

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Twenty-ninth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor Boston, MA
January 20, 2000, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, US Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Peter Lewenberg, representing Bob Durand, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; George Price, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

Cathy Douglas Stone, Vice-Chair, called the twenty-ninth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to order and declared a quorum.

Review of minutes from the December 16, 1999, meeting

Cathy Douglas Stone made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 16 meeting. The motion was seconded. **The motion was carried.**

Education Project

Kathy Abbott said that the Island Alliance had been involved with an education project that had recently been turned over to the Education Committee of the Partnership. She introduced Laura Chesson, Center for Collaborative Education (CCE), to give an overview of the project. Laura explained that the Boston Harbor Islands Education Project (BHIEP) implements an integrated, hands-on, inquiry-based, research-focused interdisciplinary curriculum for Greater Boston public school students that uses the Boston Harbor Islands as the vehicle for learning. The pilot program started with 90 students and has now reached 7 schools, 60 teachers and 1,500 students. Teachers and students drive the content of the curriculum. There will be global access to this curriculum for students, teachers, educators, and families via the website www.BostonIslands.com/learn. The curriculum is standards-based and fits in Massachusetts frameworks. There are plans to expand the program in the existing schools and introduce it to new schools throughout Massachusetts. One of the biggest challenges of the program is the cost of transportation to the islands. Suzanne Gall Marsh, Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, suggested that Long Island would be a good location for field trips because it could be reached by bus.

There was discussion about the project. Sam Sapiel voiced a concern that Native American history is being overlooked. Laura said that CCE is the facilitator of the program, the teachers and students develop the curriculum. George Price invited Sam to submit educational materials to the Education Committee.

Planning Committee

Linda Haar said that the Planning Committee was taking a broad look at transportation issues to try to get under served populations access to the islands. This includes ground transport to the waterfront and involves building upon systems that are already in existence. The committee is working with George Price and is applying for an alternative transportation grant through the

Federal Government in collaboration with other NPS sites in the region. Jim Doolin suggested that alternative fuels be worked into the submission.

The Planning Committee discussed interest in establishing a design review sub-committee. It is not suggested that the sub-committee have a regulatory function, but that it could be the vehicle to bring the Partnership's perspective to the design process early on for infrastructure development in the park. Linda asked if the Partnership endorsed the idea. The Partners asked for more details. Linda will work with Jim Doolin and others to establish a purpose statement for the sub-committee.

Linda reported that the discussions with the Central Artery about the design of the Spectacle Island visitor center continued. The Partners requested an update on the overall status of Spectacle Island, and a report was scheduled for the next Partnership meeting.

Finance Committee

Bill Dickerson, Massport, presented an outline of target due dates for financial reports. He also suggested that each report carry a declaration from a high-level agency official stating that it was examined and is complete and accurate. If expenditures are not supported and easily available to the auditors, the park could lose out of federal dollars. Bill said that the Finance Committee will make site visits to prepare for an auditor's visit.

The financial reporting timeline was discussed. Samantha Overton Bussell Bussell, MDC, asked if there was any flexibility on the dates, as the August date conflicted with other major reports. Brian Broderick had concerns about reporting every six months. Cathy Douglas Stone said that the due dates can be changed and the 6-month reporting time was intended to make things easier not harder; she hoped that the reports could become more and more routine over time.

Marketing Committee

Kathy Abbott said that the Marketing Committee has been working on defining priorities and assigning dollar values to them. The committee has identified the events calendar as a priority, but this year, the printing is not in any Partner's budget. DEM has paid for the printing in the past. It is a timely issue that needs to be solved as the calendar needs to be ready for distribution before the start of the season. Samantha Overton Bussell, MDC, said that she would check with her agency to see if they could contribute to the printing costs.

Advisory Committee

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council, gave a report on the recent study session, which focused on the public meetings about the draft General Management Plan. There will be at least seven public meetings hosted by Advisory Council members and they will be held in locations that mirrored the original public meetings about the park. The dates for the meeting rely on the publication date of the draft and will probably be held near the middle or end of the 60-day period, now targeted for late April or early May. The council was concerned that the 60-day public comment clock would begin before the document was actually in people's hands and suggested a delay in starting the clock that the planning team agreed to.

Suzanne mentioned that the Project Office assisted in setting up a conference call for the nominating committee, and that it was very helpful. She requested that this assistance be available to all of the interest groups, and George Price agreed.

Public Comment

Bob Krim, Boston History Collaborative, gave an update on the "Boston by Sea" program that will begin this May. It is a 90-minute boat tour that focuses on ten different sites around Boston Harbor. The tour includes live theater, song and film. Bob invited all to a preview on February 28.

Mary Corcoran invited all to a meeting of science educators on March 2 at Deer Island. George Price is scheduled to speak. Call her for more information.

Dick Silverman, Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, invited all to the Friends Annual Meeting. Bob Durand is scheduled to speak. The meeting will be held on February 6 at the USCG base.

Alex Hall, MDC, announced the February 12 winter wildlife cruise.

George Price introduced Mel Yates, a student intern from Australia that is working with the Island Alliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.