

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Twenty-sixth Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, Boston, MA, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
October 21, 1999, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Claudia Smith-Reid, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance (IA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; Bob Durand, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); George Price, National Park Service (NPS); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)

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

**Review of minutes from the September 16, 1999, meeting**

Richard Howe made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting. The motion was seconded. **The motion was carried.**

**Report from the Island Alliance**

Kathy Abbott began the report by revisiting the purpose of the Island Alliance. Island Alliance was written into the park legislation as the nonprofit Partner whose sole purpose is to provide financial support to the park. The goal of Island Alliance is to contribute private resources to the development and operation of the park by fundraising, generating revenue, increasing access and amenities, and increasing awareness.

The fundraising objective for this year was 750,000 dollars and they are on target. Next year the goal is one million dollars. It is hoped to return directly to the park ninety cents on every dollar raised; currently, they are returning eighty cents on every dollar. Island Alliance will not be a membership driven organization as it does not want to compete with other harbor nonprofit groups. However, 95% of all philanthropic donations come from individuals, so this year they have created the "Drumlin Society" to capture higher end individual donations.

Another objective for this year was to begin to demonstrate the potential for generating revenue in the park. It was thought that the majority of monies raised through revenue generation should be off island because of concerns for natural and cultural resources. This year a retail store was opened at Fan Pier; the majority of sales were from times before and after trips to Little Brewster. One approach to increase sales would be to increase trips from Fan Pier. Another approach to increase sales is to take merchandise to other locations, such as Long Wharf, Hewitt's Cove and the boats.

The grant-funded program to Little Brewster was incredibly well received, and it is hoped that it can be expanded and becomes self-supporting, as is not included in any Partners budget. The Island Alliance will work to find a short-term way to help continue to fund the program. The curriculum project is now in its second year. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been raised. There have been over 2000 school children and 50 teachers involved to date.

The web page is on-line and being improved. Massport has supported a diorama at Logan Airport and bus placards. There was increased promotion of the islands this year. Fundraising for local promotions continues to be a challenge.

Year 2000 goals include raising one million dollars, managing the Boston Harbor Islands economic development component of the park strategic plan, and working to get the state legislation passed and increasing the return from revenue producing projects.

### **Water Transportation Update**

Diane Haynes, DEM reported that the preferred water transportation contract would have multiple vendors and a sustainable shuttle funded by landing fees. After several meetings with agency personnel, it became apparent that the preferred plan could not be implemented at this time. The state cannot charge fees and keep them in a park-wide account, so the shuttle could not be supported. EOTC was asked for funds to support a water shuttle. If these funds are received, it could still be possible to go with a multiple vendor scenario. The committee is waiting for the final results before they commit to a single operator. The next contract will probably be written for a term of two years. The RFR's should be sent out by November.

### **Planning Committee Report**

Linda Haar reported that Barbara Mackey, NPS, has been diligently responding to comments that have been coming in. She and a smaller group of the Planning Committee have been working through the issues and integrating them. She said that they realize that people are interested in knowing if their comments have been incorporated and said that the report will be available to view at Barbara's office in about a week. She congratulated Barbara on her hard work. It looks like the public review period is on schedule to begin in January or February.

Barbara said that the official National Park Service review is beginning now. Bruce Jacobson, NPS, is leading the efforts developing the five-year strategic plan. He will contact the committees to get input about the priorities of each committee.

The Planning Committee is also working on a summary brochure. It is intended to concisely summarize the draft general management plan for the general public and also help advertise the park. The brochure will be available by the time the draft is released.

### **Finance Committee**

Cathy Douglas Stone introduced the funding assumptions that the Finance Committee had been working on since May. The assumptions address the issues of revenue generation, fee retention and the transfer of funds between the Partners. She asked that they be reviewed in preparation for a discussion and a vote at a later date. Bob Durand said that he had reviewed the draft and was supportive.

The work on the state legislation continues. She extended an open invitation for the next meeting on November 5. The committee will make a presentation regarding the state legislation at the December meeting.

Cathy said that the report on match money should also be ready in December. This information was requested by the delegation and should be ready for the next meeting with them.

