

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Thirty-first Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
March 16, 2000, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Edith Andrews, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Peter Lewenberg for 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)

Peter Webber, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from February 17, 2000

Alden Gifford made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on February 17, 2000.

The motion was approved.

Water Transportation

Diane Haynes, DEM, reported that there were two responses to the RFP for the ferry service to the islands. There were no responses received from companies operating out of Lynn. A team evaluated the responses and the two-year ferry contract was awarded to Boston Harbor Cruises (BHC). There were three responses to the RFP for the water shuttle service. BHC was awarded the contract for the southern loop and Richie Southerland was awarded the contract for the northern loop. There will be no additional charge to the visitor for the inter-island water shuttle. It is hoped that the water shuttle system can eventually become self-sustaining and thereby remain a free service for the public. Diane reported that the requests for proposals were broadly distributed to list of companies compiled from the DEM, MBTA, Massport, Water Transportation Advisory Council and a recent study for the EOTC. The request was also posted on the state's web page. The boat companies have agreed to place destination signs with the park logo on the outside of the boat, and will sell park merchandise on board. The ferry contract allows for the possibility of charter service; the managers of the islands will set the guidelines. George Price commended Diane Haynes for her outstanding efforts during the process, and thought that the improvements made to the contract demonstrated the effectiveness of the Partnership.

Spectacle Island

Diane Haynes presented a sketch of the final design of the visitor center, which included several improvements that the Partnership suggested. The improvements were not simply aesthetic; they were intended to enhance the experience of the visitor. Getting these changes incorporated into the final design so late in the design process once again demonstrated what could be accomplished by the Partnership.

Island Alliance Report

Maynard Goldman said Island Alliance is scheduled to give a full report about the Island Lights project at the April Partnership meeting. The annual Island Alliance dinner will be held on Monday, October 23. Congressman Moakley will be honored and Senator Kennedy has been asked to present the award.

Kim Mitchell, Island Alliance, reported that the park received a grant of \$85,500 from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT). The funds will be used for a four-tier publicity and promotion effort. Part of this effort includes producing a public broadcasting television show, *Trailside*, that will feature kayaking in the harbor islands. The show will have a two-year domestic run, and then be sold internationally. It is estimated that it could reach as many as 80 million people.

The Little Brewster tour program was expanded to three days a week. There will be two trips a day every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May 19 to October 15. Saturday and Sunday tours will leave from Fan Pier and cost \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/children (6-12) Free/children 5 and under. Friday tours leave from the pier at the John F. Kennedy Library and will include admission to the library, with fares at a slightly higher rate. They hope to expand charter service this year. There is a boat scheduled to take four school groups out to Little Brewster for free, and Kim asked for referrals to any groups that might be interested. Rob Moir suggested that the reduced children's rate be expanded to include junior high school students; he saw value for that age group and thought the adult fare might be a deterrent. Kim will look into the possibility.

Kathy Abbott reported that there has been a tentative decision to proceed with the mooring proposal. It is contingent upon the management team's approval of location, number and management policies.

National Park Service Report

George Price announced recent funding received by the National Park Service. There was \$15k added to the inventory and monitoring program, now at total of \$90k. Professor Patterson, University of Massachusetts–Amherst, will lead the project. There was over \$248k received for an alternate transportation study. The study is part of an effort to link several National Parks and involves intermodal connections, not just water transportation. George commended the efforts of Bob Holtzheimer, NPS, for his major role in the success of this request. It is hoped that this study will provide plans and specifications that can be used to move the project from the planning phase into implementation. Fifty thousand dollars was received for public land core youth programs. A press event is scheduled in coordination with Bob Durand's office on May 15 to announce all of the federal and state funding received for the park this year.

