

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**  
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Meeting #3, September 11, 1997, Exchange Conference Building, Northern Avenue

2:00pm – 4:00pm

**ATTENDEES:** Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission; Trudy Coxe, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority; James Doolin, MASSPORT; Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Richard Howe, Trustees of Reservations; Commander Daniel May, United States Coast Guard; Gerry Millet, Island Alliance; Terry Savage, National Park Service; Vice-Chairwoman Cathleen Douglas Stone, Boston Environmental Management; and Chairman Peter Webber, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management.

Mr. Peter Webber, Chair, started the meeting with introductions and a few remarks. He stressed how he was happy with how the formation of the Advisory Council was progressing and reminded everyone of the importance of the Council and all the Committees in the formation of the management plan, which has a deadline of November, 1999. Also, the minutes were approved with no corrections.

Mr. Webber then asked each committee to give its report on activities since the last meeting:

**ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Mr. George Price, NPS, reported. They discussed the reaction to the timeline for completion and the need to expedite this procedure. They agreed to a workshop meeting, which was successful held at the Parker House on September 10, 1997. Two other workshops will follow on October 7, 1997 and October 30, 1997. Also, the issue of timely notification was recognized and discussed. The National Park Service would serve as the agency responsible for mailing meeting notifications and press releases.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Ms. Linda Haar reported. The Committee concluded that for the progress and success of the management plan there needs to be a clearly stated public process and that it is essential to reach out to a wide array of people and groups. They also recognized that a number of “visions”, for the Boston Harbor Islands have been expressed by both the partners and the public, the committee acknowledged the importance of airing all those ideas and beginning to hone them into an overarching statement that would be broadly endorsed. Furthermore, the MWRA has proposed a program that would bring young people into the planning process as fully as could be with the resources and time available. Finally, they expressed the immediate need for data to inform

the management plan and for the long-term interest of the history and operations of the park, a start needs to be made on a catalogue of sources. Anyone having this information is asked to please fill out the survey form as soon as possible. Anyone needing this form can call Barbara Mackey at the NPS at 223-5138.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Sam Overton, MDC, reported. The Committee identified several key issues that need to be addressed They are: the need for the Committee to form a close relationship with the IA Board; the matching requirement of three non-Federal dollars (cash, services, and in-kind) for every Federal dollar; the debate of operating funds vs. federal funds; reconciliation of fiscal issues; how to treat USCG funds dollars; use of accounting firms; and the Committee's relationship to the Partnership in funding strategies. Also, they suggested that maybe a state law needs to be on the books that recognizes the Federal law to help solve state/federal funding differences. They convened by Mr. Luke Thompson, MWRA, and Mr. Price agreeing to work on the funding template.

**MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Mr. Gerry Millet, Chair, reported. Several goals/strategies/actions were identified for this Committee. They include: providing a single resource for information; do more to raise the awareness that the Islands are a NRA; Aim to satisfy 98% of phone inquiries; set up a capable phone referral system for very specific interests; increase visitation, although they did not identify it as an immediate concern; provide a positive climate for fund raising; develop a better brochure system; develop an in-depth youth education program; and develop a tourism strategy. They also spent some time trying to identify who their audience was. Finally, the importance of websites was mentioned. A list of all known websites is available from Nancy Woods at the NPS at 223-5166.

Mr. Savage asked if the NRA could get recognition from airplane pilots when flying over them, like other National Parks (i.e. – the Grand Canyon and Yosemite). Mr. Doolin agreed to look into it, and report back at the next Partnership meeting. Also, Mr. Gifford and Mr. Price made it clear that this Committee would start to tackle the issues of the logo and the name and report back with formal recommendations at the next Partnership meeting.

**EDUCATION, PROGRAM, AND PARK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** Mr. Price reported. They talked about the Committees evolution and both short and long term goals. Also, on-going projects such as an education survey by Urban Harbors Institute, Publications, and a sign grant from the National Park Foundation were discussed. They also identified future projects such as joint training, a YCC, and getting business volunteers.

They convened by agreeing to meet twice in October to discuss future programs and one to debrief summer activities, including visitation.

Mr. Webber opened the floor to public comment.

Ms. Carol Fithean, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that her experience with the public had been very positive and she had heard good things about the Islands from visitors. She did stress that there is some public confusion as to boating schedules, etc. She also offered the Friends information of visitation statistics, and Mr. Webber agreed that those would be very welcome and that she should get them to Mr. Price.

Ms. Vivien Li, Boston Harbor Island Association, had very positive things to say about how the Partnership had addressed the public concerns about the Advisory Council over the past months. She also stated how the workshops were a very nice experience and that she was looking forward to the other two. Furthermore, she was encouraged by the willingness to include the public and youth in the planning processes. She mentioned that she thought a visit from NPS Director Bob Stanton would be good for morale in DC, and suggested that a NPS uniform-style should be issued for the islands. Finally, she suggested they soon start to focus on events for next season.

Ms. Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, again expressed her willingness for the Friends to help anyway they can.

Ms. Jodi Sugerman, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay, agreed with Ms. Li about the need for an NPS uniform-style brochure, and offered some she picked up on a recent trip for anyone interested in viewing them.

Mr. Tom Lindbergh, MWRA, told the Partnership that he thought it was essential that the public know that this planning process is going on, and that the progress for a management plan should be: the publicVa missionVmanagement planVlogo and name.

Mr. Sam Sopiell, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, reiterated his offer to design the logo for the BHINRA.

Ms. Eileen Woodford, National Park Conservation Association, urged partners to attend the different Committee workshops, and that the park should really shine and be a jewel in the park system crown.

Mr. Broderick introduced MDC Ranger Tom Duggan who gave a spectacular ten minute slide presentation of George's Island.

Mr. Price informed everyone of the first of two introduction field trips on Friday, September 19, 1997, leaving from Long Wharf at 9:30 am and returning at

1:30pm. the trip includes a stop on George's and Grape Islands. A sign sheet was available. To add your name to this list, call 223-5060.

**A consensus agreement was made to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 1997 in Room 900 at Boston City Hall, from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. Please note the change of time!**

In the interests of time, Partner Agency reports and some other business items were tabled.

Meeting adjourned.

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