### **Bylaws Committee**

Rob Moir introduced the revised draft bylaws for the Partnership. He asked the Partners to review the bylaws; the committee will ask for a vote at the November meeting. Please direct any requested changes to George Price. He will make any editorial changes and will call the committee together if there are major issues. He also requested that the Advisory Council review the bylaws. The most significant change has to do with proposed term limits. The committee felt that it was important to have continuity in the chair and vice-chair positions because of the complex nature of the Partnership, but also wanted to ensure that there was opportunity to move around. The committee felt that the chair and vice-chair positions should serve in one-year terms, with a limit of three years. The other changes were minor, mostly updates on existing committee structure.

Dick Howe reminded everyone that the bylaws were being reviewed at this time because the Partnership had adopted interim bylaws, but not a final version. The vote on the final bylaws was held until the Advisory Council was sent up. He stressed the need to adopt final bylaws.

### **Marketing Committee**

Kathy Abbott reported that the Marketing Committee was working on the plan for year 2000 which includes branding initiatives for the park and a signage program. She introduced the committee's draft Role and Function Statement.

### **Operations Committee**

George Price reported that Operations Committee was discussing law enforcement issues of the islands surrounding Sail 2000. There will be follow up discussion to get an understanding of the issues. A mooring proposal was discussed. The committee also discussed an opportunity to get a grant for a youth program through the NPS. An eligible program would be work-based and focused on backlog maintenance. It would be a collaborative effort of other parks, and youth groups affiliated with the Partnership. There will also be an educational component to the groups experience. George requested input from the island owners about possible projects. The application deadline is December.

### **Education Committee**

George Price reported that the work continues on a web-based educational resource guide for the Boston Harbor Islands. The next Education Committee meeting will be a combined meeting with the Island Alliance Curriculum Advisory Committee. Bob Durand said that environmental education is being pulled back from statewide curriculums. He is working with the Department of Education, trying to get it placed back in. He asked that other members of the Partnership also write letters supporting environmental education in the schools.

### **Advisory Council Report**

Jack Wiggin reported that all new members of the Advisory Council have received their appointment letters from the Director of the National Park Service.

He said that the Council is eagerly awaiting the release of the draft general management plan. Barbara Mackey gave an update on the status of the plan. She said that the Advisory Council would play a vital role in the public comment period. The planning team is hosting two public meetings and the Advisory Council has offered to host six to eight additional meetings. The NPS will also participate in those meetings. Jack said that the Council would also get input from the constituency of the seven interest groups. They also want to get the information out to

community and in ethnic newspapers in languages other than English. The Council suggested that the planning team publish another issue of Newswave.

Jack reported that they have received grant money from the Merck Family Fund to support efforts of public outreach. It will be used to support staffing of efforts. Island Alliance will be serving as the fiscal agent.

The Council began a discussion to review last summer at the park at the last meeting. They would like to formalize the comments in the form of a report card after every season. The Council wants to express the visitor experience to the Partnership and thought that a report card would be a good format to pull together all comments, both positive and negative. Linda Haar thought that the report card was an excellent idea. Monitoring has been a main topic while developing the strategic plan. She said that the report card would be a great way to get internal review. Vivien Li, The Boston Harbor Association, said that she had heard many positive comments regarding Little Brewster and the Courthouse space. Both projects were a positive credit to the Partnership.

The next Advisory Council meeting is December 9, at the New England Aquarium at 4:00 PM.

### **Friends and Volunteers of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI)**

Dick Silverman reported that the Friends board is expanding in both quality and numbers. They are developing a way to geographically assign volunteers to specific areas to improve recruiting efforts. It will also help reach new members and broaden public relations and publicity.

They are also working to establish the needs of the Partners and matching them with FBHI resources. Dick will be meeting with each Partner to get their input. Dick said that the Friends continue to work toward becoming more professional but will not lose the "people friendly aspect".

Dick said that Nancy Martin is leaving the Friends to take on other opportunities. Nancy has done a wonderful job and will be greatly missed. Bob Durand suggested that a letter be drafted from the Partnership thanking her for all her fine work.

### **Public Comment**

Jim Peters, Executive Director, Commission on Indian Affairs, was introduced. He said that he was looking forward to working with the Partnership.

Brian Broderick said that there had been inaccurate information circulated about damage to the pier on Lovell's Island. The pier did sustain float damage but it is repairable by in-house staff. The pier should be operational next spring. He also reported that the Halloween program sponsored by Radio Disney on George's Island was expanded this year. The first weekend had disappointing attendance. They expect much higher attendance Halloween weekend if the weather holds out.

The next Partnership meeting will be Thursday, November 18, at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Hale and Dorr.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.