

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Thirty-sixth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
September 19, 2000, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Rob Moir, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance (IA); Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Stone, City of Boston; Secretary Bob Durand, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), Chair of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Alex Hall for Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Richard Howe, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC).

Secretary Bob Durand, Chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from July 20, 2000

Dick Howe made a motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2000. **The motion was approved.**

Planning and Finance Committees

Linda Haar, Planning Chair, reported that there was a joint Planning and Finance Committee meeting earlier in the day to discuss the draft 5-year strategic plan. Cathy Douglas Stone, Finance Committee Chair, and Linda summarized the meeting discussion. The 5-year plan should be written in a way that supporters of the park can clearly see projects that are meaningful to them. Access was a key issue discussed. The idea of focussing on a single island was discussed and not supported. Rather the joint committee favors focussing on the hub islands early in the 5-year time frame. The total cost of the draft 5-year proposals was discussed in the meeting and generally supported. Cathy encouraged all to review the projected costs that were mailed earlier to Partners and said that the finance committee will start the process that could fund park improvements with the 5-year priorities in mind.

Native American Meeting

Bruce Jacobson reported that there was a Native American consultation held on August 24. Topics included the draft General Management Plan, a Native American ethnography study, and the relationship of State and Federally Recognized Tribes with the NPS. Bruce said that Sam Sapiel, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, agreed to withdraw the comment letter at that meeting. Another meeting was scheduled for September 26 and 27. The invitation list was expanded for the September meeting. Invitations were sent to Chiefs and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of more than 10 tribes.

Edith Andrews stated that Sam Sapiel and Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, speak only for themselves. They do not represent the entire Native American Community and their committee does not have the authority to speak for Tribal Governments. She said that the recent press release that was issued by Sam and Gary was not authorized by the Native American Tribes mentioned in the article.

Sam Sapiel responded that Gary McCann works for him and that they did not intend to speak for others and that they were only concerned about the burial sites. Gary said that

there were problems regarding the consultation process, such as the inclusion of state recognized tribes, and Sam was taking a strong line to get the process back on track. Gary accused the NPS of not fulfilling their obligations as well as breaking a commitment that the Partnership had made to consult with Federally Recognized Tribes. Bruce Jacobson stated that the NPS understands its obligations and is committed to fulfilling them. There are actually two parallel tracks of Native American involvement in place, a formal government to government process, as well as the Native American interest group of the Advisory Council. Bob Durand offered to meet with Sam, Gary and George Price, NPS.

Edith said that at the August meeting, Native Americans caucused and drafted a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the involvement of both State and Federally Recognized Tribes in the consultation process. Jim Peters, Commission on Indian Affairs, said that the group continues to struggle with the details of the issue. He said that it would be an atrocity if the consultation process did not involve the Nipmucs, direct descendents of the King Phillip's war. He hopes that they would come to resolution soon on this issue so that they could move forward with positive input regarding the islands.

Island Alliance

Kathy Abbott announced that the Island Alliance annual dinner will be Monday, October 23. There will be a ticket available for each voting and alternate member of the Partnership. There will be six tickets available for the Advisory Council (voting and alternate members of the Partnership, and the Chair and Vice-chair). Contact Kim Mitchell at 617-223-8326 if you are interested in volunteering at the dinner. She is also trying to obtain some donated seats for park representatives.

Kathy said that Ken Mallory, New England Aquarium, is working on a guidebook to the islands. She said that Ken has sent copies out to every Partner organization for fact checking. She encouraged all to do a thorough review.

Kathy announced that a working group of the planning committee will be held on October 4 to discuss alternative energy proposals for the islands.

Kathy Abbott reported that she was invited to be a panelist at the National Park Service General Conference: Discovery 2000 in St. Louis. She said that it was the best conference she has attended with renowned keynote speakers such as historian John Hope Franklin, biologist E.O. Wilson, conservationist Peter Raven, poet May Angelou, Peter Senge from MIT. The purpose was to create a vision for parks in the U.S. during the next century. In addition to a limited number of NPS participants, the 1,300 people at the conference included non-profit organizations, state park managers, other government agencies, and international representatives. Kathy participated in a panel on philanthropy in the parks. Bruce Jacobson also attended the conference and said that it occurred to him the Partners were national "pioneers in conservation stewardship."

Advisory Council

Jack Wiggin, Chair, reported that the last meeting of the Advisory Council was held on September 6 at the MWRA. He thanked Claudia Smith Reid and the MWRA for hosting and for their presentation on the status of Deer Island's public access. The council continued discussions on the summer operations survey. The purpose of the survey is to collect comments about the visitor experience and report out to the Operations Committee. There was good public participation, including some Chelsea residents interested in getting their city involved. A member of a local yacht club spoke out in opposition of the mooring program.

Public Comment

Edith Andrews said that New Bedford had a celebration dedicating the Johnson House which Robert Stanton, Director of the NPS, attended.

Carol Fithian, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that she is creating an evaluation form for volunteers for the end of the season. She will forward to the Advisory Council to add to the input.

Vivian Li, The Boston Harbor Association, said that the youth pilot program in Chelsea should continue next year. The owners of the dock have committed to continue. She also suggested a clean up day or weekend for the islands. There are many volunteers, youth corps, and environmental groups that would be willing to participate. It was agreed that the islands would be a great location for the kick off for coastal cleanup week.

New Business

Bob Durand said that the Conservation and Reinvestment Act is now before the Senate. Supporters were encouraged to write to their Senators.

Captain Chuck Beck announced a volunteer appreciation day for those that worked on Little Brewster. It will be held Sunday, October 15 at U.S. Coast Guard Base, 427 Commercial Street, Boston from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Peter Webber introduced Ken Foley, Acting Regional Forests and Parks Supervisor for the Department of Environmental Management.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.