

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Thompson Island, Lewis Conference Room, Boston, MA
June 20, 2006, 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Partners: Greg Ketchen—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Cathy Stone—City of Boston, Office of Environmental and Energy Services; Betsy Sure Gross—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Jim Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service; Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center.

Attendees: CDR Tom Miller for CDR O'Connor—United States Coast Guard (USCG); Susan Kane for Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation; Larissa Fawkner and Jessica Patrick—Island Alliance; Steve Marcus and Carol Fithian—Friends and Volunteers of the Boston Harbor Islands; and Sarah Peskin, Marc Albert and Mary Raczko—National Park Service.

Arthur Pearson welcomed all to Thompson Island. Bruce Jacobson opened the meeting and set the agenda with the group's help. Ground rules were set for the day. This was a session to discuss changes to the bylaws, identify key accomplishments over the past 10 years and to begin the strategic planning process for the future. There was agreement that the whole group would participate fully in this session.

Bylaws

A nominating and bylaws committee was formed. Jim Doolin was elected chair of the committee. After lengthy discussion, the nominating committee recommended that the bylaws be amended as follows:

- Following the citation of the park enabling law, add "as amended."
- Change the minimum number of meeting for the Partnership to four. This was done with the understanding that it is anticipated that more than four meetings will be needed throughout the year to conduct business or to coordinate decision-making so that the Partnership receives input from the Advisory Council. The four-meeting schedule is a minimum requirement only; meetings can be called when needed, with 5 days advance notice.
- The restriction that officers can only serve three consecutive terms be dropped. The provision that officer elections will be held on a yearly basis will be kept. This will allow for the opportunity to have either consistency or change.

Bruce was asked by the committee to consult with the Department of the Interior Solicitor regarding the specifics of defining a quorum and report on his findings at the next Partnership meeting. It was requested that he also look into the possibility of expanding the number of officers.

Strategic Planning

Bruce reminded all of the mission of the park: to preserve and protect park resources, and to provide quality visitor experiences. The group brainstormed a timeline listing significant national and regional events, significant park events, and when people became involved in the islands. The list is below:

Polishing Harbor Jewels: Islands in the Rough

The Olden Days 1998 and before	Planning 1999-2002	Puzzle Comes Together 2003-2005	Just Do It 2006 -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harbor clean-up - Harbor vision charette - State Park designated - National Park created - Kiosk/Info Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft GMP - 9/11 - Trend toward privatization of public lands - Thompson Island legislation - Little Brewster Opens - Harbor visions youth charette - Signage - Logo development - Gallops closed - Great Brewster opens and closes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big Dig - DEM/MDC merger - Funding for state and national parks down - Public/private partnership trend - GMP done - Pavilion site designated - Visitation down - Visibility up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spectacle Island opens - Dock improvements - Visitation increase over past few years

One trend noticed was that the park is trying to grow at a time most others are static or slowing down due to 9/11 and budget constraints. It was also noticed that many individuals, including those new to the Partnership, were directly involved with the islands or had early memories of them (as far back as the 1980's).

There was general agreement that it was a good idea to have a strategic direction. The group discussed how best to develop one. They began a list of who should be involved. The list included: the Partners, Advisory Council members, Island Alliance Board members, agency and park staff, corporations and business leaders; and customers. It was suggested to include members of the team that created the park's economic development plan.

There was much discussion about the different entities' desired roles in the project. Consensus was not reached about who should be involved in the strategic direction setting, whether the Partners should be the direction setters with input of all, or if there should be a more active role for other participants. There was agreement that input from all those listed above was critical to the project. The definition of "customer" also needed further clarification. Discussion will continue in the Planning Committee of how best to integrate and engage the different groups in the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.