

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA  
May 20, 2008, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Attendees:** Maureen Cavanaugh, Bill Hale, Greg Ketchen and Charlie Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Antonia Pollak—City of Boston; Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance; Susan Kane and Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Bruce Jacobson and Terry Savage—National Park Service (NPS); CDR William Kelly, United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Terry Savage, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all. There was a motion to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2008 meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Camp Harbor View**

Sarah Zaphiris, Policy Advisor to Mayor Menino, gave an update of activities of Camp Harbor View on Long Island. She said the camp will service 2 sessions of 300-350 youth this year. The program is geared to “high risk” Boston youth ages 11-14 years. The youth will participate in a variety of programs including sports, environmental education, career development and field trips. Field trips sponsored by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay will take the youth to other park islands starting on June 30. She said that facilities on the island include an amphitheatre, beach, sports areas, and a swimming pool. A pier is currently under construction. Questions were raised about staffing, facility use, and emergency preparedness. Sarah responded that facilities are only used in the summer; they are not equipped for all-season use. She reported that the camp is staffed with a camp director, counselors, social worker, and a nurse. Sarah said the dock is currently used only for the camp, and access requests would involve different agencies. She also stated that managers are considering renewable energy sources to power the camp and island. A request for a windmill was denied by the Federal Aviation Administration, but use of solar power is still being investigated.

**Partnership Effectiveness**

Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent, said Louise Millet was engaged to work with him to analyze how the Partnership operates and make recommendations to improve. Bruce said she interviewed many people, including members of the Partnership, and studied documents and products produced by the Partnership over the years. She reports a lack of clarity around the role of the Partnership and a need to re-engage to develop and work toward a common goal.

Bruce provided some background about the Partnership. He passed out a document that listed agencies involved with organizational charts for each Partner agency. He reminded the group about the park’s mission of protecting resources for future generations, and providing for use and enjoyment of the public. Bruce explained the Partnership’s role is to coordinate management of the park and the role of the National Park Service is to coordinate efforts of the Partnership. He listed some documents produced by the Partnership. The general management plan was completed, and is the guiding policy document for the park. A five-year strategic plan was created in 2000, and the Advisory Council critiqued the outcomes. He mentioned the economic development plan and a 10-year brochure that highlighted progress made since the creation of the park.

Bruce introduced Louise Millet, who led a brainstorming session. Partners were asked to fill in the sentence “Wouldn’t it be great if…” The following ideas were mentioned:

- ...the islands were a “must do” for visitors to Boston.
- ...Boston Public School student visits were frequent, affordable and the park offered superior programming for a wide-range of grades.
- ...sustainable design and operational goals were met.
- ...Harbor Islands generated enough green power to be self-sustaining and share with harbor communities.
- ...there were more places to swim.
- ...funding was available to restore salvageable buildings on Peddocks Island and complete plans for an eco-family camp.
- ...park discussions included the Harborwalk and integrating communities from land to sea.
- ...each visitor was greeted in a congenial way in their own language.
- ...more people knew about the park and visitation doubled.
- ...accessibility was improved and water transportation was affordable.
- ...the water transportation system was sustainable and provided frequent service.
- ...one or two major events a year attracted regional or national attention.
- ...islands were open and active twelve months a year.
- ...there were more sporting events, like a triathlon.
- ...Fort Warren was elevated to standards appropriate for a National Historic Landmark.
- ...surrounding neighborhoods were re-connected with islands.
- ...the park received more funding.
- ...the park had consistent, accurate signage.
- ...other islands were brought up to standards of Spectacle.
- ...staff of all Partner agencies felt invested in park and had understanding of their agency’s role in park management.
- ...bureaucratic barriers were abolished.
- ...private boaters were encouraged to visit, and were strong community advocates for the park.
- ...all forts in the park were restored.
- ...resources on Rainsford were better understood and cared for by public.
- ...seawalls were repaired.
- ...docks were maintained on schedule and repaired and replaced when necessary.
- ...there was an integrated effort for running youth camps and youth activities.
- ...the film industry considered the islands a prime location for filming.
- ...underwater archeological research and findings were included in interpretive programming.
- ...Partners worked in a coordinated fashion to connect the efforts of each agency into a whole.
- ...money could be easily transferred between agencies to support park initiatives.
- ...the park could replicate the success of Alcatraz.
- ...a visit to the Harbor Islands was a stop on the Freedom Trail.

Louise thanked all for the ideas, she suggested that the next step be for a small group of Partners to flesh out ideas. She asked for volunteers among the Partners to form a working group. After the working group meets, they will report back to the full board and public.

### **Infrastructure Improvements**

Tom Powers, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, reported on the status of projects funded by mitigation funds. Renovations on Georges and Peddocks Islands are planned. A Request for Proposals for

design services to renovate the administration and generator buildings on Georges was issued and a site tour was held. There was good response from design firms. On Peddocks, Bruner/Cott was chosen as the designer in 2004 for renovations of guardhouse, chapel and stable buildings along with landscape improvements. However, all available funds went to the utility project, so the design project was stalled. Park managers are in active discussions with Bruner/Cott about reviving the project. The Boston Harbor Island Alliance board will meet in June to finalize plans about moving forward.

### **Advisory Council**

The next Advisory Council will be held on June 4, 2008 at the State House.

### **New Business**

Bruce Jacobson invited all to a press event on Thursday, May 18, to kick-off Centennial Initiative projects and launch *Predator Prey* cards. Mayor Menino will attend.

Attention was brought to pages included in meeting packet that showed examples of products from the branding campaign.

A new voucher system for the ferry to the islands was explained. Season passes will not be provided this year for Partners and Advisory Council members, but NPS will provide vouchers when members visit the islands for work purposes. Two vouchers will be mailed to each Partner and Advisory Council member. Vouchers can be redeemed at the Harbor Express ticket kiosk where they will be exchanged for a boarding pass. Additional vouchers are available upon request.

### **Public Comment**

Bill Hale announced an upcoming article about the cottages on Peddocks Island. It is expected to be published in the Boston Globe's Parade Magazine on Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.