

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Twentieth Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 1999 10:30am – 12:30pm  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State St., Boston, MA 26<sup>th</sup> Floor**

*As Corrected*

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); 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); Douglas MacDonald, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); James Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT)

Chairman Webber called the twentieth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to order and declared a quorum.

**Review of minutes from the February 10, 1999 meeting**

There was a motion to accept the minutes. **The motion was approved.**

**Planning Committee – Discussion of Alternatives**

The Planning Committee was scheduled to present Alternative C as the preferred alternative for official vote today. The Advisory Council expressed concerns with the timeline of the vote. The Council requested that the Partnership consider postponing the vote for one month. Jack Wiggin expressed that they did not want to unnecessarily delay the planning process, but simply did not have adequate time to review. They held a special workshop in February, and intended to make a formal recommendation at the March 4 meeting. At the March 4 meeting, they were presented with Alternative C for the first time. Linda Haar thought that it was a reasonable request, and that it would not interfere with the planning process.

Linda briefly described the overall concept of Alternative C, which combined many key features of both Alternatives A & B. Suzanne Gall Marsh, Advisory Council, asked for clarification for the title of “integrated management plan”, and asked if it could be changed to “management framework”. It was thought that it could, if specific language was used. Linda said this would be discussed.

Barbara Mackey, NPS, presented Alternative C in more detail. She explained the new definition and colors for the management areas. The area formerly titled “resource-based recreational area” (blue) had been perceived as a high impact area. To reduce confusion it was re-titled “managed landscape area” and given a light green color. Peter Webber invited Partner and public discussion.

There was discussion about the types of activities the plan would allow, and the definition of “resource based activities”. Some wanted activities that were resource-based only. There was a concern expressed about this. Limiting activities in this manner could exclude potential fund raising activities, and could prevent some visitors from getting to the islands for the first time. There was general agreement that the plan should not be restrictive, but should contain broad-based ideas that would help the Partnership define criteria for judging appropriate activities. There was also general agreement that maximizing visitation was desired. Also, when choosing

an activity, the impact on the resources should be of utmost importance and income generation should never interfere with resource protection. Other aspects were discussed. It was thought that the plan currently did not accurately reflect the existing conditions of the islands. It was mentioned that there was very little reference to Native American issues and concerns in the plan. Linda made a motion for the Partnership to endorse the concepts present in Alternative C while the Planning Committee continued to refine it with the comments received from the Advisory Council and the public. **The motion was passed.** The final vote was scheduled for the April meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Cathy Douglas Stone passed out a survey for the Partners to fill out about renovations, remediations and improvements needed for each island. The intention of the survey was to bring focus to existing conditions on the islands. Cathy encouraged all to participate by completing the forms with as much detail as possible. Rob Moir stated the importance of the forms; they could open opportunities for funding. Cathy reminded the Partners that some capital and operating budgets have yet to be received by the committee.

George Price reported that he received official notification that three construction projects have now been funded. The three include \$761k for the seawall at George's Island (BOHA 001), \$103k for pier work at Gallop's Island and \$66.5k for restroom improvements at Thompson Island. In each of these cases, the funds will be passed through to the island owner to accomplish the projects. The projects were based on the original submittals of the Partnership through the NPS process. However, the seawall project was funded through the efforts of Senator Kennedy and the congressional delegation and supported by the letters of Peter Webber as the Chair of the Partnership, and Mayor Menino. In addition, NPS Regional Director Marie Rust and Deputy RD Sandy Walter were instrumental in obtaining the funds for the other two projects.

George said that the recent congressional staff briefing meeting he and Cathy Douglas Stone, Chair of Finance & Legislative Committee, attended in DC was very positive. They met with the staff from the entire Massachusetts delegation. The staff showed intense interest and requested reports of matching money.

Cathy reported that there was discussion to add contract language to the draft state legislation. It was thought that it could be beneficial to the islands if the Partnership had the ability to contract for terms in excess of 5 years. Protections would be built in for excessively long contracts. A yes vote of two-thirds of the legislature would be needed to change the current law. Vivian Li, Advisory Council, said that Jane Swift of the governor's staff was very knowledgeable on the issue, and it appeared that the Governor would look favorably on it.

Cathy said that the congressional staff asked for a tour of the islands. It was thought that the trip should be arranged, and important the Partners attend. Edith Andrews asked about the possibility of changing the park's name in federal legislation. Cathy said that they did not seem receptive to doing so, but not for a philosophic reason, just that it would be politically difficult. They thought that changing the name in state legislation would be a good compromise. Edith felt that a Native American delegation should be included in the meetings. Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee, also felt that they should maintain a continuous push for the name change. Rob Moir added that the name of the park is not as important as the actions of the Partnership, which needs to continue to show a respect for Native American concerns and values.

### **Advisory Council Report**

Jack Wiggin, Advisory Council, reported that the Council held the first annual meeting on March 4 which was very well attended, almost 100 people. There was an election held to replace the members that started with a one-year term. The current chair and vice-chair were reelected, names of other nominees will be provided. An additional Council meeting scheduled April 8 to discuss Alternative C. The draft annual report was presented and should be finalized at the April 8 meeting. There was also a vote taken that recommended adding Snake Island to the park. Rob Moir made a motion for the Partnership to recognize Snake Island as part of the park. There was discussion that the federal law does permit minor boundary adjustments. The motion was amended to include Snake Island, Nix's Mate, and Shag Rock into the park for the planning process. **The motion was carried.**

### **Other Reports**

Dick Silverman was introduced as the new president of the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. He said that the organization and its members were very dedicated to their mission of becoming a professional volunteer organization for the Boston Harbor Islands. There was a report prepared from a composite of comments, criticisms and suggestions the group had received, which will be used to reach their goals. He thanked Brian Broderick for his assistance. Dick asked that all comments or suggestions be directed to him. Peter Webber said that the Partnership looked forward to a strong relationship with the Friends.

### **Public Comment**

Gary McCann said that there was an issue raised by Sam Sapiel at the last Advisory Council meeting. He said Sam requested that National Park Service Planner, Barbara Mackey make the same presentation to the tribal governments that she had done at Advisory Council and Partnership meetings. He said that the consultation process is their right per federal law. Peter said that he and George will work on dates for the required meetings and that the Partnership is committed to the issue. Rob Moir asked if Gary and Sam could host a meeting before the public hearing. Gary replied that the meeting requires official protocol through the consultation process before that could be arranged.

Suzanne Gall Marsh requested that the Operations Committee give a report to the Partnership about summer operations at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Peter Webber said that there was a funding issue that crossed between the Marketing and Finance Committees. Events that benefit the park as a whole, may need match money from the Partnership. Up until this time, the Partnership has dealt with these types of issues on an ad hoc basis. This year the kick-off weekend will have two events. It required an investment of \$5,000 to add an event this year. Island Alliance and the National Park Service contributed \$1,000 each and Boston Harbor Cruises contributed \$3,000. It could be beneficial to set up a pool of funds to meet some opportunities that are seen as having a park wide benefit. It would be a way for all partners to contribute.

Island Alliance has been successful in identifying a funder for a possible event this season. They have \$100k in seed money for a night of music and theater on George's Island but probably need \$100k-\$150k in match money to run the pilot program and are looking for other funding sources.

Jim Doolin added that it was important for the Partnership to get a full understanding of the Spectacle Island project. Last month there was a vote to support a grant letter based on the concept of the project but the details were needed. Peter agreed that it was a priority issue and asked that it be included on the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

The next Partnership meeting will be held Thursday, April 15, at 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23