

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Thirtieth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
February 17, 2000, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance (IA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority; 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); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

Bob Durand, Chair, called the thirtieth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to order and declared a quorum.

Opening Comments

Secretary Durand announced that the Governor has submitted \$300k in the " House 1" budget for FY2001 to open Peddock's Island. The state also added funds to support DEM/MDC seasonal staff accounts.

George Price announced recent NPS funding. The park recently was awarded:

- \$452k from a HAZMAT/Underground Storage Tank program
- \$240k for a 3-year study to determine carrying capacity of the islands
- \$75k to begin a natural resource inventory
- \$78k from a cyclic maintenance program to assist with infrastructure improvement

Kathy Abbott and Captain Chuck Beck presented a picture of the public opening day of Little Brewster Island to commend Bob Durand's efforts as Chair. The photograph signified an early action success that was accomplished by the cooperative efforts of the Partnership.

Spectacle Island Update

Greg Ketchen, New England Aquarium, gave a brief introduction to the Spectacle Island Project and introduced Diane Haynes, DEM and Chris Busch, City of Boston.

Diane Haynes explained that a large number of parties are involved in the Spectacle Island project. The Central Artery is doing the initial construction and turning the former landfill site into a park. The island is owned by the City of Boston and DEM, is part of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area, and will be operated by a management team consisting of the New England Aquarium, University of Massachusetts Urban Harbors Institute and Modern Continental. The Spectacle Island Project Advisory Committee (SIPAC) continues to be actively involved with the development the island.

Mike Virta, Central Artery Project, explained the construction progress made to date and described the work that remains to be done on the island. Topics included the construction of beaches, an ADA-compliant pier and visitor center. The island will utilize "green" technology such as composting toilets, gray water systems, photovoltaic arrays, electric vehicles and the use

of recycled material and will be part of a zero emission demonstration project and sustainable management practices for the island.

Diane and Chris passed out sketches of proposed designs for the visitor center and described the key features. They thanked the Boston Redevelopment Authority for their assistance with the design process.

Brian MacDonald, New England Aquarium, gave an overview of potential programs and exhibits being considered for the island. Spectacle Island is expected to open in 2002. Suzanne Gall Marsh, Advisory Council Vice-Chair, asked about the business plan of the management team and if a percentage of profits will return to the park. Brian said that the business plan is evolving along with the program development.

Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, gave an update on the plans for Spectacle Island during Sail 2000. He said that opening the island for events on the sail-in and sail-out parade days is under consideration, the details are currently being discussed.

Review of minutes from the January 20, 1999, meeting

Rob Moir made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 20 meeting. The motion was seconded. **The motion was approved.**

Finance Committee

Cathy Douglas Stone handed out the accounting of expenditures attributed to the Boston Harbor Islands from November 17, 1996 through November 30, 1998. Cathy said that the expenditures on Spectacle need to be added to the report.

Cathy said that there is a joint meeting of the Finance and Planning Committees to begin discussing a system of prioritizing projects on March 14th.

Cathy said that the Finance Committee had discussed the need for standard procedures to follow when Partnership members are approached with proposals for special uses of the islands. It was thought that there should be one point of contact to provide information to the project proposer. There would be follow-up with the island owners. Procedures defining the parties that need to be contacted for approval for such projects need to be put into written form. A Special Uses sub-committee was suggested as the forum to work out the details. Details would include financial issues and defining criteria for Partnership endorsed projects when they are of a park-wide interest. Since this issue covers many different areas (such as finance, legal, operations and marketing) key members from other committees would be invited to participate in this small working group. Richard Howe made a motion to create the sub-committee as suggested and to continue the work on the initial procedures that were discussed. The motion was seconded. **The motion was approved.**

Planning Committee

Linda Haar reported that the Planning Committee continues work on the 5-year strategic plan. She thanked Bruce Jacobson, NPS, for his efforts. She thought that there were some overlapping issues between the Design and the Special Uses sub-committees and suggested that there be coordination of the sub-committees.

March 7 is the date of the next Planning Committee meeting and the carrying capacity plan will be introduced.

Dick Howe asked about the timetable for the draft GMP. Barbara Mackey, NPS, said that the draft plan is in design and production and should be physically available in the middle of April. The 60-day public comment period will be initiated by announcement in the Federal Register and will not begin until after the plan has been widely distributed.

Marketing Committee

Kathy Abbott announced that Peter Lewenberg has taken the position of Marketing Committee Chair. Peter announced that the park events calendar has been identified as a priority project and that funding is needed to produce it this year. DEM has paid for the printing in the past but does not have it in their budget this year. He requested that the Partnership aid in finding a funding mechanism.

Operations and Education Committees

George Price reported that the both the Operations and Education Committees had been working with Bruce Jacobson defining the goals of the committees and coordinating them with the strategic plan.

The Operations Committee has been discussing plans for Sail 2000 and a mooring program.

The Education Committee has begun discussion on a comprehensive interpretive plan for the park.

Bibliography Project

Scott Tiffney, Natural/Cultural Resources Librarian, explained the park's natural resource bibliography project. The project of developing a natural resources bibliographic database for the Boston Harbor Islands began in July 1999. The project was funded by the NPS for \$18,500 in FY1999. The database is nearing completion and describes all published and unpublished materials that contain information about the natural resources of the Boston Harbor Islands and its immediate area. Sensitive records need to be identified before the bibliography is made public. Scott is also beginning work on a park cultural resource bibliography.

Jack Wiggin asked why the entire bibliography would not be available to the public for research purposes. Bruce Jacobson answered that some of the publications are protected by law, such as rare and endangered species or sensitive archeological information. Also, they are looking at the availability of materials; if the repository is not able to handle requests for information, it could cause more problems than assistance. All holdings at public and school libraries will be listed.

Peter Lewenberg asked about the plan to keep the bibliography current. Bruce said that it would be updated as funding becomes available.

Advisory Council Report

Susanne Gall Marsh, Vice-Chair, said that the council received an update on Spectacle Island similar to the presentation this morning at the last meeting on February 10. She said that she saw exciting opportunities as the park evolves and felt that the Partnership and Advisory Council should take a close look at state and federal concession laws and determine what guidelines the park will operate under.

She announced that the annual meeting of the Advisory Council was Thursday, March 2, and invited all to attend.

Public Comment

Edith Andrews and Claudia Smith Reid said that they have been working on a Community Partners project sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association along with other members of the Partnership. George Price stated that he was told that the Boston Area Community partners group was considered the leader among the nine groups currently nationwide. The Community Partners initiative is sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) and the NPS. Edith and Claudia plan to give a full report at the next Advisory Council meeting and will report to the Partnership at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.