

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Eighteenth Meeting Minutes
January 13 , 1999 10:30am – 12:30pm
Hale & Dorr, 60 State St., Boston, MA 26th Floor**

PRESENT: Rob Moir and Claudia Smith Reid, Advisory Council; Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); James Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT)

Chairman Webber called the eighteenth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to order and declared a quorum. Richard Howe asked if Bob Durand, the newly appointed Secretary of Environmental Affairs, would be replacing Trudy Coxe on the Partnership. Peter Webber answered that he definitely is. There needs to be a formal appointment to make it official. George Price will assist in this process. The appointment letter for Andrea d'Amato is in process and expected to arrive soon.

Review of minutes from the December 9, 1998 meeting

Linda Haar said the minutes needed a correction to the first paragraph of the planning committee report. The Committee was not working on a new contract for water transportation by March 1999, but working to have recommendations to the Partnership on the components for a water transportation RFP by March 1999.

A motion was made to correct the minutes. **The motion was approved.**

Finance committee – Cathy Douglas Stone

Cathy reported that Doug Leab, DEM and Julie MacDonald, MASSPORT were the first two that turned in financial reports from 11/17/96-11/30/98. She congratulated their efforts and encouraged others to turn in their reports to Lauren Downing, NPS as soon as possible. The material will be reviewed by a sub-committee in early February. There will be a formal presentation to the Partnership at the April meeting.

Cathy said that the final draft of the state legislation is finished. Jack Delaney of Hale & Dorr is working with Peter Webber and his staff creating a legislative history. The goal is to have a synopsis of what led to this filing and have our intent on public record.

Cathy reported that George Price, Kathy Abbott and she met with Congressman Moakley. The Congressman mentioned that the calendar for appropriations is running out, and suggested that we provide him a list of projects. Cathy asked the Partners to pick a quick project priority list so that it could be presented to the Congressman within the next week. George will send out the existing project list and Partners should get back to him next week. Captain Beck suggested that small projects be included in the list as quick hits for 1999. Projects that are smaller scale, 150K or less may be successful this year. Rob Moir said it seems to make sense to put forward a list that was already agreed upon. Terry Savage said that we should respond with Congressman's request with projects that have already been thought through.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Advisory Council and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI) asked for clarification of the fiscal year. Cathy thought that the Congressman was referring to FY2000, but it would be left to his discretion where and from what year the money comes from. Captain Beck stated we should we copy the other members of Massachusetts delegation. He said the USCG would like to open Boston Light, perhaps this process could assist. Jim Cantwell, Congressman William Delahunt's Office, said that he would inform Congressman Delahunt of the project at Boston Light, and said that we could count on his support. Terry restated that our actions were in response to Congressman Moakley's request.

Planning Committee - Linda Haar

The last Planning Committee meeting was held on January 5, 1999. The topics were transportation and the alternatives. Diane Haynes, DEM is the chair of a Transportation Subcommittee that is working on a RFP for March that would cover short-term (3-5 year) transportation to the islands.

The alternatives will be presented at the next Partnership meeting on February 10, 1999. It is hoped that the Partnership can make a decision at the March meeting. An Advisory Council workshop to discuss the Preferred Alternative has been scheduled for February 23, 1999. The place and time have yet to be determined. The next committee meeting is February 2, 1999.

The newsletter introducing the alternatives went out. Feedback has started to come in. There seems to be a lot of attention on a focus on natural and historical preservation, with limited development.

Linda said the BRA and city agencies are coming to a conclusion on a RFP for Long and Moon Islands. The city is looking at a range of options including the issue of public access. The RFP should be put out soon.

Peter, on behalf of the entire Partnership, took a moment to thank Brad Swing, City of Boston for the recent field trip to Long and Moon Islands. The trip was very enjoyable and informative.

Advisory Council - Jack Wiggin

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is March 4, 1999. It is the annual meeting of the Council and the agenda will include the election of seven seats, the presentation of the annual report and an official vote on the alternatives. There is a workshop scheduled for February 23, 1999. That meeting will be a study session to discuss the alternatives. The planning committee has asked that the Advisory Council host public meetings during the General Management Plan process.

Claudia Smith Reid reported on the status of the interest groups. She handed out the organizational work plan that summarized the priorities of each group. Each group shared their mission statements and listed their initiatives. This work plan is a work in progress, mission statements for the groups are still in development. Many of the priorities of the interest groups were similar. Access to the islands and education were common themes. Each group stated their mission and initiatives:

Advocacy – George Marsh, FBHI, said that the group is continuing to look at its priorities. They found it helpful to have the information from other groups to help reduce overlap. He added that he was pleased to see so many common goals such as environmental protection, access and education among the groups.

Business and Commercial – Greg Ketchen, New England Aquarium, said that the goal of the group was to “think out of the box” and suggest a wide diversity of revenue generating & transportation options. He felt the committee should rally the business community, take more active roles.

