

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, 15th Floor, Boston, MA
July 24, 2012, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh, Chris Montgomery, and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Richard McGuinness—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Antonia Pollak—City of Boston; David Cash and Susan Kane—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Marianne Connolly—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS); Arthur Pearson—Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC); CAPT John O'Connor and CDR Jason Smith—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Chair David Cash called the meeting to order, and welcomed Susan Kane back from her service in the Middle East. Partners and the audience introduced themselves. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2012, meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Elections of Officers

Antonia Pollak said the nominating committee recommends Arthur Pearson, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, as Chair and Richard Sullivan, DCR, for Vice-Chair. Tom Powers noted that the state has historically held the Chair position, and the City the Vice-Chair position. Antonia said the Nominating Committee is aware that there is also a strong voice on the Partnership from the non-profit sector and thought it was an appropriate time to recognize the non-profit role. A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee and elect Arthur Pearson as Chair. Nominations were sought from the floor. There being none, **the motion was unanimously approved** and Arthur was elected Chair.

David Cash passed the gavel to Arthur and said he is leaving the Partnership in very good, capable hands. Bruce and Arthur thanked David on behalf of the entire Partnership for his dedication, enthusiasm, and service. A gavel was presented to him. David said he has enjoyed his time on the Partnership and is amazed at how much success the park has already made and looks forward to watching it grow. He also gave thanks to Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent, for his efforts keeping things on track and progressing. A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee and elect Richard Sullivan as Vice-Chair. Nominations were sought from the floor. There being none, **the motion was unanimously approved** and Richard Sullivan was elected Vice-Chair.

Arts Afire

Bruce Jacobson reminded all that there was a discussion about creating an Artists-In-Residence program and that NPS was designated as the lead agency for the coordination of the development. Bruce showed a video presentation of a *TEDx Talk* featuring the digital art at the Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion. He also gave a summary of recent arts programming, including *Hands Up* on Thompson Island, Art Encampment, and Berklee concert series.

Greater & Greener

Tom Powers said he, Bruce Jacobson, and Antonia Pollak attended the Greater and Greener Conference that was held in New York last week. The conference focused on the importance of urban parks and green spaces and how such parks could hope to succeed in the future. He said there were representatives from at least 30 states and 20 different countries. Tom said he lead a session that focused on the complex structure of Boston Harbor Island's Partnership and the working relationship between National Park Service and Boston Harbor Island Alliance. Antonia

Pollak mentioned that over 210 cities were represented also. She led a session on environmental sustainability, and shared the city of Boston's success with finding mitigation funding and using it to expand an existing tree planting program. Among the lessons learned were that being pro-active pays off, having vision and plans ready to go, means you can take better advantage of opportunities. Bruce mentioned the two keynote speakers, Interior Secretary Salazar and Mayor Bloomberg, which spoke about the important role urban parks play in the daily lives of residents and the challenges of funding them. Bruce said only a select few representatives from the NPS attended, and it was good that he was invited to represent Boston Harbor Islands.

Youth in the Park

Amy Glowacki, National Park Service (NPS), gave a presentation on the Student Career Intern Program (SCIP), an innovative collaborative effort of Massachusetts NPS sites and park partners that provides summer employment and career training for local youth from urban and minority communities. She said Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, is a key partner in the program. The program's goal is for the youth to find permanent employment in the NPS. Now in its fourth year, 13 students are engaged in the intensive career exploration, and 2 are employed at Boston Harbor Islands. The interns shared their experiences and results of their participation in the program, and all expressed it has been fun to travel to different parks and a great experience to get exposure to so many different career fields.

Hugh Hawthorne, NPS, said SCIP is one piece of the parks youth job program, and that there is a progression, an opportunity for Junior Rangers to become Green Ambassadors and then interns, and then hopefully for permanent employment. Hugh said NPS works with Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to run the Green Ambassador Program, a summer employment program for urban youth geared to high-school age students. Hugh introduced Olga Feingold, TIOBEC, who supervises the Green Ambassadors. Olga gave a presentation on their activities this year, 40 students are enrolled in the summer work program and get a variety of experiences and opportunities for career development. Some of the Green Ambassadors were at the meeting and highlighted their favorite parts of the program; being outside and making new friends were high on the list.

Betsy Colby, NPS, gave a presentation on the activities of the education team. She said NPS works closely with Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, on the development of curriculum and engaging school age youth. She said they conducted over 200 programs and reached over 6,500 students in the Boston area this year alone. Betsy explained the park offers a diversity of programs that includes day and overnight trips to the islands, classroom visits featuring a diversity of curriculum: Civil War, marine and insect life, climate change, and geology.

Hugh Hawthorne gave an overview of other youth programs in the park, including Junior Ranger, Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, Native Tribal Scholars, Camp Like a Kid, Island Pass, Camp Harborview, and youth programming by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. He also said NPS is initiating a new program "Adopt a School" as part of the NPS Director's Call to Action.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-chair, said the council last met in June when Jane Ellis, Boston Harbor Island Alliance, gave an update on the Peddocks Island improvements to East Head.

New Business

CAPT John O'Connor was welcomed back to the Partnership to represent the US Coast Guard. Chris Montgomery stepped down from his service on the Partnership. His dedication and contributions were recognized.

Public Comment

Olga Feingold thanked the Partnership for their efforts making sure these islands and green spaces exist and are accessible; the youth experience is phenomenal.

The meeting was adjourned.