

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Twenty-fourth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, Boston, MA, 26th Floor
July 15, 1999, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Bob Durand, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance (IA); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC);

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

Review of minutes from the May 12, 1999, and June 9, 1999, meetings

Claudia Smith-Reid was present at the June 9, meeting representing the Advisory Council, not Edith Andrews as stated. The date of the Nut Island groundbreaking ceremony has been changed to Friday, September 10, at 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM.

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of the May meeting and to accept the minutes of the June meeting with the above change. **The motion was carried.**

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee recommended that Bob Durand, Secretary of Environmental Affairs serve as Partnership Chair.

There will not be a nomination for Vice-chair at this time. After careful deliberation, it was determined that Cathy Douglas Stone was the desired candidate. The committee felt that it was appropriate to have state and city representatives serve as officers. Cathy is not being nominated at this time because the interim bylaws that were adopted specified that officers can not serve more than two consecutive one-year terms. The interim bylaws allow the current officer to serve until there is a nomination for a new officer voted in. The Nominating Committee will bring forward a nomination and proposed changes to the bylaws in the fall. The Nominating Committee recommended that Cathy Douglas Stone continue to serve as Vice-chair.

There was a motion made to close the nominations. **The motion was unanimously accepted.** There was a motion made to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, elect Bob Durand as Partnership Chair, and not nominate a Vice-chair at this time. **The motion was unanimously accepted.**

Peter Webber passed the gavel to Bob Durand. Bob commended Peter for his outstanding service as Partnership Chair and recognized his commitment to the entire park system and his passion for environmental protection. Terry Savage thanked Peter on behalf of the Partnership and presented a plaque commemorating his years of service. Peter thanked all of the Partners that gave him the honor to serve as chair and said that he thought the enterprise would continue to grow under the outstanding leadership of Secretary Durand. Rob Moir presented a piece of

pudding stone as a thank you to Peter on behalf of the Advisory Council. The stone is a symbol and reminder of the conglomerate nature of the Partnership.

Bob Durand stated that he looked forward to creating a working partnership between the federal, state, city and private entities. He said that he would work to enhance the quality of life in the commonwealth by keeping community preservation, environmental protection and education foremost in mind and in action. He has appointed special assistants to help him reach this goal.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee did not meet since the last Partnership meeting, but there was a joint sub-committee meeting with the Finance Committee. The draft management plan is nearing completion so there is the need to coordinate the committees and clarify the process of how to implement the management plan. The Planning Committee will take the lead in developing a five-year strategic plan and, in cooperation with the Finance Committee, will create a system for prioritizing projects.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviewed the submittals to the committee for the NPS combined funding call, identified qualifying projects and submitted through the NPS process. The committee is also continuing work on the draft funding assumptions.

Operations Committee

The Safety sub-committee completed a draft matrix for the law enforcement jurisdictions covering the islands and the harbor area. The committee will solicit input from the surrounding cities and towns to complete the information for accuracy and cooperation.

The Operations Committee will be meeting to discuss how the islands may be highlighted during Sail 2000, how they may be affected by use, and will make recommendations to the Partnership. Individual island owners have been meeting on the event; the committee will look at how we might participate as a whole park.

Other Reports

Little Brewster

The floating dock is being modified and the float will be moved out to the island on Tuesday, with the opening ceremony scheduled for July 27, at 11:00 at Fan Pier.

Fan Pier

The Boston Harbor Islands retail area and the McDonald's are now in operation. Please contact Kathy Abbott if interested in selling goods on consignment. There is a reception previewing the opening of the Discovery Center exhibit on August 11, the grand opening will be on Thursday, August 12.

Harbor Walk

Linda Haar reported that the harbor walk will be 43 miles long and is now substantially complete. An example of the signage was presented. The signs are already up in various locations around town and were designed to entice people to come to the waterfront. Brochures and maps are also in development.

Thompson Island

Last year, the Partnership sent a letter to Senator Kennedy in support of the conservation easement for Thompson Island. Recently, Congressmen Delahunt, Capuano and Moakley have also supported the effort in a major way. There was 2.5 million dollars requested originally, and through the efforts of The Trust for Public Lands, the House has reported out \$2M, and the Senate has reported out \$500K. The full conference meeting is expected to occur in September and the actual amount of the funding should be known at that time.

Advisory Council

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for September 16, at 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. The council looks forward to the opportunity to assist with the review of the draft management plan and help with the community outreach during the public comment period. At the June 3 meeting, the council requested an orientation trip to Peddock's Island. Brian Broderick said that the MDC would be happy to host a trip. There have been provisions made for temporary landing, so a trip would be possible by late summer or early fall. The council has been working on a budget and is following up on a funding lead supplied by the Island Alliance to support operations. Rob Moir said that because this council is part of the Partnership, a large portion of the budget is actually the Partnership budget but additional funds are needed to fulfill the mission. It is very important that the fundraising for the council not conflict with fundraising for the park.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, mentioned that there should be follow up on state legislation that was submitted in 1996 for 50 million dollars for the park. It could not be passed until the park legislation passed. The money was certainly never received, but the exact fate of the bill was unknown. She also stated that public access can coexist with the social services program on Long Island and asked that the Partnership make public access to the island a priority. She also said that she realized that the MDC has made a commitment to get Peddock's island open and said that fall was the best time to visit and asked that the season be extended through October. Brian Broderick said that he was aware of the value of extending the season. The MDC is now working to open the island this season. Extending the season is an issue of budget and seasonal staffing; rangers are often not available past August or September.

Bob Krim, Boston History Collaborative, thanked everyone involved for their help with the Boston by Sea tours. The on-land tours have started and the on-water tours will begin next year. The brochures are out and he hopes the program will bring more people out to the harbor.

Doug MacDonald, MWRA, said that a cornerstone of the agency has been to clean up the harbor and move the discharge point to Massachusetts Bay. The 9.5 mile outfall pipes are very close to completion. The improved health of the harbor is increasingly evident with many new lobster pots, increased use by swimmers and water-skiers and events like the Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, Swim Boston and Soundwaves '99.

Gary McCann said that there was discussion of having a Native American history symposium next summer. There will be another meeting about the history symposium after a meeting regarding NAGPRA issues and the review of the draft management plan has been held.

The next Partnership meeting will be held September 16th at 10:00 AM. The meeting location will be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.