

BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 1997

Hale & Dorr, 26th floor, 60 State Street, Boston, MA

Chairman Webber called the Partnership meeting to order.

Chairman Webber acknowledged and thanked Hale and Door for their help, and especially Partnership member Cathy Douglas Stone, for helping to secure the meeting room.

PRESENT: Alden Gifford, TIOBEC, Gerald Millet, IA, Peter Webber, DEM, Terry Savage, NPS, Cathy Douglas Stone, Boston, Brian Broderick, MDC, James Doolin, MASSPORT, Doug MacDonald, MWRA, Richard Howe, TTOR, and Trudy Coxe, EOE

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

There was one change noted. Linda Haar asked that we make a clarification of her motion as stated. On the second page, Ms. Haar asked that the "for many reasons" be changed to "in consideration of the issues raised by the Muhecconeck Intertribal Committee on Deer Island". Unanimously approved.

Reports from the Committees followed. (Full texts of reports were available at the Partnership Meeting)

Advisory Council Report given by George Price

The last public meeting on the advisory council consisted of ninety-eight people. The attendees divided up into the seven groups. The groups suggested criteria for nomination of representatives and terms. Refer to your handout for individuals and terms nominated. The Education group will reconvene at the Aquarium tonight to recommend the final education members.

Planning Committee Report given by Lorraine Downey

The majority of the discussion focused on workshops they will hold in January and February. They plan to get a larger view from folks who are interested in the management plan. A NPS technical committee, along with the Partnership Planning Committee, will work on producing the actual draft plan. If anyone has any mailing list they would like to share, volunteers, co-sponsors, please see someone on the Planning Committee. Note that a "cosponsor" is for publicity purposes only and does not require extra effort.

Finance Committee given by Terry Savage

Mr. Savage asked that everyone look over the financial template with his or her administrative staff so the Committee can implement a process to identify expenditures. The first draft of the "white paper" is ready. It is important to get to these agreements of costs, finances, etc., as soon as possible to figure out how things will be paid for.

Marketing and PR Committee Report given by Gerry Millet

They have met twice since the last partnership meeting. One was strictly for the purpose of

discussing the name and logo, and the second was to address infrastructure questions. The names they agreed on were The Boston Harbor Islands, A National Park Area; Boston Harbor Islands, National Park Area. The NPS likes the "A". The committee offers the Boston Harbor Islands, A National Park Area. Gary McCann, MICODI, is working with Congressman Moakley's office to officially take the name Recreation out of the name of the park

Chairman Webber asked that if any members have objections to the recommendations of the Marketing Committee. It was suggested that no formal vote was needed because there are no advisory members, and no official word from NPS. There was no objection from partners to wait until the NPS approval comes back. Ms. Coxe then objected to the fact of waiting for NPS approval. Mr. Price says that NPS standards have to be upheld because of the legislation, etc. As a Partner, there needs to be support from NPS through the Regional and Washington offices on important decisions. Mr. Webber asked if this is an advisory partnership board or is it an actual board that can work?

Ms. Coxe made a motion to accept "Boston Harbor Islands, A National Park Area" and not get approval. Mr. Savage says you can amend it as a "doing business as" name. Ms. Stone asked for input from the advisory folks in the audience. Mr. McCann says there needs to be a name for next year's literature. Vivian Li, Boston Harbor Association, wants to move ahead. Mr. Price wanted to clarify that this is the first time the committee came with a formal recommendation to send to Washington. The partnership took a unanimous vote to use "Boston Harbor Islands, A National Park Area" as a marketing name.

The Marketing Committee reached a consensus to hire a firm to design a new logo and go that route, as opposed to a contest or anything too complicated. Mr. Millet got an estimate, through Heritage Partners, of potential logo costs - \$11,000 - \$15,000. The committee feels it could be done by February. Mr. Price offered for the NPS to pay for this project on behalf of the Partnership out of the appropriation for the Project Office. The Partnership stated that a New England firm to do the work. Suggestion for firms can go to the PR committee ASAP.

Chairman Webber says that they develop a formal approach to do procurement. He said the Finance Committee should sort it out quickly. Mr. Savage says that the Marketing Committee would work as the client to the NPS existing contract Ms. Coxe made and Chairman Webber seconded a motion to springboard a logo through the NPS process. The vote was unanimous.

The Marketing Committee prepared goals, and also they would be open to more goals at the next committee meeting.

Education Programs and Park Operations Committee Report given by George Price

At their last meeting, they had a debriefing of the summer visitation. They found that 118,000 visitors go out on the boats, and approximately 84,000 actually get off at George's Island. The operating agencies have additional statistics related to programs and individual island visitation.

