

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Thirty-third Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA  
May 18, 2000, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

*As Corrected*

PRESENT: Rob Moir, Claudia Smith Reid, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); Doug MacDonald, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; George Price, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Holly Richardson for Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT).

Cathy Douglas Stone, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

**Approval of minutes from April 20, 2000**

Richard Howe made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on April 20, 2000.

**The motion was approved.**

**Island Lights**

Maynard Goldman reported that the Island Alliance Board continues to support the concept of Island Lights. The plans for the program have undergone significant revisions since the last presentation. He said that there are still questions about the financial projections that need to be explored and that the project will need both public and private support. He introduced Bob O'Brian the Project Manager and members of the creative staff, Michael Schaffer, Executive Producer and Yves Devraine, Scenographer. Bob said that he was encouraged by the cooperation the project staff has received. He said that many adjustments have been made to the program in response to the issues that the MDC had expressed. There were still some outstanding issues that have yet to be resolved, but he was optimistic.

Michael introduced the concept of the show. Island Lights will be a state of the art evening entertainment show that would include music, plays, multi-media AV, puppets, pantomime, sound & light, living history and audience participation. It is hoped that it will enhance the visibility of the islands and generate funds for George's Island and the park as a whole.

Yves explained some of the changes that were made in the audio/visual presentation to reduce the impact on the fort. He introduced Jon Lipsky, Playwright. Jon described the story of "Fateful Lightning" and described what the audience would experience.

Bob gave a brief financial summary of the proposed project. It is a very ambitious and expensive undertaking that will require public and private funding. He said that there is an expectation of success based on the success of comparable projects.

Holly Richardson mentioned that the MDC needs to be continually informed of planning for the project. She said that there were still many outstanding issues.

## **Economic Development Plan**

Maynard Goldman said that the Sedway Group was chosen to lead a team that would produce an economic strategy for the park. He introduced Terry Margerum, Project Manager. Terry gave an introduction to the project team, which included the Nesson Group, Naomi Porat, Heritage Partners, Inc., Byrne McKinney & Associates and the Cecil Group. He described the four phases of the project: 1) establish project goals and policy framework, 2) conduct market analysis, 3) analyze physical and financial feasibility and 4) develop an implementation strategy and solicitation materials.

Maynard invited all interested parties to participate in the project. Terry said that the time frame for suggestions has begun and said all suggestions should to be directed to him by email: Tmargerum@Sedway.com or by fax: (415) 781-8118. Lisa Blout said that she would be getting in touch with all Partners.

Peter Webber asked how the goal of the plan differed from the general management plan. Maynard said that it is the next step, part of the implementation of the planning. Cathy Douglas Stone added that the goal is to find a good economic engine that will put money into the park while maintaining the integrity of the natural and cultural resources. It is hoped that this plan will identify many options.

There was a concern that ideals could be compromised if seduced by the promise of economic gain. The Partnership agreed that preservation of resources is a priority. Jim Doolin thought that some of the most creative thinking could pertain to linking the gateways with revenue streams in growth areas.

George Price said that NPS Northeast Regional Director, Marie Rust and the Deputy Director, Sandy Walter were very supportive of the business plan concept for the park. They are currently looking at parks like Golden Gate to see what might be transferable.

## **Native American Meeting**

George Price reported that there was an all day meeting at the North American Indian Center with Native Americans held on April 28. The morning started with a discussion of a Native American ethnography study. There was funding received for the project and the details were discussed. The tribes did not accept the project as presented, and work will continue to find an acceptable approach. The meeting included a trip to Deer Island to look at potential sites of a memorial. Presence on the trip does not constitute acceptance by the Muhheconneuk Inter-Tribal Committee of the MWRA position on the memorial on Deer Island. Later that afternoon, a preview of the draft general management plan was presented. There will be another meeting after the draft is released. The issue of only federally recognized tribes representing the Native American interests on the Advisory Council was raised and discussed.

## **Finance and Legislation Committee**

Cathy Douglas Stone said that the Finance Committee did not meet this month as a whole, but the Legislation group did meet the day before. Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, reported that work continues drafting the state legislation. It will be circulated when a draft is available.

## **Marketing Committee**

Peter Lewenberg reported that the Calendar of Events is complete and available. The committee has been focusing on a branding effort and the effective use of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism grant to promote the park. The signage for MWRA islands is under

development. It is hoped that the signs produced will become the prototype for welcome signs throughout the park.

### **Operations Committee**

George Price reported that the park has opened for the season. George's Island was open for school group trips even before the official opening date of the park. Grape and Gallops islands were open on schedule despite last minute problems with the piers, thanks to the outstanding efforts of the staff.

Ferry transportation has been expanded this year. There will be a ferry departing Squantum Point Park in Quincy on weekends this summer and regular service from Pemberton Point in Hull.

The MDC is doing a considerable amount of work on Peddock's Island. The vista, parade grounds and roads that surround Fort Andrews will be opened up to provide better access and views for visitors. Work is also being done on the visitor center. The MDC anticipates an opening day event on July 1.

The Island Mooring program is moving forward.

The Little Brewster trips have been delayed because of many logistical and legal challenges. It is expected that they will begin next week. George personally thanked Captain Chuck Beck, Commander Sue Bibeau and Kim Mitchell for all their efforts.

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, introduced Richard Makapondo, a Ph.D. candidate of the University of Illinois. Richard is working on diversity issues within the National Park System and Boston Harbor Islands in particular.

George reported another Partnership success story. The NPS now owns a 46-foot boat that will soon be transferred to the University of Massachusetts Division of Marine Operations. The boat will be used to support youth programs of the University, New England Aquarium and State Police.

Peter Webber said that the DEM has secured a grant of \$500k for a passenger boat. The money has to be spent by June 30 and they are searching for a vessel and very hopeful that they will find one.

George sadly announced the death of Barbara Luedtke a professor of anthropology at the University of Massachusetts. Her work is highly respected and she will be missed. Cathy suggested that the Partnership send a letter to the family.

### **Planning Committee**

Linda Haar said that the last Planning Committee meeting was a presentation by Sedway about the Economic Development Plan. There was also discussion of the BRA's Long Wharf plans.

Linda introduced Beth Nicholson, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. Beth introduced the Campaign for the Water's Edge. The mission of the program is to work with community, business, government and non-profit partners to prioritize open spaces along the waterfront, from Winthrop to Hull. It is hoped to create a successful waterfront that is environmentally sound, and accessible to everyone.

Brad Swing reported that Mayor Menino has authorized consultants to look at how to relate the human services campus with increased public access. An RFP has been issued. They will continue to work closely with the City of Quincy. Public access was increased over the last couple of years with the Harbor Discoveries Camps, and the fishing derby.

### **Advisory Council**

Suzanne Gall March, Vice Chair, announced the upcoming council meeting on June 7. She also listed the public meeting dates regarding the draft GMP. She said that it is the responsibility of the Council to advise the Partnership on on-going operations and they will be discussing creating a report card system as a vehicle for doing this. George said that some concerns should get immediate attention and not wait for the end of the season to be heard. He encouraged anyone with concerns that had to do with safety or serious immediate issues to feel free to contact him.

### **Public Comment**

Karen O'Donnell, Peddock's Island Association, said that they are working with the residents of Peddock's Island and that they are interested in developing a better working relationship with the park. She suggested that a composting toilet at the far end of the island be installed.

Dick Silverman announced that Carol Fithian had been appointed Volunteer Coordinator for the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands.

Rob Moir said that the American oyster catchers (large shore birds) have returned to the harbor. Hopefully at least 12 species of shore birds will be nesting in the area this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.