

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
July 17, 2001, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Edith Andrews, Claudia Smith Reid, Advisory Council; Captain Dan May, 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; Bob Durand, Secretary of Environmental Affairs representing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management; Holly Richardson for David Balfour, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Lisa Vernagaard, The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR).

Bob Durand, Chair, called the 45th meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from June 19, 2001

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of June 19, 2001.

The motion was approved.

Planning Committee

Linda Haar reported that the draft final general management plan has been under agency review. Barbara Mackey, NPS, explained that the document is the result of over four years of gathering information. A draft plan was issued for public comment last year following agency review and Native American consultation. All comments have been compiled and were addressed in the final draft. She gave a brief overview of the changes. Linda reported that the Planning Committee took a formal vote on the plan at the last meeting. There were representatives of all the Partner agencies present at the meeting; the vote was unanimous to recommend that the Partnership endorse the final draft as the general management plan for the park.

Edith Andrews stated that she could not vote to approve the plan, as there were still concerns about how Native American history was portrayed. Claudia Smith Reid brought up three Advisory Council concerns: memoranda of agreement do not exist among the Partners and there is no mechanism for dispute resolution; stronger language is needed regarding minority and woman-owned businesses; and gateways should be near urban neighborhoods.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island (MICDI), voiced strong opposition to the Partnership approving the plan on the basis that he did not believe that the federally recognized Native American Tribes had been consulted properly. He said it was the Partnership's legislated responsibility to do so. He suggested that if the Partnership accepted the plan the MICDI would have no other option then to lobby the governor, the Secretary of the Interior, and members of Congress which could damage the credibility of the Partnership. Terry Savage stated that there was consultation with Native Americans and that it was an extensive process. In fact, to his knowledge, it was a much more complex, extensive and expensive process than any other park had gone through.

The Partners discussed the plan. And the concerns raised by Edith Andrews and Claudia Smith Reid. In response to the discussion and the recommendation brought by the Planning Committee, Linda Haar read the following motion:

"The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership approves the agency review draft of the general management plan, dated June 12, 2001, with revisions made by the Planning Committee through this date along with the revisions noted as part of this motion, for transmittal to Governor Jane Swift for review and then to National Park Service Regional Director Marie Rust, representing the Secretary of the Interior, for approval. The additional revisions agreed to by the Partnership are as follows.

- 1) The following concept will be incorporated in the plan: The Partnership commits to make best-faith efforts to develop memoranda of agreements among the Partners regarding management principles for the park, including a mechanism for dispute resolution.
- 2) Linda Haar, Chair of the Planning Committee; George Price, NPS Project Director; and Barbara Mackey, NPS Planner, will work with Edith Andrews, Partner representing the Advisory Council, to address her concerns regarding the wording of the section titled, Native Americans and the Islands.
- 3) On page 52, the following sentence is amended to read: "The Partnership fosters access to the islands for residents of urban neighborhoods from departure points in or near their neighborhoods where gateways could be established."
- 4) On page 64, the following sentence is amended to read: "The Partnership encourages minority- and women-owned businesses, consistent with the practices in place for programs that receive federal and state funding.
- 5) The final plan will indicate that funding sources will be addressed in park strategic plan.

Furthermore, it is understood that final approval of the plan will be contingent on an acceptable Environmental Impact Statement."

The motion was unanimously carried. There was unanimous agreement with all Partners to accept the plan. Commissioner Balfour, Metropolitan District Commission, and Jim Doolin, Massachusetts Port Authority, were not present, but had both previously sent letters in their official capacity recommending that the plan be endorsed by the Partnership.

Economic Development Plan

Maynard Goldman said that the economic development plan is nearing completion. The product has been adjusted as the research findings were evaluated. He said that the research showed that the Alliance's goal of \$2M a year is unrealistic at this point in time. The park does not have a major attraction capable of generating that level of funding and the level of awareness of the park is way too low. Building a larger constituency is absolutely essential to support revenue generation. He noted with sadness that of all the articles written about the park recently, most do not mention the national park area. He said that it is the national park area that binds us

together, and that the park will survive only with the full and active support of the Partnership. Increased marketing efforts are critical to the success of the park. He said that now is the time for Partners to show their support by committing financially to create a strategic marketing fund by contributing \$20-25k each. Agreement by owners that every press release and document published about the islands contain a statement in it reflecting that they are part a national park would also contribute significantly to raising awareness.

Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance, presented an overview of the draft final product. The final product, an attractive 16-page "call to investors", will be released in October if the Partnership gives its support to proceed. Lehman Millet offered a \$40k in-kind donation of design support, but because of the designers' schedules, work needs to be completed by October or the opportunity will be lost. The plan focuses on two central strategies: development of a family-oriented eco-camp/retreat center and the development of mainland gateways to improve park access and education. These are presented as key "anchor" elements of a larger portfolio of revenue-generating activities for the park.

The Partners discussed the concepts. There were many questions raised, but they were supportive of publishing the document. There was still an opportunity for input and Maynard invited feedback.

Advisory Council

Tom Lindberg, Co-Chair, reported that the last meeting of the Advisory Council was held on June 20th. At that meeting, a Peddocks Island sub-committee was established to discuss concerns about the cottages owned by the Metropolitan District Commission that are in various states of disrepair. The group toured the island on July 2 and discussed concerns regarding public safety and the possibility of restoring some of the properties for reuse.

Tom stated that the council has been very active in the planning process and contributed to the revisions of the general management plan. He thanked the members for their hard work.

He also said that many council members participated in the Rainsford Island cleanup. He thanked the City of Boston for including them for providing such an educational and enjoyable day.

New Business

George Price, NPS, announced the Partnership/Staff/Advisory Council boat trip on July 18.

Public Comment

Secretary Durand announced that the state is celebrating reaching 100,000 acres of open space protection.

Peter Lewenberg, EOE, congratulated DEM for opening Great Brewster this season.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, asked when there would be running water on George's Island again. Holly explained that the MDC is working with contractors to repair the line and that it should be fixed by the end of the month.

Paul King, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that there were eight very unhappy people left on the dock at Hewitt's Cove on Saturday because the boat was full. Alex Hall, MDC reported that Saturday was a very busy day, over 2,000 people passed through George's Island that day. The early boats from Boston were also full. The Transportation Committee will look into the situation. They are currently discussing the contract for next season.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.