

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Boston Redevelopment Authority, City Hall, 9th Floor, Boston, MA
May 19, 2009, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh, Bill Hale and Charlie Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers and Joel Reck—Boston Harbor Island Alliance; Jim Hunt—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Susan Kane and Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly, representing Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Bruce Jacobson and Terry Savage—National Park Service (NPS); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR).

Jim Hunt, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes from the March 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

On behalf of the Partnership, Jim Hunt recognized the 30th Anniversary of the Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. He presented an award to Steve Marcus, Chairman, and thanked them for their dedication to the islands.

2009 Youth Programs

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, gave a presentation about the wide variety of youth programs that the Partnership agencies offer. A few of the programs were highlighted: Kristen Sherman, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, reported on the Island Pass free boat trips; Greg Stoddard, Boys & Girls Club of Boston, gave details on the Camp Harbor View summer program; Kelly Fellner, NPS, and Paul Lamoureux, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, presented information on Environmental Connections and Harbor Connections curriculum programs; Kristen Wyman, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, gave an overview of the Native American Youth Institute; Bruce highlighted the Junior Ranger, Web Ranger, and the state's Park Passport programs. It is estimated that Partners will facilitate visits and provide programs for over 50,000 youth in 2009. Youth programs are varied and include: academic offerings, summer camps, recreational trips, educational programs, teambuilding and leadership programs, career exploration, conservation crews and summer jobs. A summary of these offerings is attached. Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent, noted that in addition to these, many other organizations provide youth programs on Boston Harbor and islands. Bruce Berman, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, added that his organization brought 4,800 youth to the park in 2008.

Partnership Appointment Status

Mary Raczko, NPS, gave a brief report on the status of Partnership appointments. There are currently seven vacancies on the board; five names were recommended to the Secretary of Interior for appointment. The official appointment process is notoriously slow, especially during times when the administration is changing. Some of the names were submitted several months ago, we hope to hear something soon. There are changes to the US Coast Guard seats, CDR Nate Knapp will replace CDR Bill Kelly as voting alternate and CAPT John Healey will replace CAPT Gail Kulish as voting partner. Several current Partners' terms are due to expire soon; but all are eligible for re-nomination. NPS will send out letters to affected parties with instructions on how to prepare required paperwork.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair, announced an upcoming Advisory Council meeting on June 4. Katherine MacDonald, KMAC Marketing, will lead a messaging workshop. The goal of the session is to begin the process of developing a common message when communicating about the Advisory Council. Maureen also said the council expressed concerns about Rainsford Island and they are learning more about the issue.

Public Comment

An update on the status of the Harbor Park Pavilion was requested. Joel Reck said that the design for the Harbor Park Pavilion is complete, and they hope to have construction finished by the start of next season.

A question was asked about using Squantum Point Park as a gateway to the park. Karl Pastore, DCR, said there is some rehabilitation work scheduled for the pier at the end of June or July. Congressman Delahunt is very supportive of using the area as a gateway to the Boston Harbor Islands and with having a connection to Adams and Boston National Historical Parks. Much would need to be done (including securing major funding for both the pier improvements and for water transportation services), to make the gateway concept a reality.

The meeting was adjourned.