

Boston Harbor Island Partnership
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Meeting June 26, Boston Fish Pier - Exchange Conference Center
212 Northern Avenue, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Reception 4:00 pm. to 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Linda Haar, BRA; Lorraine Downey, City of Boston; Peter Webber, DEM; Gerry Millet, Island Alliance; Lou Cabral, Massport, Trudy Cox, MWRA; Samantha Overton, (non-voting member) MDC; Terry Savage, NPS; Peter Willauer, Thompson Island; Lisa Vernegaard, TTOR; Cmdr. Dan May, USCG.

Introductions:

Robert McIntosh, Associate Regional Director, Northeast Region, NPS representing Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, and NPS Regional Director Marie Rust, started the meeting by welcoming the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area into the National Park System of 375 parks. It joins 85 parks in the 13 State Northeast Region. He discussed the letters of appointment and the Charter each member received, which made this the first official meeting of the Partnership.

McIntosh discussed the grass roots nature of the support for the Boston Harbor Islands. He also discussed this area as a new model for the National Park System, such as Lowell National Historical Park and Gateway National Recreation Area in New York, New Jersey, were when they were established. This park is a new model, which will take extensive advantage of cooperative agreements and will share stewardship of the important cultural and natural resources among the Partners, the Advisory Council, public and private sectors, and involved citizens.

McIntosh referred to the Implementation Team from the NPS and discussed their experience and dedication to the process. He then introduced Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco.

O'Neill gave a thoughtful, invigorating presentation and expressed his appreciation for continuing to be part of this evolving park and he encouraged its success. He spoke of the "Power of Partnerships" and felt that we had the opportunity to demonstrate a new model for the future and that the partnership arrangement developed by the Boston Harbor Islands would reinforce the National Park System as a whole. He compared this relationship to working on the Presidio Trust in San Francisco.

He observed that many people wondered if the legislation for the Harbor Islands would actually ever pass the Congress, and there are many managers in all of our agencies who are still skeptical about the Partnership. His challenge was to

make it happen, put aside organizational differences and "turf issues," to trust each other, and to put the Boston Harbor Islands resources first.

Meeting:

Next, McIntosh asked Terry Savage, voting member, NPS, to act as Interim Chair for the meeting.

Savage called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone including members of the audience. He acknowledged the assistance of Senator Kennedy's Office in assuring the timely arrival of the appointment letters. He then thanked Massport for hosting the meeting and the reception to follow.

Partnership members introduced themselves and then introduced additional representatives of their organizations which were in the audience or identified key people who were absent.

George Price, Project Manager, NPS, outlined the meeting process and described the materials presented to each agency. Three copies of a loose-leaf orientation book had been prepared for each Partner Agency which included: copies of the Law; the Charter from the Secretary of the Interior; list of partners and alternates; maps; sample by-laws; samples of NPS management polices; and a Report from the National Park Service. Partnership members were encouraged to submit written reports to the Partnership on Harbor Island related activities as a means of communication, which could be included in this notebook as a method of record keeping. Price pointed out that he had worked with staff representatives from each Partner agency to develop the agenda for this meeting.

Each agency was then asked to introduce themselves and give a short report about their currant activities on behalf o the islands and Partnership.

Funding status of the Park effort from the NPS was outlined including initial status as an "unfounded mandate," and additional efforts to bring in operation and planning dollars.

Sarah Peskin, NPS Manager of the Planning Group, Boston Support Office, then discussed planning responsibilities for the NPS. She gave a short slide presentation which outlined the elements of the Integrated Management Plan required by the Law, to be produced within three years.

The existence of the previous Ad-hoc Committees was discussed and at the recommendation of the staff planning committee, the following six standing committees needed to be established:

1. Nominating and By-laws

2. Advisory Council
3. Planning
4. Finance
5. Marketing and Public Relations
6. Education, Program and Park Operations

Price pointed out the need to pay particular attention to formation of the Advisory Council and to outline the needs of the finance Committee. The latter will be critical in helping identify the three-to-one funding match required in the legislation.

Partner member signed up for committees and listed additional staff members who would also be active participants on Committee assignments.

Gerry Millet, President, Island Alliance, presented and discussed the logo and the name, "Boston Harbor Islands--A National Park Partnership" which were developed by the Island Alliance, along with the NPS, in anticipation of the formation of the Partnership. He sought a name that had to be more widely recognized rather than "recreation area." (The park's official name was given by Congress and would have to be changed by Congress. Simply National Park is not acceptable.)

Peter Webber, Commissioner, DEM, questioned whether BHI National Park Partnership was appropriate for a place as well as a managing entity. Several other members and staff discussed other ideas and issues related to official names vs. marketing titles.

The issue of the name and logo was referred by vote to the Marketing and Public Relations Committee when it is formed for study and recommendation. 1.1 (We will institute a numbering system to track motions and votes for record keeping purposes.)

Members of the public then make the following comments:

Several expressions of support and congratulations on the start of the Partnership

Request that meeting handouts be available for all meeting attendees

Several members requested a speedy and inclusive schedule for the Advisory Council and that no substantial decisions be made by the Partnership until the additional two Advisory Council seats are filled.

A request was made to include a plan for general harbor access by private boaters. Currently there is limited boat ramp access.

A number of issues were raised on behalf of Native American participation in the process, including communication issues, requests for name changes, and specific representation.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the June 29 Kickoff Event planned for Long Wharf and the music concert on George's Island sponsored by BankBoston, as well as activities planned on other Islands. This event was planned by a multi-agency Events Committee.

Next two meeting dates for the Partnership were set for July 30 and September 11, 1997.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. for the start of the reception.

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