Lemnios	
16. John Lewis	
17. Vivien Li	
18. Vacent Seat, Community	
19. Vacent Seat, Municipalities	
20. Suzanne Gall Marsh	
21. Ellen McBride*	
22. Ed McCabe	X
23. Sherman Morss	X
24. Linda Poolaw*	X
25. Bill Reardon*	X
26. John Sam Sapiel	
27. Claudia Smith-Reid	X
28. Jack Wiggin	X

^Leave of absence

* Does not have voting status yet

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (Education)

Russ Bowles	
Dotty Merrill	
Rob Moir	
Sukey Padawar	
Peter Rosen	
David Weinstein	X

Ex officio (Community)

Sha-King Alston	
Lorraine Downey	

Ex officio (Environmental)

Marci Tyre	
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Ex officio (Municipalities)

Dan Condon Congressman William Delahunt	
Jim Gordon Congressman Stephen Lynch	
Gregg Nolan Congressman Michael Capuano	
Mark Racicot Metropolitan Area Planning Council	

Ex officio (Native American)

Hiawatha Brown	
Mildred McCowan	
Chris Montgomery	X

OTHERS

Kathy Abbott	X
Sam Overton Bussell	
Bob Durand	
Bruce Jacobson	
Peter Lewenberg	X
George Price	X
Mary Raczko	X
Chuck Smythe	X
Doug Welch	