

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 1998 10:30am – 12:30pm
Hale & Dorr, 26th Floor**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Rob Moir, Advisory Council; Dick Howe, TTOR; Linda Haar, BRA, Cathy D. Stone, City of Boston; Peter Webber, DEM; Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; James Doolin, MASSPORT; Brian Broderick, MDC; Terry Savage, NPS; Trudy Coxe, MWRA; Capt. Chuck Beck, USCG; Alden Gifford, TIOBEC.

Chairman Webber called the meeting to order. This is meeting #15

We have a Quorum

Chairman Webber Invited any committee action items to be brought forth

Operations – George Price

George stated that this committee is continuing to work on Role and Function statement. It will be ready by next partnership meeting.

Advisory – Rob Moir

After last official Advisory Committee meeting, there was a Workshop with the NPS planning team to go over the draft Alternatives. The Advisory Council is planning for the December 3rd meeting to act as a public forum to solicit more involvement from interest groups and individuals.

Public Comment Portion

Edith Andrew commented that she attended the Nut Island Ceremony. Edith was impressed with the ceremony and the development plans for that location. Edith is aware of a local citizen group in the Nut Island neighborhood which is concerned about access and transportation issues in that area. Transportation is still of concern to the Advisory Council and will continue to ask for discussion on the topic relative to development of our Park planning process.

Jim Lampke, Town of Hull, thanked everybody for their support during the process to be named as the site of the National Lighthouse center. Although they were not successful in getting designation the whole process was a success. A lot of attention and focus was put on the Town of Hull and the whole South Shore community. Hull is currently working on a Maritime Trail along the South Shore, which would tie in perfectly with the Park. Linda Haar mentioned that a similar effort for maritime trails is being worked on in Boston. She thought it would be wonderful if the two could connect. She would give him an update.

Peter Webber said that he believes the planners are working on a way that a family could leave their car in one area and be able to get back a different way. A loop that would connect lands and waters.

Vivian Li – Marketing needs to work on year 2000 plan. Revenue generation activities that support the mission and purpose of the park should be included.

Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands – thank you to the NPS for the financial support for the end of season Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Reviewed minutes of the September 16th meeting. Minutes were approved with one name spelling correction noted.

Finance Committee – Cathy D. Stone

Cathy presented the draft “Policies for Establishing Cost Principles for Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.” She thanked Luke Thompson, MWRA and Amy Garfield, formally of the DEM, for all their work developing this paper. Cathy introduced Doug Leab, DEM. Amy left DEM for Mass Audubon. Doug will now represent DEM on the Finance Committee.

Cathy stressed the need for each agency to have representation on the Finance Committee. She also stressed the need to identify a record keeper for each group. This is particularly important if questions come up with the first financial reports submitted or in the event that auditors need to get specific data. Each Partner is still to be the keepers of their own records. Lauren Downing, NPS Financial Officer, who is staff to the Finance Committee, will work with the other agency financial people to assemble the quarterly report submittals and submit them to the Partnership.

George Price, NPS, went over where “match” stands. It was suggested by Bernice Mader, Advisory Council, that maybe we get an outside accounting group to look over our records and advise. Should we get one standard of auditing principles? Luke Thomson said similar documentation of costs is what is needed if an auditor comes in. The Auditor is has to see similar systems, they do not have to be exactly the same. George said our plan was to enlist someone from the GAO or IG to come in early in process and give us feedback. All key people will work with Lauren to go over all reports.

Cathy went over the Finance Committee’s agenda. Legislation is now the main focus. Cathy, Peter and George met with Steve Olesky, Hale and Dorr, to discuss his offer of pro-bono legal assistance to the Partnership. He recruited Jack Delaney of his office to assist. We asked Jack to attend the next Finance Committee meeting to begin the discussions of the legislative need. The Bill language will not include everything but will get us started. The Committee will need to meet on a more frequent bases. In January the financial reports will come in and we need to take a careful look at them .

Cathy asked that the Cost Principles be adopted by the Partnership. Peter Webber made motion to accept. Maynard seconded. Motion passed.

Brian Broderick, MDC, requested that more notice be given to agency representatives on Committee meetings.

Transportation – Diane Haynes

Diane Haynes, DEM, introduced the transportation topic. She handed out information on the transportation system. She then introduced Jeff Bryant, U.S. Department of Transportation, Volpe Center, who has been consultant to the transportation discussion for the Planning Committee.

Jeff spoke presented draft principles the Planning Committee is discussing. Bernice objected to Principle #4, indicating that boat access has to be at public landings, excluding partnering opportunities with private concerns. Jeff said this would be addressed later in presentation and went on to 2nd set of principles. Many concerns were voiced regarding affordability. Diane stated that no island water transportation is currently subsidized. Only the MBTA commuter runs have subsidies. The State funded the inter-island water shuttle in the past, but that was included as part of the transportation contract under the current system. It was mentioned that principle on financially self-supporting should be listed under assumptions.

Jeff then went over assumptions. Jeff mentioned many problems with open competition including fee collecting and management. What if a family comes to one island with one vendor and returns with a different one? Bernice suggested a new principle – multiple gateway access points. Bill, Harbor Express, mentioned ADA, access, pick up, drop off and parking all have to be addressed. Docks will have to be standardized so that boat operators will know what they are getting into. Liability with multi operators. Bernice said besides being caretakers we the Partnership/Park should be economically viable. We should have a statement of free trade.

Diane went over summary of transportation project and studies. Next year the existing Boston Harbor Islands water transportation contractor will be extended for one more year. This will be good through March of 2000. Two reasons for this: one, in order to look beyond March of 1999 not enough information collected in time to make a big change; and two, we need eight months lead time necessary for vendors to get ready for new contract, get vessels to serve the requirements of a new contract, etc. Vivien Li mentioned that MBTA is a key player and should be in attendance at all partnership meetings. Peter mentioned that selection is not all based on best price but quality in who we contract with

Jim Doolin, MASSPORT, asked if the Partnership was needed for this type of discussion, or should this be handled in committee. It was not made clear what the objective of the presentation was, or if any action was to be taken.

Trudy Coxe, MWRA, this is a very complicated problem and a very important one. The City and State are currently spending \$50,000 on a short term study on the inner harbor, we should be sure that we obtain the best experts and spend more time and money if needed to look at the whole picture and do the best job possible. Peter will circulate information to the MBTA to see who should be at the Planning meetings and invite them.

New Business

Trudy announced that this was her last meeting of the Partnership. She is moving on to a great position in Newport RI. She expressed her enthusiasm for the island project and encouraged everyone to continue to strive for the best for the Islands. Every expressed their appreciation for her contribution to the Partnership.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be 10:30am – 12:30pm – November 18th – Hale & Door – 31st Floor