

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Hale & Dorr, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston,
April 16, 2002, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Claudia Smith-Reid, Suzanne Gall Marsh, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Dan May, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance; Cathy Stone, City of Boston, Department of Environmental Services; Peter Webber, Department of Environmental Management; Samantha Overton Bussell, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC); Alden Gifford, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC)

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

Approval of minutes from February 26, 2002

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of February 26, 2002

The motion was approved.

Peddocks Island Eco-Retreat/Family Camp

Doug Welch, Island Alliance, introduced the Eco-Retreat/Family Camp plan that is under development. He presented graphics that showed a concept for the facilities and he summarized the proposal. He explained that this plan is consistent with the Economic Development Plan and the park's draft general management plan. The Eco-Retreat would offer an all inclusive destination for vacationing families and for day-use or overnight retreats by other organizations. It would not prevent other public uses of the island. A substantial investment is required to make it a reality. There are promising signs of commitment from the public sector. A substantial amount has been earmarked by the Commonwealth, out of pipeline mitigation funds, to develop water, sewer and electrical infrastructure and other visitor services on Peddocks Island. The National Park Service regional office is also very supportive of the plans and is actively seeking funding for other infrastructure support including the mothballing and restoring of historic structures. Samantha Overton Bussell said that the Island Alliance has been working with the MDC and that they are supportive of the plan.

Finance Committee

Cathy Stone reported that the Finance Committee reviewed several documents at the last committee meeting. After that review, the committee recommends changes to "Policies for Establishing Cost Principles for the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership" and is presenting the "Draft Financial Match Criteria" to the Partnership. The Partners discussed. Sam Overton Bussell made a motion to adopt the "Financial Match Criteria" with the grammatical edits discussed. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Peter Webber made a motion to approve the "Policies for Establishing Cost Principles for the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership" with the proposed edits with one exception. The word "needs" should be replaced with the word "plans" in the first sentence of item 2. The sentence should read "Each Partner will present capital spending plans and a proposed operating budget annually". **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Cathy Stone asked if there were any questions or comments on the other documents provided: the Role and Function Statement; Assumptions and Principles for Financial Management; or the Tips and Guidelines for Financial Reporting. There were none.

Managing for Results Initiative

Peter Webber reported on the status of the effort to combine management of the islands currently managed by the Department of Environmental Management and the Metropolitan District Commission. The two agencies are preparing an agreement under the Joint Powers Act. Peter said that the labor unions are in negotiation and that many details of the transition still need to be worked out, but that changes should begin this season. Legislation is also being considered to make the combined management permanent. Peter added that there was a possibility that the Joint Powers Act could be used by other Partnership agencies, to simplify the working relationships.

Suzanne Gall Marsh stated concern that the park operates on a shoestring budget. She asked if the proposed consolidation would mean less money designated for the park since it would just be in one agency's budget. She also stated that the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) recently purchased Harbor Express and suggested that the Joint Powers Act might be used to assist a partnership between the park and the MBTA for water transportation. The Partners discussed the issues.

Marketing Committee

Peter Lewenberg presented two versions of the park logo that integrated the city's skyline. The Marketing Committee recommended the version that showed another island in the background. Peter said that the committee hoped to use the logo this season. The Partners discussed. Alden Gifford made a motion to endorse the use of the image as the new logo for the park. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Samantha Overton Bussell recommended a press launch to introduce the logo. She said that the unveiling should include a showcase of the new look and an explanation of why the park is changing to a new look. She strongly suggested that the old logo be totally phased out and the new logo be exclusively used to increase the impact. The group discussed the challenges for a complete change and also discussed possibilities of using the old logo for other uses.

Peter gave a list of upcoming park events and showed a video of a 24-hour Balance Bar adventure race.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh stated that there should be a consistent message to the public about the management reorganization of the state islands. She asked if there would be a press release issued. Peter Webber responded that Darrell Pressley at DEM was currently working on one.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM .