

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Forty-fourth Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
June 19, 2001, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Claudia Smith Reid, Advisory Council; Captain Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Maynard Goldman, Island Alliance; Linda Haar, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Terry Savage, National Park Service (NPS); Cathy Douglas Stone, Office of Environmental Services City of Boston; Fred Laskey, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management; Alex Hall for David Balfour, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); George Armstrong, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC).

Cathy Douglas Stone, Vice-chair, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. Cathy recognized Captain Beck for his service as a Partner representing the U.S. Coast Guard and for his personal commitment and dedication to the park. The Partnership thanked Captain Beck and Commander Bibeau for the extraordinary efforts opening Little Brewster to the public on a regular basis. Captain Beck announced that the Coast Guard secured funding for the transportation of the temporary floating dock for the next few years. He said that he has enjoyed working with the Partnership and that Captain Dan May will take over his position.

George Price, NPS, introduced Fred Laskey, Executive Director of MWRA, and welcomed him to the Partnership.

Approval of minutes from May 15, 2001

Captain Beck made a motion to accept the minutes of May 15, 2001.

The motion was approved.

Planning Committee

Linda Haar reported that the Planning Committee met last week. They discussed the revisions that were made to the draft general management plan in response to the comments received during the public comment period and from consultation. She announced the upcoming workshops and meetings the committee will hold to prepare a recommendation about the final plan to the Partnership, which will be asked to act on the plan July 17.

Bruce Jacobson gave a short presentation about the plan. The plan contains the park mission, policies for resource protection and visitor use and lists the geographic management areas and will provide a basic foundation for decision making. Protecting park resources and providing quality visitor experiences are top priorities of the plan. He distributed a comparison of the 2000 draft plan and draft final general management plan (attached). He stated that the changes made did not reflect any significant changes from Alternative C in the 2000 draft. A final environmental impact statement will be prepared once a proposal is endorsed by the Partnership. The remaining steps in adopting the plan will be endorsement by the Partnership, review by Governor Swift, and approval by NPS Regional Director Marie Rust on behalf of Secretary of the Interior Norton.

Island Alliance

Maynard Goldman reported that the Island Alliance gross revenues for 2000 exceeded their goal of \$1 million. They are optimistic that they will reach the goal of \$1.1 million in 2001.

Kathy Abbott reported on the status of the economic development plan. The last report given to the Partnership was when the team was just wrapping up phase two of the project. The primary results of the study showed that raising \$2 million per year was unrealistic because of the current low level of awareness and visitation of the park. Three of twelve ideas generated from the study will be focused on: a family camp on Peddock's Island, gateway development, and marketing initiatives. The final product of the study will be a brochure that will be used as a promotional tool to raise awareness, generate excitement and attract financial support for the islands. The design of this brochure was generously donated by Lehman Millet, but has to be complete by August 15. The firm has also designed the general management plan, the look of this new piece will be consistent.

There was discussion about the upcoming changes to the gateways at Hewitt's Cove and Long Wharf.

Cathy Douglas Stone announced an Island Alliance house party on August 1, that Mayor Menino will attend. She invited all present to attend.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), reported on the last meeting of the Marketing Committee. He thanked MWRA for the meeting space and the ongoing support of the sign project. The committee went to Deer Island to look at the sign demos. The committee is working with the EOEA to transfer the \$75k that Secretary Durand committed to the park sign project.

Peter gave an overview of recent press the park has received and stated the importance of building awareness in the media of the park being a national park area.

A newsletter is in production and the first edition is should be out in July.

The Marketing Committee has been working with the Island Alliance Strategic Marketing Group. The group is working on a marketing plan that is scheduled to be complete by September and will coincide with the release of the economic development plan. They are also continuing work with Holland Mark Advertising on a graphic design project.

There was discussion if allowing the use of the islands for film production could be a source of income generation.

Finance Committee

George Price reported that the technical sub-committee has been working hard doing site visits, collecting match data and continuing to work on language for financial match criteria.

Education Committee

George Price announced that the Education Committee has been resurrected. Claudia Smith Reid was elected chair. The group discussed the restructuring of the committee, the curriculum project and the resource guide (meeting notes attached).

Mary Corcoran reported that the MDC and NPS shared a table at the Mass Science Teachers Conference. The park was listed in recent issues of the Massachusetts Association of Science Supervisors. Mary stated that the park is not doing enough outreach to teachers, there should be more park presence at workshops and conferences.

Peter Webber said that he recently learned that as a direct result of Secretary Durand's involvement, environmental education will be included in the pre-K through 12th grade curriculum reform. He said that Commissioner Driscoll announced that the Department of Education and Executive Office of Environmental Affairs will work together to establish statewide support for environmental education.

Operations Committee

George Price reported that the last Operations Committee focused on transportation issues and also discussed ways to support the front line managers.

Peter Webber announced that Great Brewster will be open this season for public use and enjoyment. He reported that they are on track for a mid-July opening. They have purchased a float system that will replace one destroyed in a storm 10 years ago. Trails were cleared, benches were installed and a clivas unit is due for installation next week. There are a few sites fenced off due to asbestos, but it is a limited area. They hope to plan an event celebrating the opening in July.

George said that the inventory and monitoring research teams have begun their work on the islands this season.

Alex Hall reported that the inter-agency staff training has begun and is off to a great start. Yesterday was an orientation day and included a general park overview; today's focus was interpretive training. Alex thanked the MWRA for the meeting space.

Kathy Abbott announced that a permit was received for the moorings program and that there will be moorings available this year at some islands. The Operations Committee will oversee the management of the program.

George announced an orientation trip on July 18. It is hoped that it will be a trip to Great Brewster, Rainsford and Peddock's islands.

Advisory Council

Tom Lindberg, Co-chair, reported that the Advisory Council will meet tomorrow at the New England Aquarium from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. He invited all to the meeting and especially encouraged Partners to attend. He announced the Rainsford Island clean-up on June 23.

Tom stated concern about the marketing initiative that was discussed. He said that it is important to remember the dangers of over-marketing. If visitors' expectations are raised, and then they are disappointed, it has disastrous effects. He expressed the council's concern about the current condition of the park and that the visitor experience is currently not as good as it can or should be.

Public Comment

There was discussion of current conditions of the outhouses and cottages on Peddock's Island. Karen O'Donnell, Peddock's Island Association, expressed concern and offered suggestions. Alex reported on some specific questions that Secretary Durand had asked at the last meeting regarding the cottages.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.