

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Meeting #2, July 30, 1997, World Trade Center, Northern Avenue
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission; Trudy Coxe, Mass. Water Resources Authority; Lorraine Downey, Boston Environmental Services; Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Richard Howe, Trustees of Reservations; Captain Kent Kirpatrick, U.S. Coast Guard; Terry Savage, National Park Service; Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management; Gerry Millet, Island Alliance.

Terry Savage, Interim Chair, started the meeting with introductions and requested approval of the minutes from the June 26th meeting. Peter Webber pointed out a typo on page two and would like the word unfounded to be changed to unfunded. Lorraine Downey motioned for them to be approved as amended. Alden Gifford seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed by the Partners.

Savage then asked each member agency to report on activities since the last meeting:

TIOB: Gifford said that everything was going well at Thompson Island Outward Bound and they have continued their educational work.

MDC: Brian Broderick reported that island visitation was heavier than normal this summer at the MDC facilities. They are trying to open Peddock's Island after a recent tug boat accident that destroyed the dock. They are building a new pier that will be handicapped accessible. He also reminded everyone of the Civil War Encampment that will be taking place at Fort Warren on George's Island the weekend of August 16th and 17th. Broderick also mentioned that the MDC now has Ranger Patrol Boats that patrol the islands.

USCG: Captain Kent Kirpatrick reported that Little Brewster is open for visits. There is a small museum and has been visited by several hundred visitors. They also hosted artist/photographer Courtney Thompson who is working on a book called *Lighthouses of Massachusetts*.

NPS: George Price thanked everyone for their support of the kickoff event on June 29th. The FY 98 funding, \$375,000, passed the Conference Committee in the Senate, championed by Senator Kennedy's office. He distributed copies of the U.S. News and World Reports article *Parks in Peril*. Price wanted to assure the partnership that the passage about the Boston Harbor Island National Recreation Area not being wanted by NPS headquarters in Washington, DC, was unfounded and untrue.

DEM: Peter Webber was delighted at the positive media coverage the islands have been getting. There has been a piece on WCVB's *Chronicle*, and on WGBH. Also, a new kiosk is being staffed by DEM staff from Wednesdays to Sundays. The DEM is holding a program on Bumpkin's Island the weekend of August 9th through 10th.

Boston: Lorraine Downey reports that the City of Boston will continue to support their archeology program on Gallop's Island. They hosted Boston's Cablevision on a tour that will be airing soon. They are trying to re-establish fishing permits on Long Island and open that island to limited visitation.

BRA: Linda Haar said that the Boston Harbor Island National Recreation Area had been added to the City's long-term planning effort.

MWRA: Doug MacDonald announced that they had just begun secondary treatment on Deer Island and that the final piece will be in place by 1999. Furthermore, they have scheduled an August 15th event as a precursor to the Civil War encampment. If interested, call 617-241-6057. He also recounted his trip to North Cascades National Park and got some great ideas for park management.

IA: Gerry Millet congratulated everyone on a great kick-off and the good media coverage. He also said IA's new brochure, the "slim jim," is done. Millet also said that the merchandise is selling very well and that most of the proceeds go back to the park. In respect to the U.S. News and World Reports article, he sent a letter to the editor and strongly urged others to do that also. He also alerted everyone to the November 17th fundraiser at the Boston Harbor Hotel; anyone who is interesting in helping, please call either Mary Lou or Kathy at 617-439-0288.

Committee Reports

Price noted that the Advisory Council, Nominating and Bylaws, and Planning committees have met and the Education and Park operations, Finance and Marketing and Public relations will meet prior to the next meeting.

Planning Committee: MacDonald said there was good attendance at the first meeting. He expressed the need for the committee to think about involving the public in the management plan and especially getting young people involved in the planning. If anyone has ideas, please contact Sarah Peskin, NPS, 617-223-5129.

Advisory Council Committee: Price gave a report of the preliminary brainstorming meeting and stressed the importance of the group being inclusive and fair. They discussed legal issues and the Federal Advisory Committee Act guidelines. The committee expects to have the Advisory Council established by January 1998. Webber suggested milestones and target dates. He suggested September 15th for interests to be identified; October 15th for meetings and focus groups; November 15th to identify members, and December 15th to be completed.

Nominating and Bylaws Committee: Savage said the committee was concerned about getting the other two seats on the partnership from the Advisory Council be filled as soon as possible. He thanked Martin Suuberg, DEM, for all his help in coming up with a new set of revised interim bylaws. Price added that they had not settled the governing issues yet. Savage said it was important to note that these were interim bylaws and would change as needs changed. Ms. Coxe moved to approve these interim bylaws. Millet seconded that, and the measure was unanimously passed.

Savage presented the slate of nominees for the election officers: Peter Webber as Chairman, and Cathleen Douglas Stone, Boston Environmental Services, as Vice-Chairwoman. Gifford moved to accept the nominations, and Coxe seconded it. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Webber thanked everyone for their votes (Vice-Chairwoman Stone was not present).

Orientation to the Islands

A Pilot's View:

Mr. Alex Maclean, author of *Looking at the Land*, and *Taking Measure across the American Landscape*, gave a short slide show of his spectacular aerial photography. Following the presentation, Chairman Webber asked Price to try to get the presentation in video form.

Price talked about a need for partnership orientations. The general consensus seemed to be to keep the meeting on land, but have at least two trips out to the islands, and visit some of the less-visited islands. There was also a call for each member partner to give a short presentation at the beginning of each meeting.

New Business

Gifford told us about Thompson Island Outward Bound's relationship with the Trust for Public Land. He introduced Mr. Peter Forbes, who gave a presentation on the process of buying Thompson Island. The cost will be \$5.5 million, and 80% is going to be managed wildlife and 20% is going to be used by Outward Bound for educational purposes only.

Public Comment

Chairman Webber opened the floor to the public.

Ms. Vivien Li, Boston Harbor Island Association, protested the process of electing the Chair and Vice-Chair without the two Advisory Council members. She urged them to consider this vote interim, and to re-examine it in January when the other two seats are filled. Millet acknowledged her concerns, but stressed the need for the board to move forward. Ms. Li ended by saying she would not have agreed to the time line for these seats being filled by January if she knew this vote would take place so soon.

Ms. Jodi Sugerman, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay, reiterated what Ms. Li said.

Ms. Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, also reiterated the same message as Ms. Li and Ms. Sugerman.

Ms. Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, wanted to publicly recognize her volunteers and remind everyone of all the great events happening through them. Ms. Karen O'Donnell, also Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, reminded everyone that there were land accessible islands to be visited also.

Mr. Frank Callahan, President of the Massachusetts Boating and Yacht Club, had suggestions for the orientation trip. He suggested they plan four to five hour trips to do everything that they want, and also pointed out the fact that docks built face Northeast are more apt to be destroyed than others. Coxe pointed out that Burley's Boatyard was now open in Quincy for public access.

Mr. Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, felt the tribal governments were not being fairly treated by the partnership. He pointed out that there are conflicts in existing laws for tribes and the law for the park. Price said that the National Park Service is working on this internally and Chairman Webber agreed that everyone would be included. Mr. Sam Sopiell, also a member of the Intertribal Committee, agreed with Mr. McCann.

Savage reconfirmed that the next meeting will be held Thursday, September 11, 1997, at the Exchange Conference Building, Northern Avenue, from 2pm-4pm. Standing meeting dates were suggested as the second Thursday of each month, from 2pm-4pm, which leaves October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th to round off the year. Some suggestions were made for possibly evening meetings, lunch time meetings, or even a different day. More discussion to follow.

Meeting adjourned.

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