

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA
May 18, 2010, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh, Bill Hale, Greg Ketchen, and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance; Antonia Pollak—City of Boston; David Cash, Susan Kane, and Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Jim Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority; Marianne Connolly for Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Nathan Knapp—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

David Cash, Chair, welcomed all and called the meeting to order. Partners were introduced. The minutes from the March 16, 2010, meeting of the Partnership were approved.

David announced there was a good turnout for the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion ground breaking ceremony on May 3. If all goes on schedule, construction could be finished by fall.

Youth Programs

Island Ambassadors

Carolyn Lewenberg, Island Ambassador Program Manager, introduced Tara Weaver, Youth Mentor, and Celina Abundis, former Island Ambassador peer leader and now National Park Service ranger.

Carolyn said Island Ambassadors are employed by the park and work on a variety of stewardship projects and career development activities. She said one issue of focus was on climate change, and last year youth were inspired to use art as a way to create awareness of the issue through film and other art forms. She mentioned one project where youth created sculptures out of cuttings of Oriental bittersweet, an invasive plant in the park that managers are trying to control. Carolyn said that in the coming year, the youth will expand their involvement with citizen science programs, specifically phenology, pest, and marine invasive monitoring.

Tara reported on a recent trip the Ambassadors took to San Jose California to present at a National Service-Learning Conference. She said it was inspiring to see a national, and even global, youth effort to address social and environmental issues in their own communities. Carolyn passed out a copy of the Ambassadors presentation called “STOP, DROP, and ROLL”. More specifically, STOP environmental abuse, DROP carbon emissions, and ROLL with nature. This work explored adaptations humans might need to make in the face of climate change.

Celina said it was a powerful experience attending the national conference and it sparked many program ideas for the coming year that will be youth-driven. She also remarked the conference was an excellent opportunity for the youth to hone their public speaking skills.

David Cash asked how many youth were involved and about how success is measured. Carolyn said they are expecting 15 youth to be employed this year. Bruce Jacobson said the program has existed for over 8 years and evolved through a partnership between NPS and Boston Harbor Island Alliance. The program is currently undergoing a transition, involving a shift to Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center as the non-profit partner of NPS. He said one of the goals of the program is to attract youth to environmental careers and to facilitate their employment in parks.

Bruce Berman, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, said he was interested in learning more about the program and suggested the park make it more visible, as the press would likely be very interested. He invited Ambassadors to contribute to the Save the Harbor/Save the Bay youth blog and hoped to find connections with youth employed by his organization.

Boston Summer Learning Project

Kelly Fellner, NPS, announced that NPS and Thompson Island Outward Bound have entered into a partnership with Boston Afterschool and Beyond to provide outdoor, off-site, summer learning opportunities for Boston Public Schools. She introduced Chris Smith, Executive Director, Boston Afterschool and Beyond. Chris gave an overview of his organization and a summary of the middle school curriculum being developed at Thompson Island. He said Thompson Island jumped out of a list of over 500 program providers to become one of the few providers selected. He said the islands were the ideal place for the applied math, physical science and team building curriculum that will be delivered. Forty students from Orchard Gardens Middle School will attend classes on the island every day in July, and will work with educators and scientists.

Getting Youth to the Islands Working Group

David Cash assigned Arthur Pearson to chair a "Getting Youth to the Islands" working group for the Partnership. Their charge is:

To bring organizations in the Harbor Islands community together to share information on current programs and youth served, and to look for innovative ways to connect more kids to the resources of Boston harbor and the islands.

- i) To gain a more accurate count of current numbers of youth served and the range of program opportunities.*
- ii) Look at the intersection of school year curriculum-based programming and out-of-school programs to look for possible collaborations, avoid redundancy, and create a path to life-long learning and possible future career options in conservation and the environment.*

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh said the Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on June 2. Bill Hale announced he is stepping down as Alternate Partner. The council endorses Chris Montgomery to fill the vacant position.

New Business

Bruce Jacobson announced a Partnership field trip to Little Brewster Island on June 17 for a ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new floating dock. David Cash also invited Partners on an upcoming scoping trip to get a preview of Georges Island before the visitor center opens in July.

Bruce Jacobson reminded all of the significance of the year 2016. It marks the 20th anniversary for the Boston Harbor Islands national park, the centennial of the National Park Service and Boston Light's Tercentennial. He said it is never too early to start planning, and requested help in the effort. Susan Kane, Karl Pastore and Toni Pollak volunteered. CDR Nate Knapp will research the appropriate contact at USCG. David Cash suggested that the topic be on the agenda for the next Partnership for all to discuss.

Bruce Jacobson presented a draft communications guide for Partners to review; he said the marketing committee will request endorsement by the Partnership at the July meeting. This guide will provide guidance for Partners to present the park in a consistent manner. It contains

sections on messaging, visual standards (logo use, fonts, photos etc.), and a style guide for text communications.

Susan Kane said Flagship Adventures are gearing up for the season and will continue to do trips to the islands in the coming year.

Mary Raczko, NPS, distributed bird checklists for Boston Harbor Islands. These brochures will be available at all the public islands; visitors will be encouraged to record their observations in eBird, an internet database.

Tara Weaver announced that paid internships are available to Partner agencies. She said the youth are available to work from July 7 to August 3rd.

Kelly Fellner said that applications are now being accepted for full-time NPS Education Technician. She encouraged Partners to spread the word; there will be 3 weeks to apply.

Public Comment

Bruce Berman asked about the lack of signage at the ferry ticket kiosk at Long Wharf. Tom Powers explained it was an ongoing issue with Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). The park, Boston's Best Cruises, and BRA have come to agreement; signs should be hung on the newly painted kiosk this week.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.