

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Thirty-eighth Meeting Minutes  
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA  
November 21, 2000, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

***As Corrected***

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Rob Moir, Advisory Council; Commander Sue Bibeau, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); George Price, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Holly Richardson for Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Doug MacDonald, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Richard Howe, Trustees of Reservations

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

**Approval of minutes from October 17, 2000**

Rob Moir made a motion to accept the minutes of October 17, 2000. **The motion was approved.**

**Report from the Nominating Committee**

Richard Howe said that the Nominating Committee met recently and agreed to nominate Bob Durand as Chair. Dick Howe asked if there were any other nominations; no other nominations were made. Dick made a motion to close the nominations. **The motion was carried.** Rob Moir made a motion that the Partnership re-elect Bob Durand for a second term as Chair. **The motion to re-elect Bob Durand was unanimously carried.** The committee did not nominate a Vice-Chair. Cathy Douglas Stone will continue to serve.

**Operations Committee**

George Price reported that the Operations Committee met last week. They are preparing a report about the summer operations that will be presented at the December meeting of the Partnership.

George reported that the NPS has acquired two 41-foot patrol boats that the USCG was excessing. One boat was transferred to the Environmental Police, and one will be transferred to the State Police to assist them in their public safety and resource protection responsibilities for the islands. There may be an additional opportunity to obtain another boat, a 65 foot buoy tender. Obtaining excess property through the federal government is one way to support agencies and organizations with island-related responsibilities. If anyone is interested, please contact George.

**Marketing Committee**

Peter Lewenberg reported that the next meeting of the Marketing Committee on December 5 would focus on the signs proposal for MWRA islands. It is hoped that the MWRA signs could become the prototype for signs throughout the park.

They expect to report to the Partnership about the signage proposal in December.

The committee has also been working on developing an umbrella theme for marketing events this summer. All Partners were reminded that the Marketing Committee will be asking for Partners to submit event information for the 2001 season by January or February.

The Island Alliance has recently initiated a working committee of marketers that are working on developing a process to market the park from a strategic prospective.

### **Planning Committee**

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, presented the draft strategic plan, which is the planning document that describes management goals and initiatives in five-year increments. The goals in the draft strategic plan are based on the mission goals of the draft general management plan. The planning committee will be asking the Partnership at the December meeting to endorse the draft plan. Because the general management plan is not yet adopted, it would be an interim endorsement, pending any changes in the final general management plan.

Peter Webber asked if there was a deadline for the document and if the park would be at risk losing project funding if there was a delay. Bruce answered that we are already late on the national deadline.

Commander Bibeau congratulated the effort, she and Captain Beck thought that the document was well done. Rob Moir also was supportive of the plan and urged the Partnership not to be reticent to endorse it. He pointed out that it is an evolving document that provides direction but can always be changed. Edith Andrews stressed that there needs to be stronger wording protecting the Native American sacred burial sites. The Advisory Council will discuss the strategic plan at the next meeting on December 6, and will provide their comments to the Partnership.

Gary McCann said that endorsing the strategic plan before the general management plan becomes final was premature, and that the timeframe of December or January was not long enough to get the consensus of the Native American community.

### **Native American Consultation Meeting**

Edith Andrews introduced Chris "Quiet Bear" Montgomery and Mildred McCowan from the Nipmuc Nation who attended the last consultation meeting at the North American Indian Center on November 14. At that meeting, the NPS received additional feedback on the draft general management plan and discussed next steps. The last three meetings of the working group have had very good attendance, about 30 consistent members from about 8 different tribes. A system was put in place to keep members informed of park meetings and other important happenings in the park.

Don "Helping Beaver" Hinckley, Nipmuck Tribal Council of Chaubunagungamaugg, said his council has two concerns, the uncovering of Native burials and that Native Americans have direct input on any Native education plans. He distributed a letter from the council that stated those concerns that included a request to have a seat on the Advisory Council and the Partnership board. He said that the current consultation process is not satisfactory, but that he hopes to work to help the process not hinder it.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, said that the draft Economic Development Plan was presented at the last Partnership meeting. He said that there was no effort to include Native Americans in the process. He also requested the expansion of the Advisory Council to include broader tribal representation, the Partnership to add a permanent Native American seat to the board, and that the name of the park be changed in the federal system.

Peter Webber stated that managing this park is a complex process. He said that the Partnership would continue to strive to improve communications. He appreciated the offer to work with them as they move forward. He stated that one of the frustrations from the non-Native perspective was that the Partnership often heard many different Native American voices say many different things and because of that, it was often hard to discern what is being asked and what is the right action to take. He requested that Native Americans devise a process to work together.

Jim Peters, Executive Director of the Commission on Indian Affairs, reported that he is coordinating the reinterment of Native American bone fragments found several years ago on Grape Island.

### **Advisory Council**

Jack Wiggin, Chair, announced that the next meeting of the council would be held December 6. They will discuss the strategic plan, water transportation, the proposed report card for the park, and the nomination process for the elections in June. He reported that the council received grant money from the Merck Family Fund again this year. Last year they used it for staff support to facilitate the public meetings. This year the majority of the funds will also be used for staff to support public meetings and other council projects.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that the Friends are organizing an island cleanup again through the NPCA's program "March for Parks". She encouraged the councils' involvement.

### **Public Comment**

Karen O'Donnell, Chair, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the annual New Year's Day cruise to Thompson Island.

Carol Fithian, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, offered to share the Friends evaluations to add to the council's report card effort.

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, announced the Boston Harbor Islands Natural Resource and Science Seminar on December 8. It will be an opportunity for the researchers involved in studies on the islands to convene and share information with each other and the Partner agencies.

Marianne Connolly, MWRA, said that Claudia Smith Reid is recovering from her 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery and is doing well.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.