

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA  
March 10, 2009, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Attendees:** Maureen Cavanaugh, Greg Ketchen and Charlie Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance; Jim Hunt and Richard McGuinness—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); David Cash and Susan Kane—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Bruce Jacobson and Terry Savage—National Park Service (NPS); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center.

Jim Hunt, acting Chair, called the meeting to order. There was a motion to accept the minutes from the January 27, 2009 meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

### **2009 Funding Update**

Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent, said the NPS park operating budget is still unknown because Congress has not approved the federal budget. If the budget passes as proposed, the park will receive \$90k additional in operating funds and \$5M for the construction of the Harbor Park Pavilion on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Bruce said he had been working on project proposals for the NPS Service-wide funding call. This once-a-year review process is how most NPS projects are funded; projects he submitted were previously identified as Partnership priorities. Bruce mentioned DCR is watching the state budget process closely as the Governor of Massachusetts recently announced additional cuts.

Bruce said NPS and DCR have also applied for funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He reported that NPS received \$750M in project funds. Boston Harbor Islands submitted several proposals including replacement of the Georges Island pier. He said the federal request was for half of the needed \$12M, with additional funding committed by the state. Bruce thanked NPS regional staff and DCR staff for their work providing details in the past, and as the selection process moves forward. David Cash added DCR submitted \$35M worth of stimulus proposals to benefit the islands. Both agencies are waiting to hear if any of the submitted projects will be funded.

### **Infrastructure Project Updates**

David Cash, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, said Secretary Bowles is very supportive of upgrades to Georges Island. He said Secretary Bowles is particularly interested in sustainability issues and hopes to make the island “carbon neutral.” He said that with the help of Partners, NPS, and Boston Harbor Island Alliance, the upgrades to Georges will be rolled out in stages. DCR’s first task is to relocate the maintenance facility, rehabilitate the Mine Storage Building and transform it into a visitor center. The second project is to update the Generator Building and electrical supply system, and the third will be to replace the pier. They are looking at several fund sources to support these projects. Susan Kane added that the construction of a new maintenance facility and the rehabilitation of the Mine Storage Building are scheduled for the 2009 season. DCR and Boston Harbor Island Alliance are holding a public meeting about these initiatives on March 19, 2009. She invited all to attend.

Bruce Jacobson said the construction of the new floating dock on Little Brewster Island remains on schedule and is expected to be completed in June.

Tim Love, Utile Inc., gave a presentation on the design concept for the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

**Advisory Council**

Maureen Cavanaugh announced the Advisory Council held their annual meeting on March 5. She was elected as Chair and Jennifer Bender Ferre was elected as Vice-chair. The Council voted to recommend several individuals to the Director of NPS for official appointment. Maureen said the Council is working to strengthen their role as “voice of the people” and increase their public outreach efforts.

**Public Comment**

It was announced that many details of Sail Boston are currently in flux. The shut down of the harbor during the Parade of Sail is expected to remain as planned. Plans are in place for park ferries to leave from Squantum Point, and possibly Fallon State Pier at JFK during that time.

The Volvo Ocean Race will be held from April 27-May 16. Landside events will be held at Fan Pier.

Steve Marcus, Volunteers & Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands invited all to their annual meeting on April 26. He said that in celebration of the Friends 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, they are donating books about the park to several area libraries

Harbor Island Express ferries will begin service on May 9; the season will end on Columbus Day.

The meeting was adjourned.