

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
July 19, 2011, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Richard McGuinness—Boston Redevelopment Authority; David Cash and Karl Pastore—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Jim Doolin—Massachusetts Port Authority; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); Peg Wheeler—The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR).

Bruce Jacobson, Acting Chair, welcomed all, called the meeting to order, and announced a quorum. Bruce announced that the conference facilities at WilmerHale will be unavailable for about a year. David Cash, Chair, arrived and announced he was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Public Utilities, but will serve on the Partnership through fall. Partners and the audience introduced themselves. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the May 17th meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Water Transportation

Tom Powers reminded all that at the last Partnership meeting, the group discussed the possibility a gas surcharge may be added to the cost of park ferry tickets. Boston's Best Cruises worked hard to avoid the surcharge for ferries, but are requesting one at this time. Tom introduced Bill Walker, Boston Best Cruises (BBC), who gave a report on ferry ridership which was up from this time last year.

Bill Walker passed out reports showing oil costs fluctuations over the past year and average price of fuel purchased by BBC in 2010 and 2011. He also passed out a chart with projected fuel costs and projected \$1 surcharge revenues. The fuel charge was meant only to help offset increases in costs. Bill said park managers evaluated a system where triggers were built in. If fuel went below \$2.90/gallon for 5 days the surcharge would be removed and if fuel rose above \$3.60/gallon, talks of an additional increase would begin. He also said many discounts are still in place; and if visitors purchase online, they receive a discount of \$2. So even with a \$1 surcharge, they are only paying \$13 per adult ticket (\$1 less than the published walk-up price). Bill did note that the surcharge applies to all classes of fares.

The partners discussed. The consensus was it was a reasonable proposal. A motion was made to endorse the proposed surcharge and the enforcement of the triggers. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Partners also suggested a message be drafted and issued to boat and park staff to help them explain the surcharge to the public in a consistent manner.

Tom Powers reported that improvements to internet connections were completed at the ticket kiosk and should vastly help speed up the wait time. David Cash asked if wait times

were tracked. Bill said they were not currently systematically recorded, and can work on a better system to evaluate.

Solid Waste Management

Marc Albert, NPS gave an update on solid waste, recycling, and composting in the park. He said there are many challenges and repercussions of the current carry-on carry-off policy. The policy is currently not clear to all visitors, and even when they follow it, they just take their trash to the boat, or to Long Wharf, just moving the problem to the mainland. The issue at Long Wharf is of particular concern. Marc said the [Partnership's](#) Green Action Team is taking on the issue in a variety of ways: studying past solid waste management plans; looking at feasibility of pay-as-you-throw program; running trash research days to help understand how much and what type of trash there actually is; and piloting a Bokashi composting program on Georges Island. Mary Raczko, NPS, suggested the Green Action Team also factor in the disposal of trash that accumulates on the beach with any plans developed for solid waste management.

The partners discussed how each agency currently handles solid waste, and mentioned what food vendors are doing to help reduce and recycle. Many partners indicated it was worth investigating a larger park-wide system to help lower costs, and that further studies would be needed. David Cash offered to look for any funding Department of Environmental Protection may offer that could be applicable.

Partnership Update

Bruce Jacobson gave an update on Partnership membership changes. He reminded all that members need to complete annual OGE financial disclosure reports and ethics training.

Park Update

Bruce Jacobson announced that NPS is in the process of hiring Hugh Hawthorne for the position of Youth and Visitor Services Coordinator. Bruce gave a report on a successful Partnership Civil War program on Sunday, July 19. It was a reenactment of the presentation of colors to the MA 12th Infantry Regiment by Boston orator Edward Everett, which included his famous speech. Following the ceremony, visitors marched alongside the reenactors as they marched to Long Wharf. Massachusetts Historic, DCR, NPS, and City of Boston sponsored the event.

Bruce passed out Civil War trading cards from Boston Harbor Islands. Other sets are available at national parks and nationwide. He announced upcoming Civil war lecture series and teachers workshop.

The coastal waterbird monitoring report was distributed to Partners. The report is available to the public online.

Bruce said the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion is functioning as designed. He receives many positive comments from both visitors and staff. He showed a YouTube video "Pavilion Provides New Pathway to Boston Harbor Islands" that describes the design concept.

Advisory Council

Rob Moir, Chair, said the council held a meeting June 2. The presentations by Stephanie Schorow about the story of four intrepid women who vacationed on the Great Brewster Island in July 1891 and by Dr. Lauren Nolfo-Clements about the mammals of the park were very engaging and well received by attendees. The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2011.

Public Comment

Bill Walker invited Partners to a complimentary sunset cruise around the islands that leaves at 7:30PM [for Friends of Christopher Columbus Park](#).

Camp Harborview expects 1000 runners for a fundraiser on Long Island on July 26.

Mary Raczko announced that Boston Harbor Island Alliance received a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts that will support a beach clean-up on Peddocks Island on September 20.

Tom Powers announced an upcoming Free Ferry Day on August 19, supported by Highland Street Foundation, as part of their Free Fun Fridays programming.

Karen O'Donnell announced upcoming sunset cruises to Peddocks and Long islands hosted by Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands.

Karen asked when the "no trespassing" signs would be removed from middle head on Peddocks Island now that construction was over. Karl Pastore said he will look into it.

The meeting was adjourned.