

## BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 1998 - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Hale and Dorr, Boston, Massachusetts

Chairman Webber called the tenth meeting to order.

PRESENT: Brian Broderick, MDC; Dick Howe, TTOR; Doug MacDonald, MWRA; Alden Gifford, TIOBEC; Linda Haar, BRA; Dan May, USCG; Maynard Goldman, (representing the IA for informational purposes until receives Secretarial approval); Terry Savage, NPS; Cathleen Douglas Stone, City of Boston; Peter Webber, DEM

The minutes of the March 11 meeting were accepted with corrections noted.

Peter Webber introduced Chrysandra Walter, Deputy Regional Director, Northeast Region of the National Park Service. Sandy thanked Peter and the Partnership for her greeting and all the hard work everyone was doing on behalf of the Harbor Islands. She congratulated everyone connected with the Partnership for their great progress thus far. Sandy said everyone involved with the harbor effort should be called "pacesetters" for what has been done thus far and what is hoped to come in the future.

Reports from the committees followed.

### **Marketing and Public Relations, Kathy Abbott**

Kathy Abbott reported on the name and logo progress. The "Unigrid" brochure is out for comments to the Partners and is targeted to be published in June, 1998. Also the cover webpage is being worked on. AT&T is contributing some of the funding for the webpage.

Kathy also pointed out articles about the Boston Harbor Islands in the Massachusetts Getaway Guide and Sailing Life magazine.

Brian Broderick, MDC, raised questions about the unrealistic turnaround requested for review of the Unigrid brochure. Many others shared this concern. The deadline for comments was extended until Monday, April 13.

### **Advisory Council, George Price**

George reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Council was scheduled for April 16. The primary objective of the meeting was the process for naming Partnership representatives and electing a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council. Other items of business would include bylaws discussion and Advisory Council activities, if time allowed.

### **Planning Committee, Linda Haar**

The planning committee discussed zoning approaches for island development. This committee agreed to general zones where some islands could withstand more impact than others.

The Planning Committee also hosted a group of Boston High School students who had an up close view of how the committee process works.

The principal focus of the last Planning Committee meeting was a presentation and discussion by Alden Gifford and George Armstrong from Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center on the specific financial issues facing the program. The Committee learned a great deal about the nature of Thompson Island's involvement with Boston's schools and the nature of their outreach and the fact that their \$2M/yr fundraising underwrites that program. The involvement and role of Trust for Public Lands was also discussed. The Committee also reviewed the acquisition constraints of the current legislation on the National Park Service and the possibility of obtaining financial assistance from the State. The fieldtrip to Thompsons Island assisted with the Committee's understanding of the program.

The discussion then focused on the appropriate way the Partnership would or should demonstrate support for the Thompson Island situation. Additional information was discussed on the nature of the conservation easement under consideration. The complex issue of allowing more general public access while maintaining the integrity of the Outward Bound program and safety and security concerns of the students was also discussed. A number of issues were raised concerning the ability of the Partners to be able to commit to a show of support if it might be in conflict within their individual agency's other priorities.

Terry Savage, NPS, reminded everyone that if a proposal was supported which would require a change of park legislation, then we would have to be aware of the potential for an extended Congressional committee process which could cover a wide range of issues, not just this one item.

Linda was asked to work with the Planning Committee to prepare a draft letter of support for protection of Thompson Island. The draft could then be reviewed by agencies for comment and voted on by the Partnership.

### **Finance Committee, Peter Webber**

Peter stated that there were still legal issues to be resolved regarding the transfer or pooling of funds on the State and City side and the committee was trying to move forward to resolve them. The immediate issues of the Unigrid brochure and Calendar funding demonstrate the need of getting a process implemented.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on April 30, 1998 - 15 State Street followed by the next one on May 28, 1998.

### **Education, Program and Park Operations, George Price**

George reported that the previous meetings focused on information to be included in the calendar of events for the upcoming season. The group also started to identify the role the committee

might play and discussed the need for a committee mission statement. The next meeting would focus on education based programs.

### **Overview of the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands**

Nancy Martin gave a wonderful overview slide show that described the Friends organization. She discussed the history of the organization, the range of volunteer activities - from staffing information stations to guided walks to the reforestation program - and all the ways in which the volunteers assist and support the island program. She described the type of training and orientation new volunteers receive and the special programs they do to recognize the volunteers. She also described the recruitment process and encouraged people to publicize the Open Houses to attract new people.

### **Agency Updates**

Brian Broderick, MDC, let people know that the reason Holly Richardson has been on leave recently was because of the recent death of her mother. All expressed their condolences to Holly during this difficult time.

George had the pleasure of introducing his new assistant manager, Bruce Jacobson. Bruce comes from Acadia National Park with a great deal of knowledge Of complex planning issues and will be a positive contribution to the effort.

Peter Webber announced that John Nove had become the Acting Chief of Visitor Services for the DEM and that a summer replacement for him as island supervisor was being sought.

Cdr. May, USCG, encouraged folks to sign up for the upcoming orientation trip to Boston Light on Little Brewster. The trip will be on May 8, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please call 223-5060 to sign up and for directions.

**THE NEXT PARTNERSHIP MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 13, FROM 10:30AM – 12:30PM AT BRA Board Room 900 - 9th floor Boston City .**