

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
WilmerHale LLP
60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
July 18, 2006, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Bill Hale and Charlie Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Jim Hunt and Cathy Stone—City of Boston, Office of Environmental and Energy Services; Tom Powers—Island Alliance; Susan Kane for Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Commander Fred Myer—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Cathy Stone, Vice Chair, opened the meeting. Two new members were introduced: Cmdr. Fred Myer from the United States Coast Guard; and Charlie Norris from the Advisory Council. The minutes from the June 20, 2006 meeting were approved.

Bylaws

The proposed changes to the bylaws regarding the terms of officers and the number of required Partnership meetings were approved. A copy of the amended bylaws is attached.

There were no changes made to the number of Partners needed for a quorum.

Upcoming Park Publications

Unigrd

Bruce Jacobson said that the park has run out of the 4-color fold-out information brochure that includes the map of the park. This brochure, called the park “Unigrd,” is the standard NPS brochure format used by all National Parks.

In 1997 when the Unigrd was first printed, the park purchased 200k brochures at the cost of about \$1.00 each. Currently, the park is using a 2-color “tear-away” map with updated information instead of this brochure. Bruce said that the cost of designing and printing the Unigrd can be covered by a central NPS office at no cost to the park. The group discussed, and the consensus was that the Unigrd brochure should be revised and printed through the NPS. It was suggested to keep the information in the Unigrd very basic, to keep the park map the same size, and to use the tear-away version as a supplemental piece, to show information that may change from year to year. It was suggested to form a subcommittee of the marketing committee with one member from each agency to work on the project.

10-Year Brochure

Bruce reported that the park is continuing work on a brochure for the 10-year anniversary of the park. This brochure will be funded by the NPS. It will be a progress report and will contain many graphics. Bruce showed a draft of the brochure and invited comments.

Spectacle Island Update

Susan Kane reported that Spectacle Island opened on June 24. It is the first time the island has been open to the public since 1850. The park has received positive public feedback about the facilities (visitor center, trails, marina, and swimming beach). The ferry capacity has emerged as an issue.

There continues to be concern about the septic system capacity, but the situation is being monitored and managed. After the summer season, construction will begin on a sewer line connecting Spectacle Island with Long Island, thus connecting to Deer Island.

Tom Powers reported that state legislation has passed legislation that could simplify the mechanics of how the DCR works with Island Alliance. A memorandum of understanding between the two Partners is now being developed. This change is agency specific and does not cover the rest of the Partner agencies.

Resource Stewardship Review

Bruce Jacobson reminded all of the importance of resource protection, because often the focus of meetings centers on visitor experience. He gave a review of some resource stewardship issues and activities.

Bruce said that one of the recent challenges has been the proposal to place a liquefied natural gas storage facility on Outer Brewster Island. He reported that AES Corporation has responded in writing to his June memo on this topic to the Partnership. In the letter, AES indicated that they believed his memo contained inaccuracies and they have put in a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Bruce reported that the all-taxa biotic inventory continues. Two interns have joined Dr. Rykken in the field in this major undertaking. The public has already begun to participate by gathering data in the field. A 24-hour beetle blitz was held in June and other events are scheduled throughout the summer. Several school field trips were held in the spring where students collected insects for the study while they learned about biodiversity.

Bruce announced that the park is also working toward adding natural resource staff to the park. The island habitat restoration projects continue and an NPS invasive plant SWAT team will visit the islands at the end of the month. Bruce said that the NPS will invest \$10k in the scenic assessment that the planning committee has been pursuing for several years. The park will work with UMASS Amherst on the study. An archeological assessment will soon begin. The focus will be on gathering information on what has already been done. The boat wake study is nearing completion. This study is looking at the effect of boats wakes on the erosion of the islands. The final report is expected by the end of the year.

The planning committee has resumed work developing a resource stewardship plan. The plan was started 2 years ago, but stalled because the NPS was revising its guidelines for resource stewardship. The plan will be comprehensive and connected with the general management plan. A vegetation workshop has been scheduled for August 22.

Bruce announced that the park was featured in the 2005 NPS Natural Resource Year In Review. Copies will be made available.

Harbor Park Pavilion Update

Tom Powers reported that there was good news and bad news about the harbor park pavilion to be sited on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The good news was that \$380k was received and it was enough to begin the schematic design. The bad news was that the winning design from the competition had not been cost tested, and the actual costs are around \$6.7M and rising. The design team is looking to see what they can do to lower the budget, to around \$3M. TDC Corporation, a business and management consulting firm, is currently working for the Island Alliance. Tom also reported that there is also \$1.45M in federal funds slated for the project; they are working with the MBTA to receive the funds.

Karen O'Donnell, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI), hoped that the building would still be built using sustainable design and "green" technology despite the budget cuts. Sarah Peskin, NPS, said that this remains a priority.

Advisory Council

Charlie Norris reported that the Advisory Council met in June. The group worked on filling the membership vacancies. The next meeting will be held on September 6.

Public Comment

Tom Powers introduced two new employees of the Island Alliance: Sue Lonergan, Vice-President of Strategic Development; and Carrie Zeisse, Director of Business Development.

Karen O'Donnell, FBHI, congratulated the Partnership on the opening of Spectacle Island. She announced a boat trip sponsored by the Friends on July 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.