

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
September 16th 10:30am - 12:30pm
Hale & Dorr, 26th Floor**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Rob Moir, Advisory Council; Cathy D. Stone, City of Boston; Peter Webber, DEM; Terry Savage, NPS; Trudy Cox, MWRA; Capt. Chuck Beck, USCG; Linda Haar, BRA; Jim Doolin, MASSPORT; Brian Broderick, MDC; Dick Howe, TTOR; John Bok, representing Island Alliance for informational purposes.

Chairman Webber called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the fall.

Reviewed minutes of the July 8th meeting. Minutes were approved with corrections noted.

Partnership Meeting Format – Peter Webber

Peter reported on the meeting that was held in City Hall to follow up on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, reported in the July meeting, about revising the structure of Partnership meetings. The first year of the Partnership, meetings allowed for a broad range of topics and reports in an information-sharing context. The group felt strongly that Partnership meetings needed to become more focused on key issues including developing the plan for the park and operational Partnership issues.

Rather than general verbal update reports from the Partners, each agency is encouraged to submit written reports, comments or announcements for distribution. Partners should contact Peter Webber or George Price in advance to identify time for specific items they feel need to be discussed at the meeting.

One or two specific topics will then be given more time on the agenda as well as allow more time for discussion. An update on the draft planning alternatives was identified to be the main focus of this meeting.

Reports from committees will be made only on significant items. Comments from the public will continue to be an agenda item

Lovell's Island – Brian Broderick

Brian gave an update on the recent reports in the Globe related to possible radioactive waste on Lovell's Island. Brian reported that a number of years ago the MDC heard reports that Lovell's Island had possibly been the site of nuclear waste storage. In 1995, the MDC did an extensive investigation including testing for unsafe radiation levels. The investigation and testing satisfied the MDC that conditions were safe and no further action was needed. The recent Globe article resurrected the story and rumors, which left doubt in the mind of the public. The State and MDC conducted additional tests and

determined no unsafe levels of radiation were found. The readings were consistent with “background” levels you would expect to find in an urban environment. In fact, “the levels were less than if you were sitting on a park bench in downtown Boston.”

Spectacle Island – Peter Webber

Peter stated that there was a press announcement of the selection of the team of New England Aquarium, Modern Continental and the Urban Harbors Institute as the group that will work with the City and State as a development partner on the Spectacle Island program. Jill Oaks represents the City of Boston and Diane Haynes represents the State and DEM on the project.

Finance Committee – Cathy Stone

The Finance Committee met over the summer and finalized the draft “Policies for Establishing Cost Principles for Boston Harbor Island Partnership” prepared by Amy Garfield, DEM and Luke Thompson, MWRA. Amy and Luke were able to focus the committee with the draft policies and the committee would like the full Partnership to carefully review the document.

The Committee proposes to present the draft policies and discuss its needs and significance at the October Partnership meeting. It is imperative that the Partnership moves forward on our financial management issues.

Cathy also discussed proposed efforts with Hale and Dorr to assist with the development of legislative language to facilitate the actions of the City and State in the Park effort.

Operations Committee – George Price

Minutes of the previous meeting submitted. George announced the next Partnership orientation tour would take place on 9/23/ 98.

Mike Borek, Director of the Harbor Explorations Program at UMASS Boston, has invited us to take our next field trip as a hands-on working marine science experience in Boston Harbor. We will participate in an actual program utilized by 10,000 students yearly in grades 5 – 12, as well as offered for professional development for teachers in the marine sciences. We will put out an otter trawl and plankton nets and examine our catch. We will use microscopes to examine small creatures as well as test the chemical and physical properties of the ocean and ocean floor.

Advisory Council – Jack Wiggin

Jack reported that the Advisory Council is now able to move from operational issues to more substantive issues. The next meeting will be a workshop focusing on the draft alternatives coming from the Planning Committee. The Advisory council now has members assigned to each of the Partnership Committees. Each category within the Advisory Council has representatives assigned to reach out to other representatives of their interest groups. The council is also planning a Harbor Cruise for interested legislators, and sponsoring a small project on Lovell's. Two other major areas of interest are the transportation/gateways issues and legislation.

Jack turned the floor to Tom Lindberg who presented his thoughts for a legislative proposal and strategy. Tom suggested that new State legislation be drafted to include but not be limited to:

- Mirror intent and language of federal legislation
- Fund annually an operations budget for the Partnership
- Fund annually an operations budget for the Advisory Council
- Create a central depository and distribution system for all funds (possibly the Island Alliance)
- Create a fund for capital projects
- Strengthen authority of Partnership over activities on land and water within park boundaries
- Strengthen authority of Partnership over land-side points required for access
- Identify and implement revenue stream for the park
- Create appropriate jurisdictions and funding for emergency services, fire protection and public safety.

Action

Rob Moir made a motion that the Partnership set up an Ad Hoc legislative committee to develop legislation. Motion seconded.

Discussion of the motion included the need to focus on issues including ones raised by the Advisory Council and the Finance Committee. It was also noted that the planning process could point out the need for additional federal legislation. The issue of another separate committee duplicating the legislation work of the Finance was raised.

Brian was concerned about moving ahead with legislation while there are so many unanswered questions during the planning process. It might be premature until the scope of the project is better known.

A revise motioned was made to set up a working group within the Finance Committee to draft legislation action for filing by December. Motion was seconded.

Motion was passed. Brian Broderick, MDC, opposed.

Planning – Linda Haar and Barbara Mackey

Linda and Barbara presented an overview of the planning process thus far including the legal planning requirements; the public process to date; the Planning Committee's progress; the projected time schedule; and draft alternatives.

Handouts supporting the presentation were distributed at the meeting.

Highlights included:

- Target audiences are the school children and adults of Greater Boston, then other visitors in priority order.

- The importance of Gateways on the mainland with a major pier, visitor orientation, ties to transportation, restrooms, identifiable and clear signage, and possibly other “added attractions” which would be used to help support the park.
- Consider three (3) phases: Immediate, Short-term, Long term.
- Transportation is a major issue. We need to build on what’s there and try demonstration projects.
- Possible additions to the park boundary could be considered.

Public Comments

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of Boston Harbor Islands noted that the next Advisory Council meeting scheduled for the next day at the Navy Yard, will continue the discussion of the draft planning alternatives. She also noted the need to review transportation issues and the boat contract for '99. She said that the change in format of the Partnership meeting was a good one, however, we still should work on the agenda to insure discussion and questions.

Nancy Martin, Friends of Boston Harbor Islands, reported that they are planning leadership training for the volunteers and will be holding summer evaluation meetings. She also announced upcoming lighthouse tours and the Halloween program scheduled for George’s Island.

Jim Cantwell, Congressman Delehunt’s office, expressed his concern about transportation planning for next year. The South Shore communities are interested in becoming gateway communities sooner rather than later and anything that can be done to assist with planning or contracts would be appreciated.

Phil Leminis, Hull Town Manager, reiterated the offers of cooperation the town of Hull and the City of Quincy have made to become gateways and their desire to work with the Partnership to make the park a success.

Capt. Beck, USCG, raised the issue of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as we develop the gateways and boat transportation connections.

Other Business

Peter stated that the October meeting will focus on transportation, specifically the interim plans and the draft finance principles.

Linda suggested that future meetings focus on the Advisory Council and Legislative issues.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be 10:30am – 12:30pm - October 14th – Hale & Door – 26th Floor