Education and Cultural – Pat Morss, USS Constitution Museum, said that it was important to involve educational and cultural institutions. Need to identify these institutions and key individuals to get them involved. Wants to work with the Partnership and others to gather information about programs going on now.

Environmental – John Dinga, Mass Marine Educators, said that the bottom line was that development and use of the park should have focus on the marine environment. The Environmental Group wants to ensure that public use is appropriately balanced with environmental conservation.

Community Groups – Claudia Smith Reid said that the group is working to get the word out that the Boston Harbor Islands are out there. Many people do not know the islands are out there to visit and that is a barrier that needs to be brought down. Tom Lindberg, Jones Hill Neighborhood Association, stated that in the past that it was good exposure to invite state legislators on a boat tour to see the islands.

Native American – Claudia gave a summary in Edith Andrews absence. The major priorities of the Native American group are to increase awareness of the history of the Native Americans and connect a spiritual message with education materials.

Claudia introduced one of the projects the group is working on, a local newspaper insert. The text of the insert will serve as an invitation to the islands and answer the who, what, where, when and how questions. She passed out a sheet with the ten most commonly asked questions and invited all to send comments on the appropriate answers to her. Rob Moir thought that it was a

good idea to put together the proper answers as a group, working closely with the NPS. Linda Haar thought that the newspaper insert was a great idea, that the questions were important and straightforward and would encourage visitation.

Terry Savage said that when the work plan is done, it should be part of our communications sent to the Department of Interior. It shows that the Advisory Council has but together an agenda that is supportive of Boston Harbor Islands and the Partnership, and that the Council is really making a difference, and really working hard. Peter Webber applauded the effort saying that even in early stages it is an impressive document. George Price also applauded the effort and added that this a model park and we just heard from a model Advisory Council; we are setting the standard.

Mission Statement - Bruce Jacobson

Bruce spoke of the importance of having a mission statement. It is required as part of the General Management Plan and provides context in the National Park system. Beyond that, there is great value in having a clear statement that tells where the park is going. If we don't know where we are going, how can we get there? Bruce hopes that this presentation will be the beginning of continued dialogue about adopting a mission statement.

The mission statement should be a single statement that describes the park's purpose and significance. The purpose is a clear statement that tells why the park is here. The significance is in the national context, what makes it really special and doesn't exist anywhere else. An example of Boston Harbor Islands national significance is that the islands are drumlins, and that the park is an island system in an urban setting with 35 miles of undeveloped shoreline. The mission statement will serve as a summary statement and a marketing tool. The process of development should start with the review of key documents. The enabling legislation contained the purpose for the park, to preserve and protect and also manage the recreation area and improve access, public water transportation and education, including Native American education.

There was a mission statement draft printed in the planning committee newsletter, although the version has not been adopted by the Partnership. A summary statement is still needed. A way to think about creating a summary statement is to fill in the blanks of this sentence, "We are in the business to do _____ for _____."

Rob Moir applauded the effort of creating a mission statement but thought the draft statement was flawed. He was concerned with the continued use of National Recreational Area in the title. He noted that recreation comes before education in the current draft mission statement. He said that great care should be taken when crafting the statement. Claudia said that it was voted at a Partnership meeting, with Native Americans present, that recreation would not be used in the way we describe the park. She also mentioned the significance of the treatment facility, that it is how we keep the harbor clean, that it is also a national model.

Peter Webber said that this topic is very important, and that ideas for the statement be forwarded to Bruce. The planning committee will coordinate a sub-committee to work on it. James Doolin asked if there were examples of good and bad mission statements to be aware of. Linda Haar said that by the next planning committee, everyone should get Bruce the points that they feel should be included. Suzanne Gall Marsh said that the upcoming Advisory Council meetings could be used as an opportunity to get the public involved.

Public Comment

Nancy Martin, FBHI said that the Friends are already busy working toward the start of the season. There is only one winter wildlife cruise planned this year. It will be a cruise to Thompson Island on March 6, from 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Flyers will be forthcoming.

Karen O'Donnell, FBHI added that this is an anniversary for the Friends that they are celebrating their 20th year of service.

George Marsh, FBHI announced the Friends Annual meeting on February 7, at the Coast Guard base in the North End at 2:00 PM. Barbara Mackey, NPS, will speak about the status of the planning process.

Peter Webber called attention to the letter to Secretary Babbitt and encouraged everyone to read it.

George Price said that there was an updated schedule of Partnership meetings in the package. Next month the meeting will be almost entirely devoted to the planning alternatives. All informational items should be just submitted in writing.

Claudia Smith Reid said that the Partnership meetings as scheduled are conflicting with many board meetings of the MWRA, and wondered if it was possible to alter the schedule.

George said to direct all requests for changes in the schedule to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM.