

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
March 20, 2007, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
AS CORRECTED**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh and Charlie Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA)—James Hunt and Tom Miller; Antonia Pollak and Cathy Douglas Stone—City of Boston, Office of Environmental and Energy Services; Island Alliance (IA)—Tom Powers; Betsy Shure Gross, and Susan Kane—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)—Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); CDR Fred Myer—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Betsy Shure Gross, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16 meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Ratification of Committee Chairs

The Partners were asked to ratify the chairs for the five committees of the Partnership. There was a motion to approve the following slate:

Arthur Pearson, TIOBEC, as chair of the education and program committee
Jim Scully, TIOBEC, as chair of the operations committee
Tom Powers, IA, as chair of the events and marketing committee
Cathy Stone, City of Boston, as chair of the finance and legislation committee
Bruce Jacobson, NPS, as chair of the planning committee

The motion was unanimously approved.

Partnership 2007 Funding Priorities

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, said that there is an ongoing effort to identify the top partnership priorities for funding. He said that this list assists the NPS, Island Alliance and other partners to process funding requests as it shows the support of multiple agencies for the projects listed. The planning committee has been working with the finance committee to rank the top priorities for 2007. A joint meeting was held on March 13 and another is scheduled for March 27. He encouraged all partners to send a representative. Maureen Cavanaugh, Advisory Council, commented that she participated in the joint meeting and noticed that agencies present were able to lobby for their projects and that it was a missed opportunity for agencies that were not there. The planning and finance committees plan to present the list of priorities at the next Partnership meeting.

Camp Harbor View

Cathy Stone, City of Boston, announced an initiative of Mayor Menino to host a youth day camp on Long Island. The city has been working with Jack Connors to make this \$10 million project a reality. A foundation has been set up to support the camp, and is currently applying for 501 ©3 status. Site construction has started and basic buildings, a beach and sports areas will be built.

The lighthouse and fort areas will be off limits for safety reasons. The Boys and Girls Club of Boston will lease the camp from the city and run the program.

The camp is scheduled to open this July and will serve youth from 11-14 years old. There will be two 4-week sessions from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM of 300 campers each session. The camp will provide 3 meals, and the program will include sports, a climbing wall, arts curriculum and have an environmental science component. The campers will be bussed to the island this year; they hope to have water access in future years. Students will be chosen from a city-wide referral system.

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, asked if there was consideration given to the historic value of the resources. Jim Hunt, City of Boston, said that the city had commissioned a study and had long worked with the park on ways to open up public access and that all due diligence was done.

Kelly Fellner, NPS, suggested that the Boys and Girls Club work with the park's education committee to connect with other park partners. The group is a good resource for harbor educators. Kelly asked if there was a plan in place for follow up, or how to reach back to the community. She said that the bigger challenge after attracting participants is to keep the community engaged. She suggested creating links with the park and existing programs around the harbor, particularly Thompson Island's Choices program, to create a resource for them beyond the camp experience. Bud Ris, President of the New England Aquarium, said that the aquarium has particular expertise in marine education. Commander Fred Myer said that he will look into the possibility of the USCG providing a helicopter rescue demonstration.

Cathy Stone said that the finance committee will count the investment in the project as part of the non-federal contribution to the park. She suggested that the dock at Long Island be moved up on the Partnership's funding priority list.

Steve Marcus asked how this was likely to affect other public access programs, as the public has an interest in Fort Strong and Long Island Light. The response from the city was that previously scheduled programs should not be affected.

State of the Park

The update of partner activities that began at the January meeting continued.

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Marianne Connolly, MWRA, gave an overview of some of the highlights of the 2006 season. Visitation to Deer and Nut Islands was strong; there were over 100k visitors in 2006. Over 2000 visitors, many of them international, took a tour of the treatment plant. A memorial to Judge A. David Mazzone will be installed at Deer Island this summer. The dedication is scheduled for October 19.

Island Alliance

Tom Powers, President, said that the Island Alliance is focusing their efforts on 3 A's and an E (awareness, access, attractions and education). He distributed a vision statement (attached).

