

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Sixteenth Meeting Minutes
November 18, 1998 10:30am – 12:30pm
Hale & Dorr, 60 State St., Boston, MA, 31st Floor**

As Corrected

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; Holly Richardson, MDC; Terry Savage, NPS; Commander Sue Bibeau, USCG; Alden Gifford, TIOBEC.

Chairman Webber called the sixteenth meeting of the Boston Harbor Island Partnership to order and declared a Quorum.

Opening comments included mention of the Island Alliance dinner the night before. There was general agreement that the dinner was a success.

Review of Minutes from Last Meeting

Edith Andrews requested that the third sentence of the first paragraph of the public comment portion be struck from the record. The concerns were not specific to any one citizen's group, but a general concern.

Motion made to amend minutes to remove the third sentence of the first paragraph of the public comment portion.

Motion approved.

Chairman Webber invited any committee action items to be brought forth

Operations Committee - George Price

George stated that this committee was formed out of the Education and Park Program Committee at the request of the Partnership. He presented the draft role & function statement for the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee will focus on issues such as visitor services; visitor counting methods; safety; visitor protection and transportation on a day to day/one-two year basis. Transportation for 1999, standards, immediate staffing/training programs, and emergency/safety procedures are the topics for the upcoming series of meetings. Recent committee meeting notes were also distributed.

Dick Howe asked if preservation, cultural and natural resource management was a function of this committee. George answered that these issues currently are not specifically addressed in the committee, although it is a good suggestion.

Dick Howe related the importance of identifying resource management as a needed function. He felt strongly that it should be the responsibility of a standing committee. The Operations Committee seemed like the best choice. George Price and Holly Richardson agreed, stating that specialists in resource management are needed to become involved in these committees, or at least attend specific meetings when resource management issues are discussed. The Partnership members asked that these issues be included as part of the

Operations Committee mandate. Peter asked the committee to consider additions to the draft Role & Function Statement and return a new draft to the Partnership for review.

The Partnership also asked if a similar Role & Function Statement had been prepared for all the committees. George reported that all the committees have been asked to produce one, but this is the first one to get to draft form.

Finance Committee – Cathy Douglas Stone

Cathy stated that there had been two Finance Committee meetings since the last Partnership meeting. The principle focus has been to work on legislation with Jack Delaney, of Hale and Dorr. The draft state legislation would permit the Partners to legally recognize the park and the Partnership. This would give the Partners the ability to spend money on property they may not own or the ability to contribute to a common project for the good of the park. The committee spent considerable time discussing the nature of the intent of the legislation and draft language; however, it still needs considerable work. Hopefully, a draft will be ready by the December Partnership meeting.

Cathy reported that a few committee members had a follow up telephone meeting with Tony Conti, Regional Solicitor for the Department of the Interior. He explained some of the issues, complexities and advantages related to the nature of the park as an “entity” with the allowances in the legislation, but being a nontraditional NPS unit. The advantages of having a non-profit park supporting organization such as the Island Alliance was discussed.

Cathy stated that we will miss the December 2nd legislation deadline. It was agreed that it was essential to have a well thought out complete bill to present to the legislature, instead of submitting an incomplete one. Late file bills are permitted. We want to file only when ready. Cathy stated that the plan would be to get a broad based group to sponsor the bill. A strategy is needed for the presentation of the bill. It will be important in terms of sponsors. Peter Webber stated that there are several options, but it will have to go through Ways and Means Committee in some fashion.

George reminded everyone that January 15 is the submittal due date for projects and financial information to the Finance Committee. Luke Thompson, MWRA, and Doug Leab, DEM, have been working with Lauren to plan for questions and issues faced by the finance people within each agency as they prepare submittals. Lauren is available for questions or discussion.

Planning Committee – Linda Haar

Linda Haar asked Barbara Mackey to present the status report for the planning committee. Barbara explained the management areas that are being considered by the committee. The management areas will provide guidance regarding use, though not all uses will occur on all islands. Peter Webber stressed the need for a common understanding of terms used in the plan. Partners were encouraged to make edits directly on the report and return to Barbara with any concerns or issues.

