

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Twenty-first Meeting Minutes
April 15, 1999 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Hale & Dorr, 60 State St., Boston, MA 26th Floor

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Commander Sue Bibeau, US Coast Guard (USCG); James Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); 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); Betsy Shure-Gross representing Secretary Robert Durand for informational purposes, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Douglas MacDonald, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC);

Chairman Webber called the twenty-first meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to order and declared a quorum. He introduced Jay Kiely, from Representative Michael Capuano's office and welcomed him as a newly appointed ex-officio to the Advisory Council.

Review of minutes from the March 10, 1999 meeting

James Doolin noted that his request for the details of the Spectacle Island project were omitted and asked that they be added. Maynard Goldman asked that the record be corrected to reflect his attendance at the meeting. There was a motion to accept the minutes with the requested revisions. **The motion was approved.**

Planning Committee – Discussion of Alternatives

Linda Haar stated that the Planning Committee was pleased to present the refined Alternative C to the Partnership. She briefly described the key features and Barbara Mackey, NPS, gave an overview of the map of management areas.

Linda opened the floor for questions and asked the Advisory Council to comment. Rob Moir referred to the letter that Jack Wiggin wrote on behalf of the Advisory Council. The letter contained recommendations for the draft management plan, and Rob noted that Alternative C incorporated the comments of that letter. He stated that he was very proud of the efforts of the Planning Committee, and that the meetings were very well attended by Advisory Council members. Jack Wiggin added that all the interest groups were involved in the discussion regarding the recommendations. The Advisory Council considered Alternative C a guide; they expect a great more detail as the plan develops. They will continue to give input as things progress.

Linda said that the objective is to get an endorsement of the general concept before the details are drafted. The draft plan is now being developed, the date of publication should be known by the May Partnership meeting. There will be sixty days for public comment after the date of publication. There will be one or two public meetings scheduled during that period, details to be announced. There will be official notice of the plan, and it will be directly mailed to all officials and available to anyone that requests one. There will also be a summary available that will be less cumbersome and should illustrate the key points clearly. George Price, NPS, added that there would also be consultation with the federally recognized tribes during this time, to cover issues regarding the planning process and NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

There was discussion regarding Alternative C. Cathy Douglas Stone added that she would like the comments from the Harbor Vision Charrette to be officially recognized as one of the first documents in the record of public process. Jack added that the Youth Charrette was mentioned in the recommendation letter to the Partnership.

There was a motion made to congratulate the Boston Harbor Islands Planning Committee and Advisory Council on their extensive work and accomplishments in bringing together a strong consensus around a preferred alternative for the Draft General Management Plan, and support the key features that have been presented in Alternative C. Therefore, it is the sense of the Partnership that Alternative C be endorsed as the preferred Alternative to be presented to the public in the Draft General Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), with the clear understanding that the Partnership will not adopt a proposal for action in the final EIS until after it has consulted further with the general public and Advisory Council, held consultation with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and received input from any other appropriate interested parties. **The motion was carried.**

Finance Committee

Cathy Douglas Stone reminded everyone that the financial information is still needed from many Partners. It is essential to know what is being spent now to determine match money. Only the USCG has turned in both the park expenditures to date and the five-year operating budget. She asked that all Partners that have not yet submitted the information respond to Lauren Downing, NPS, and advise her of status of the reports. The Finance Committee is also looking for a list of capital projects for each agency. This information is important to understand the current condition of the islands and what is needed in the way of remediations, renovations or improvements. Details are needed for each; a form to fill out was given to each Partner.

Peter asked for clarification of park related expenses. Cathy gave the example of Long Island. The expenses for the human services complex would not qualify, but perhaps the bridge infrastructure improvements, or additional electrical needs could, as they relate to public use. She gave an example on the converse as well, saying that the USCG supports a lot that should not count as a federal contribution, as they would have the same legal requirement if the park disappeared. Commander Sue Bibeau responded by explaining the way they presented their operating expenses. The 1989 legislation required a staffed light. She felt that this cost is park-related as the motivation for the order was historic enjoyment. The light is now automated, and she hoped the Partnership would support her request to Washington to lower costs and remove the staff off of the light and replace them with a civilian that did not live on the island.

The "combined call" for NPS project spending for FY2001 was announced. The responses are due back to Bruce Jacobson, NPS, by May 7.

There was discussion about creating a fund, managed by the Finance Committee, that the Partnership could use to support small park-wide projects such as marketing, events, and education. The money that Partners put in the fund would be subject to the match.

Marketing Committee

There was a presentation of the Partnership's web page that is expected to be ready by Memorial Day. The new page will be the official visitor guide, the place to go when planning a trip. The NPS web page will have information about the management structure of the park, the official reference guide. Bruce Jacobson, NPS, reminded the Partners that comments were invited on the page through the Marketing Committee in March. It was asked that comments be given in two

categories: 1) have to be changed by May and 2) future improvements. Please have comments to Bruce Jacobson by April 23.

Advisory Council Report

Jack Wiggan thanked the staff of the courthouse for hosting the last meeting. At that meeting, the election process was completed. The Massport proposal to expand Logan Airport was discussed and it was voted to make comments regarding the EIS.

New Business

Kathy Abbott reported on the status of the Fan Pier visitor information center. The center consists of a retail area (hopefully run in partnership with the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands), an information desk staffed by a ranger team, an interactive Discovery Center a McDonald's restaurant and restrooms. It is scheduled to open on May 31, a grand opening is scheduled for the summer. The center will be a model of a small gateway and it is hoped that the center will generate revenue in time. Coca-Cola Foundation donated \$100k for the Discovery Center. Bruce Jacobson is managing the exhibit development, which is being designed by Jeff Kennedy Associates. The exhibit will be an interactive program designed to get families and children excited about visiting the islands.

Public Comment

Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that they are gearing up for the season and are actively recruiting and training. She invited anyone with an interest in volunteering to contact her. Karen O'Donnell announced the March for Parks on Peddock's Island on April 24.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee, asked for clarification of when the sixty-day public comment period would begin. Barbara Mackey answered that the exact date was not yet known. The earliest it could possibly be was mid-June, she expects to know more by the next Partnership meeting. Gary requested that a May 10 meeting of Native Americans be tied in with the next Planning Committee meeting. Linda Haar said that the next meeting topic was water transportation, not alternatives. She said that there would be someone available at the May 10 meeting to discuss the alternatives, and that there would be a Planning Committee meeting scheduled after that so that feedback could be heard.

Richard Howe announced an orientation trip to World's End. He added that accommodations could be made for those that need alternate transportation within the park. Please make any special needs known when reserving a space.

Cathy Douglas Stone expressed gratitude on behalf of the Partnership, to Luke Thompson for his work with the park, and wished him well with his new position at the State Treasurer's Office.

The July Partnership meeting was changed to Thursday, July 15, at 10:00 AM. It was agreed that all of the meeting times be changed to 10:00 AM—12:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.