Tom said that Island Alliance continues to work with the Partnership on improving the water transportation system, creating programs, and marketing the park. Tom announced that Island Alliance received funding for a kayak program and is working with DCR to implement. Efforts are also focused on capital projects such as the Harbor Park Pavilion. Under an agreement with DCR, Island Alliance is also working with DCR on a dock management system for on

Georges Island; fees will be collected from charter boat operators to help subsidize the inter-island shuttle system and keep it free for visitors. Island Alliance will manage the food concession on Georges and has issued a request for proposals.

Tom announced that there are two offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) buoy ports off of Gloucester that have been approved by the governor. Island Alliance is slated to receive around \$5M in compensation for each of these ports if constructed. Tom said that both projects are winding through the approval process. There has been no movement on the AES proposal for an LNG storage facility on Outer Brewster Island. The Gloucester buoys are much further along in the process, and if one or both get built, it is less likely that the Outer Brewster proposal will move forward.

National Park Service (NPS)

Kelly Fellner, said that the National Park Service uses the park's general management plan as a foundation to determine priorities. The NPS works to facilitate the goals of the Partnership to foster civic engagement and build sustainability.

Kelly said that the NPS is working on communications, both internally with the park staff and its partners and externally to the public. The NPS runs the park's information office and kiosk and keeps the Website current. The NPS has produced an interpretive plan for Little Brewster Island. NPS continues to expand programming opportunities with narrated cruises, citizen science, and stewardship opportunities. The NPS is exploring ways to program staff the harbor park pavilion.

The NPS is also working with the Partnership to update park brochures, including the events brochure and the park informational brochure that follows the NPS "Unigrid" concept. The NPS supervises the park's youth programming and continues working on ways to advance the internship program, BEAN and build strong partnerships to keep the program sustainable. The NPS is also developing a Jr. Ranger program for families that visit the islands.

The NPS oversees the Partnership's education program and has recently expanded curriculum based offerings in both natural and cultural resources. These interdisciplinary programs include "hands-on" opportunities to learn about biodiversity, ecology, geology, navigation, archeology as well as cultural and military history. The "Living in Two Worlds" Native American curriculum will gain new strength through a youth symposium that will be held this summer. Native American youth will be trained on video production techniques to capture the oral history of their communities. The youth will interview members of their communities and produce the stories from their own perspective.

The NPS will present their 2nd annual teacher's workshop this summer to invite teachers to use the Harbor Islands as their classrooms.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh reported that around 70 people attended the Advisory Council's annual meeting on March 7. They held it on Spectacle Island and Kathy Abbott, Conservation and Recreation Campaign, was the invited speaker. Maureen said that Kathy gave an inspiring talk about the state of Massachusetts parks. The council also held elections for officers. Peter Rosen and Claudia Smith-Reid were chosen as Co-Chairs and Mary Corcoran as Vice-Chair. The council previously nominated Greg Ketchen and Charlie Norris as voting partners and Maureen Cavanaugh and Bill Hale as voting alternate partners, they await appointment by the Director of the NPS.

Listening Session

Bruce Jacobson, reported that the NPS held a listening session about the President's proposed \$3 billion Centennial Initiative. The National Park Centennial Initiative is a proposal to get the national park system ready for the celebration in 2016 of the National Park Service's first 100 years. This initiative includes \$100 million a year over and above normal National Park Service budgets for park and a Presidential Challenge to spur nonfederal funding with a match of federal money, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100 million a year for 10 years. Bruce said that even with the short notice, about 150 people gathered to share their comments. Bruce distributed brochures and encouraged all to submit comments; they must be received by April 2.

Legislation is needed to authorize and fund this initiative; it has been drafted, but has not been approved by Congress.

Public Comment

Steve Marcus, Friends and Volunteers of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the April 1 annual meeting of the Friends that will be held at the USCG base.

Kelly Fellner, NPS, announced a lecture series at the Old South Meeting House on Thursdays in March that covered park and harbor related topics.

Bill Green, lead of the sub-committee on renewable energy and sustainable design (SRESD), said that the subcommittee is headed towards determining the carbon cost of the park, and expects to come to the Partnership with some ideas for mitigation for offset remediation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.