

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA  
March 16, 2010, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Attendees:** Maureen Cavanaugh and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers and Joel Reck—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Antonia Pollak—City of Boston Environmental and Energy Services; David Cash and Susan Kane—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); James Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority (MASSPORT); Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA); Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); CDR Nathan Knapp—United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Bruce Jacobson, Acting Chair, welcomed all and called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. The minutes from the February 16, 2010, meeting of the Partnership were approved.

### **Election of Officers**

The Nominating Committee presented their recommendations for officers: David Cash for Chair, and James Hunt for Vice-Chair. Nominations were requested from the floor; there were none. A motion was made to accept the slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee. **The motion was unanimously approved.** The gavel was turned over to David Cash.

David Cash said he was a park enthusiast for as long as he could remember. He shared a story of volunteering at Zion National Park and said he was excited to become part of the park family as he serves as Chair of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership. David said the Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs is striving toward making the islands a “net-zero energy park” as part of its green energy agenda. He hopes to ramp up the engagement of the Partnership in this initiative, and noted the forward motion already, with the recent energy improvements to Georges Island and the solar panels at the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion.

David also said he hopes to improve access to the islands and would like to work towards ways to lower the cost of the public ferry. He opened the floor for questions or comments. Bruce Jacobson said NPS and DCR are involved in a national program called *Climate Friendly Parks*. An NPS intern is collecting data from Partners to get a baseline of energy use that can be used to monitor energy usage over time. The program also includes an educational component.

### **Citizen Science Programs**

Marc Albert, NPS, described the many ways the community contributes to scientific research and inventory & monitoring efforts in the park. He gave an overview of citizen science programs offered in the park and of new programs that will be added this season. A presentation is attached.

### **Advisory Council**

Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair, reported the Council held their annual meeting on March 3. Marc Albert, NPS, and Heather Deschanes, New England Aquarium, gave a presentation on Citizen Science. She announced that she was re-elected as Chair and Jennifer Ferre was elected as Vice-Chair.

### **New Business**

David Cash established the Operations Committee as an ad hoc committee and designated Jim Scully, TIOBEC, as Chair.

### **Park Updates**

Susan Kane reported that the Georges Island Visitor Center is 75% complete. The contract for exhibit design will be awarded soon. She said the video production team produced a draft script for the movie and will start filming soon. The movie will tell the history of coastal defense and will also tie in general information about the park.

Tom Powers said BHIA is pleased to announce Summer Shack was awarded the contract as food vendor for Georges and Spectacle Islands.

DCR, NPS, and BHIA continue to seek funding for construction of a new pier for Georges Island: DCR has identified \$1.8M for FY2010 and 2011; NPS has identified \$10.5M for FY2013.

It is expected that the dock construction for Little Brewster Island will be complete in time for June trips to begin. CDR Paul Arnett, USCG, Chief of Operations for Sector Boston, was introduced.

The ferries will start running to Georges and Spectacle on May 8.

### **Peddocks Island**

Tom said BHIA has funding for Peddocks Island improvements. Several fort buildings have been identified for restoration, stabilization and demolition. Massachusetts Historic Commission has expressed concern over the plans and park managers are working to address them. Joel Reck, BHIA, expressed frustration over the delay and iterated the many safety concerns of current conditions. The Partners discussed strategies to move the project forward. It was noted that condition assessments are on file and DCR has established a process for photo documentation of the site.

### **Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion**

Tom said BHIA and NPS continue working tirelessly on planning for the construction of the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion on parcel 14 of the Rose Kennedy Greenway. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for May 3. It is expected that Representative Michael Capuano and Mayor Tom Menino will speak at the event. He invited all to attend.

### **Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.