

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership Meeting Minutes
May 13, 1998 – 10:30am – 12:30pm
Boston City Hall – Room 900

Minutes as corrected

PRESENT: Dick Howe, TTOR, Peter Webber, DEM, Alden Gifford, TIOBEC, George Price, NPS, Brian Broderick, MDC, Cathleen Douglas Stone, City of Boston, Doug MacDonald, MWRA

Peter called the meeting to order and introduced the advisory council designees to the partnership and invited them up to the table. They are Edith Andrews and Rob Moir. Leadership was also announced for the Advisory Council, and Jack Wiggins was elected Chairman, and Suzanne Gall Marsh was elected Vice-Chairwoman.

A motion was brought up a unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the April 8th partnership meeting. Then, Chairman Webber called for the committee reports.

Marketing and Public Relations, Kathy Abbott

The information center at 408 Atlantic Avenue will be up and running soon. The phone number will be (617) 223-8666. The unigrid brochure should be ready to go by mid-June. DEM is making headway on the calendars and rack cards, and when they're finished, the Island Alliance will distribute them. Samples of merchandise with the logo on it will be available at the next meeting. Many thanks to Brian Macdonald at the Aquarium for all his help. The committee is also looking for Partnership Agency's staffers to work on the webpage.

Advisory Council, George Price

He updated the Partnership on the heated April 16th meeting. John Brown from the Narragansett tribe is still talking to people at the Department of the Interior about how disappointed he was at the way the Advisory Council was formed. Advisory Council Chairman Wiggins announced that they next Advisory Council meetings would be June 4th and July 7th, and hoped that both Chairman Webber, and Vice-Chairwoman Stone could make an effort to be there.

Planning Committee, Sarah Peskin

Partnership Agencies need to please make sure and fax their mission statements to Bruce Jacobsen so that they can try to craft a more cohesive plan. Much talk ensued about supporting the money for the acquisition of Conservation Restriction on Thompson's Island. A letter drafted to the Commonwealth's congressional delegation was discussed and unanimously supported. Mr. Gifford of Thompson Island thanked the Partnership and said that the public access concerns many of the Partnership Agencies had with Thompson's could be addressed.

Finance Committee, Cathleen Douglas Stone

The financial committee is still researching how the state legislatively will handle money going to the park. Also, they are conscientiously working on how the matching funds will work. Partnership Members need to submit the names and amounts of projects for this fiscal cycle.

Education Programs and Park Operation, George Price

They are still working on event and event-programming for the summer months.

Public Comment

Gary McCann wanted let the board know that John Brown brings lots of knowledge with him. He suggests better notice of meetings would greatly improve communications between so many people.

Karen O'Donald, Friends of the BHI, wanted to report that the Friends had a very successful Boston Light Trip on May 8th and hoped people enjoyed themselves. The Friends assisted with support including interpretation and cooking hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the Coast Guard. (Everyone agreed it was a very successful and enjoyable trip and the Coast Guard and Friends were praised for their efforts.)

Vivian Li, Boston Harbor Association, thought it was a travesty that Fan Pier would be opening and not have any public access from there. It is a public building with public space, and she thinks an opportunity as a jumping point to the islands is being missed there.

George Price said that they were looking into it, but that there is no staffed space available there for this season.

Doug MacDonald argued that is public realm space was promised someone needs to complain to them that there shouldn't be a grand opening if the plan as promised is not completed. If enough people complain, he feels they'll get it done.

Diane Haynes, City of Boston, added that the Ernestina will be docked there several times this summer.

AGENCY UPDATES

MDC – Brian Broderick

Peddock's Pier construction is ahead of schedule. Now the MDC is looking at fixing the visitors center, and wishes to thank Kathy Abbott and the Island Alliance for securing a \$5,000 grant to fix the roof.

MWRA – Doug MacDonald

He loved the trip to the lighthouse, and is looking forward to the July 10th trip to Deer Island.

DEM – Peter Webber

Spectacle Island RFP is moving ahead well. The camping has been expanded on Grape Island for this season.

Island Alliance –

They have been very busy. Progress on fundraising is over 50% there. He was pleased with the knowledge of the project at Congressman Delahunt's Office and Senator Kennedy's Office. On June 16th there will be a fundraiser hosted by local author Robert Parker on the Roof Deco of the Ritz and on June 17th, there will be a presentation by 6th graders at the Harbor Point School. Please call them for more information on either of those events.

Thompson Island Outward Bound – Alden Gifford

Their summer programs will be starting soon. This year their choices program serviced 800 students and 30 teachers.

Trustees of the Reservations – Dick Howe

A trip to World's End is being planned soon. On June 21st, there will be a Summer Solstice Event on World's End from 6pm – 8pm.

Before closing the meeting, Chairman Webber reminded everyone that it had been his one-year anniversary as Chairman, and discussions of a new election of officers should take place at the next meeting.

THE NEXT PARTNERSHIP MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT HALE AND DORR ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th, 10:30am – 12:30pm.