Linda Haar added that there needs to be a strong statement toward protecting natural resources. The draft alternatives should be reviewed with the Advisory Council prior to general distribution. Linda outlined the planning including public involvement.

Barbara addressed the schedule focusing on the Law, which requires the plan to be completed by November of 1999. It is expected that a preferred alternative will be chosen by February. The mechanics of public meetings are not yet worked out. It is not desirable to go much beyond the deadline for a variety of issues for the planning effort. There are real fiscal implications. There will not be funding indefinitely.

Peter Webber stated that public opinion is valuable. Linda Haar stated that the Advisory Council is huge part of the Partnership. The council exists to be vehicle to help Partnership understand public opinion.

The next portion of the Planning section was supposed to focus on the Park Mission Statement. Bruce Jacobson had prepared a presentation to lead the Partnership through the needs and purposes of the Mission Statement. Because of time constraints, Bruce limited his presentation of the issue and postponed general discussion until a later Partnership meeting.

A marketing statement is needed. Ideally, this will be a short statement that summarizes what we are here to do, and who we are doing it for. Peter Webber asked that Partnership members to look at the legislation and other material for input at a later time. Please give comments to Bruce before the next meeting.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jack Wiggin, Advisory Council Chair, presented the report from the Advisory Council. He reported that the Council has had study sessions where issues have been highlighted such as water transportation.

The next official meeting will be 7:00 – 9:00PM. on December 3rd and all the Partners are invited. The objective is to get more of the public involved with those that represent the interest areas on the Advisory Council. The purpose of the meeting is to bring the public up to date with status of park planning and to begin the process of filling the seven spaces that were one-year appointments.

Jack also referenced the Nov 1st Advisory Council letter in response to the City of Boston's letter on Long Island. The Council felt the long-term planning should consider that Long Island no longer be used for social services.

Linda Harr stated that the need for the type of social services offered on Long Island is only increasing. It is not just a City of Boston problem, as outlying communities also need the services. It is not realistic to expect relocating these services within 20 year. There needs to be discussion about how they can be integrated with the park. City Representatives are in the process of meeting with police, fire, on how to increase public access to Long Island. The City will not entertain uses for the island without these social services.

Terry Savage, NPS said that this is a good example of the planning process at work. In order to have a fair and open process, all alternatives should be presented to the public. In this case, one long-term option is that Long Island not be used for human services. It should not be immediately rejected while looking at how the services can be integrated into the park. Linda Haar said that the city will discuss, but does not want to mislead the public. The reality is that the services are needed.

Public Comment

Nancy Martin, Friends of the BHI, announced that this will be the 3rd year that the Friends have conducted a clothing/toy drive for Long Island residents. They will be collecting items, please contact her for information about donations.

Bernice Mader, City of Quincy and Advisory Council, is still concerned about transportation issues. They have boat operators willing to start a pilot program with new routes at no cost. There are now new piers, and people willing to try something new at no cost. Why not try this sooner rather than later? She requested that the Operations Committee work with these new ideas. George Price said that the next Operations Committee is going to deal with immediate transportation issues and the next Planning Committee is again going to discuss long-term transportation as well.

George then announced the Moon and Long Island orientation trip sponsored by the City of Boston on December 11. Details will be forthcoming.

George Marsh, FBHI said that the Friends have continued to be very active on Long Island, and the revegetation program is moving along well.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, AC and FBHI asked about the Long Island pedestrian and bicycle access study that was done by the city. The report had been held up and she inquired about the status.

George also gave an update regarding the Thompson Island legislation. Legislation was recently passed that allows the park and the NPS to participate in the land protection option. Alden Gifford gave credit to all the efforts of Congressman Moakley, Congressman Delahunt and Senator Kennedy and the staff of the Trust for Public Lands for this accomplishment. This new language amends the park legislation. The next step is to negotiate financial arrangements and secure the funds.

George presented a listing of proposed future Partnership meetings through September 1999. He requested that if any Partners had scheduling conflicts to call him. Only if multiple Partners need to miss the same meeting will a rescheduling occur. Peter referenced a draft letter to the Mayor of Quincy concerning transportation and Gateway issues. He asked that comments from the Partners be sent to George.

The meeting was adjourned.