Community Partners

Claudia Smith Reid and Edith Andrews gave a presentation about the National Parks Conservancy Association's *Community Partners* program. The missions of the program are: to more accurately reflect the contributions of diverse groups in NPS exhibits and interpretation; to implement a strategy for cultivating a skilled, diverse workforce in the NPS; and, to develop an effective youth program that will provide education and career development for diverse populations. Edith recounted the words of Bob Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, during a speech at the Mosaic Conference in San Francisco. He spoke about the development of the United States and its wonderful resources. He noted that America's story was often told without making reference to the contributions and achievements of diverse people, including the Native Americans, African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics that helped shape this country.

Boston Harbor Islands became involved with three youth projects related to the Community Partners program. Funds were received from a NPS public land core grant that will fund youth projects on Thompson, Little Brewster and Gallops Islands this summer. The youth will be performing backlog maintenance projects for the park. There will also be an educational

component to the program including meeting with Partnership staff to learn about a variety of environmental careers. At the end of the summer, they will attend a community youth summit to share their experiences.

Edith will be speaking about Native American culture and history as well as the *Community Partners* program at the Shaw, Curley and Harbor Schools in April.

Finance Committee

Cathy Douglas Stone reported that the Finance Committee continues to discuss forming a special uses sub-committee. Peter Lewenberg said that the legislative team is meeting today; they are still working on the language for the legislation. There will be a full report when the draft is presented to the Partnership in April.

Planning Committee

Linda Haar reported on the joint meeting with the Finance Committee. The draft five-year strategic plan was discussed. Bruce Jacobson, NPS, coordinated the effort and is developing the draft based on projects and initiatives that the Partnership Committees prioritized. The strategic plan identified a \$50 million need over the next five years. There will be a more detailed report to the Partnership at the next meeting.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg said that the Marketing Committee is focused on allocation of the MOTT grant money. Harron Ellenson has been hired to work on a PR campaign. The committee is still looking for Partners that can fund the events calendar this year. The comprehensive signage program is underway. There has been a cooperative effort of the Partners to produce signage for the park that will show the park identity without diminishing the owner's role.

Operations Committee

George Price said that Sail 2000 has been a major topic of discussion for the Operations Committee.

The committee has also compiled a park-wide list of visitation statistics from the Partners. A visitation statistics sub-committee was formed to discuss possibilities of a park wide system of counting visitors.

Dave Hall, DEM, said that DEM has recently established and filled an additional year round position for the harbor islands (now at 6 full-time staff). Earl McNemara has been hired as a recreation facilities repairman. Two interpretive seasonal staff members will start in April and then additional staff will be hired in June. He extended his thanks to George Price and the NPS for the \$150k grant for the hazardous waste study on the Outer Brewsters. Dave said that the DEM's boat, Commander Flynn, would not be in the water this season and that they need a new boat.

Advisory Council

Jack Wiggin, Chair, said that the annual meeting of the Advisory Council was held on March. Over 100 people attended the meeting. Claudia and Edith presented an introduction to the *Community Partners* program and the nomination process for new members was initiated. Five members were re-nominated: Vivien Li, Bernie Drieblatt, Ed McCabe, Pat Morss, and John Dinga. The nominations for the Native American and Municipality Interest Groups are still pending. Jack Wiggin and Susanne Gall Marsh were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair for the council for another one-year term. The annual report is still in draft form and will be distributed when final.

The council has been planning for the community meetings regarding the draft General Management Plan for the park. There will be seven to nine public meetings during the 60-day comment period, starting in late April. There will be meetings in Boston, Winthrop, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, Roxbury, Waltham, Hull or Hingham, and possibly Quincy.

Rob Moir commended Jack and Suzanne for their efforts as Chair and Vice-Chair as the positions require a tremendous amount of time and commitment.

Meeting Dates

There will be no change to the meeting schedule of the Partnership. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 20, 2000 at Hale and Dorr, 26th floor at 10:00 AM.

Public Comment

Karen O'Donnell, Peddock's Island Association, asked if there would be extra staff and restroom facilities on the Peddock's during Sail Boston 2000. Brian Broderick said that Peddock's is not a prime viewing area and they are not expecting a major influx of people on the island.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.