

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Forty first Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
February 20, 2001, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Claudia Smith Ried, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston, Office of Environmental Services; Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management (DEM); Holly Richardson for Brian Broderick, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC).

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

Approval of minutes from January 16, 2001

Alden Gifford made a motion to accept the minutes of January 16, 2001.

The motion was approved.

Economic Development Plan Phase II Report

Maynard Goldman said that last year, Island Alliance entered into a contract with the team from Sedway Group to prepare an economic development plan for the park. He introduced Terry Margerum, the Project Manager.

Terry reported that Phase II of the plan is complete. The Partners were given executive summaries of the report prior to the meeting today. The full version is over 100 pages long, and is available upon request. The purpose of Phase II work was to assess the market feasibility of revenue-generating concepts that were developed in Phase I.

Pam Mckinney, Byrne McKinney & Associates gave an overview of market factors. Terry gave an overview of key findings of market feasibility. Terry ended the presentation by stating the importance of developing a strategic marketing plan to successfully generate revenue.

The floor was opened for comments.

Cathy Douglas Stone introduced Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of Golden Gate NRA. Brian congratulated the Partnership on what had been accomplished so far. He emphasized how important this type of report was to have available so early on in the process, that it would save time, effort and money from being wasted.

Rob Moir asked if a youth hostel was considered.

Alden Gifford commented on Thompson Island's experience with corporate functions. They were very successful with the corporate day outings, but not with the overnight stays. The facilities did not match expectations, and the cost of upgrading was prohibitive.

Peter Webber said that DEM had learned many lessons about providing food service at their parks. He said that they discovered that foodservice was found to be a quite costly, environmental challenge. The island nature of the park would also significantly add to the costs of food service.

Mille McCowan, Nipmuc Nation, was concerned with the idea of a water transportation surcharge that was mentioned. She said that it could eliminate opportunities for many inner-city families to get to the park. Cathy responded that the Island Alliance continues to investigate ways to subsidize families in need, and ways to get children to the islands for free. The park needs to make money in order to support these types of programs. Cathy saw the opportunity for retail sales of products that had local or regional significance like crafts from Native Americans. It could benefit both the artist and the park. Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, thought that it was a good idea and also a way for the public to tie-in to the Indian history of the park. Gary asked why there was no mention of a Native American Museum in the plan.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that the ferry contract is due for renewal next year and said that there could be ways for the park to derive money for the park off the boat contract without passing the costs to the visitor. She suggested that George's Island be a site for a park gift shop.

There were questions about the proposed fee-based interpretive programs that were suggested by the team. It was not the intention to over program the islands or to replace free programming.

Advisory Council

Jack Wiggin, Chair, announced the March 7, annual meeting of the Advisory Council. He reported that this will be an election meeting, one-half of the council's seats were expiring, and it was also time to elect new officers and nominate Advisory Council Partners. There will be a study session February 27 to prepare for the annual meeting. They will also discuss the speaker series that is planned for the coming year.

Maynard Goldman expressed appreciation on behalf of the Partnership to Jack and Suzanne for their efforts chairing the council. He recognized that chairing the council was extraordinarily demanding and he thanked them for their highly professional and dedicated efforts.

Committee Reports

Operations Committee

George Price announced that Salem will not be a departure point for ferries to the islands this year, Boston Harbor Cruises has discontinued their ferry service from Boston to Salem. He presented a sheet that detailed funding received from the National Park Service (see attached). Sam Sapiel, Penobscot Indian Nation, requested that the tribes receive a letter announcing the funding.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg reported that the events calendar brochure is under development. He thanked the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; the US Coast Guard, Group Boston; the Metropolitan District Commission; the Boston Redevelopment Authority; and the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum for making the publication possible. He announced three new programs this summer, a triathlon, a symphony concert on George's Island, and a Saturday tour of Deer Island during Harborfest.

Peter said that an Island Alliance strategic marketing group has been formed. Participants include senior members of organizations such as Harvard University, Bentley College, Massport, the Greater Boston Visitor and Convention Bureau who have expertise in marketing. They are currently focused on retail and branding efforts. They will report their progress to the Marketing Committee.

Public Comment

Brad Swing, City of Boston, Office of Environmental Affairs, announced that Mayor Menino signed a contract to begin master planning at the Long Island Campus to explore the possibility for integrating public use with the current use of the campus for public health purposes. He announced that the city is also looking at management planning for Rainsford Island, and that the members of the Partnership are involved in some of the meetings.

Rob Moir announced that he no longer represented Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and introduced Patty Foley, Executive Director. He said that he will still be available to the park and hopes to stay on the Advisory Council representing Hampshire State College.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.