A system will have to be devised to collect data from all the Partners who have current visitation figures. Mr. MacDonald says summer visitor level for Deer Island was 4,000 - 5,000 people and that is without a formal public access program

Claudia Smith Reid, MWRA, was asked to comment on the visitor survey conducted this past summer season. Professor Morrison, Northeastern University, guided the MWRA and the Harbor Visions Crew on the survey and report. They wanted to know who the visitor was and what they thought about their experience visiting the islands. If anyone has comments, send them to Claudia Smith Reid, MWRA, or George Price before the next Partnership meeting. They agreed that they needed expand outreach all along the harbor's edge. A more formal report will follow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was then opened for public comment.

Sam Sapiel, MICODI had issues with Indians not being listed as a group on the visitation survey. Ms. Smith-Reid said that that was brought up as a problem to be redone in the future.

Karen O'Donnell, FBHI, wanted to know when the matching portion of the financial plan would go into place. Mr. Price said at the signing of the bill. She also wanted to know if BHI were included in the Highway and Transportation bill to get some funding from it.

Ms. Li wants the Partnership to start working on new things for the summer of '98 and '99. The committees need to start thinking immediately. Mr. Millet said that June 13, 1998 has suggested as a potential opening day for the park for next summer.

George Marsh, FBHI, wants to know if the advisory council would be on board before the logo was decided on.

Chairman Webber said that the BHI needs the recognizable "unique" brochure you can get at any NPS Park.

Mr. McCann had a comment on planning committee's public meetings. Would there be any meetings just for Indians, at the Indian Center in Jamaica Plain. Barbara Mackey, NPS, said that the meetings were being held geographically, not ethnically. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. O'Donnell wanted to know when the next meeting of the advisory committee would be. There was a mini-meeting that night and the first official meeting will be when the official letters come in from NPS.

Chairman Webber thanked folks for working so hard to get the advisory committee formed as soon as possible.

TEN MINUTE SLIDE PRESENTATION BY JOHN NOVE, DEM.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

The Trustees of the Reservations - report given by Dick Howe

They opened Turkey Hill reservation Nov. 1 on Hingham, Cohasset line. You can see BHI from there.

MASSPORT - report given by Jim Doolin

They are working on announcing the park on the planes that fly over it on their way into and out of Logan. They are also working on public service announcements in Logan on the screens you see in terminals while waiting for planes. He went on the other harbor tour on Halloween and loved it. He urged more emphasis on the resources of the islands.

MDC - report given by Brian Broderick

On Oct. 25, 26, they hosted two Halloween programs, -one on George's and one on Castle Islands. Six thousand people attended the two days. This year there are three winter wildlife cruises. Also, work is underway on Peddock's Island pier. Temporary access is there now.

City of Boston - report given by Lorraine Downey

A utility study on getting water out to Long Island. Possibilities include using an existing line over the Neponset River Bridge. That'll let other islands tap in there. A pedestrian and bicycle study out on Long Island has been slowed, but a final draft will come in a few months.

National Park Service - report given by George Price

The highlight was the second orientation tour on October 31. There were had about 30 people including many staff individuals from various Partner, Harbor Interest groups, an aid from Congressman Delahunt's office and a number of MIT students. We spent time touring the outer islands, unfortunately mostly in the fog, and had an enthusiastic tour of Hull presented by the Town Manager, Phil Lemnios and a town committee. The tour included a visit to Fort Revere, a MDC site, and walk up the tower, which enabled us to view the entire harbor, islands and resources in Hull. The NE Aquarium provided the boat, with coffee, and the Friends provided morning treats and the people of Hull gave us a bag lunch.

The next orientation tour is December 12, 1997, to Peddock's with boat from Aquarium. 10am - 1:30pm.

Price also reported on the continuing discussions the staff of the National Park Service and Island Alliance are having with GSA and the Judges Committee on the Federal Court House project at the Fan Pier. We will prepare a presentation to the Partnership when we have some indication from GSA and the Judges Committee that we are moving along an agreeable track on development issues.

As of this time, the NPS portion of the federal budget is still under a continuing resolution.

DEM - report given by Peter Webber

They are working on trying to improve debarkation points and include better walkways, and access, etc. They are working on landscaping, while continuing to preserve, maintain, and enhance.

Island Alliance - report given by Gerald Millet

He and Kathy Abbott had been invited to the Acadia Superintendent's Conference. Met Bob Stanton, head of NPS. A luncheon for potential trustees was held at the downtown Harbor Club. The first annual Boston Harbor Island dinner, and Gary Studds Stewardship Award will be held on Friday, November 21st. Tickets are \$250 per person, or \$2500 a table. Call Kathy Abbott for more details. Webber suggested that we need business and private help. They are trying to raise money for many issues, but need to have as many fundraising events as possible.

Trudy Coxe felt that here should be fund raising events that everyone could afford because everyone in the room ought to contribute something.

MWRA - report given by Trudy Coxe

Described event held on Deer Island, which commemorated the lives lost on King Philip's war.

Thompson Island - report given by Alden Gifford

Fall program is well underway. Working with eight schools and kids in seventh and eight grades. The Choices program and the Willauer school has 48 students in the 6, 7, 8th grades - some are borders, some commute.

NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 10th, at 12pm

Adjourned.