

**Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th floor, Boston, MA
May 21, 2013 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh and Charles Norris—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Jane Ellis for Tom Powers—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Richard McGuinness—Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA); Ed Lambert and Susan Kane—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Fred Laskey and Marianne Connolly—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Michael Caldwell and Bruce Jacobson—National Park Service (NPS).

Ed Lambert, Acting Vice-Chair opened the meeting. A quorum was present. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013, meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Boston University Advisory Plan

Bruce Jacobson said that last year, Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council facilitated a connection between Dr. Enrique Silva of Boston University and the park. Soon after, the 2013 Boston University Master of City Planning and Urban Affairs Symposium Team was commissioned by the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership to prepare an advisory plan for the revision of the park's general management plan. The students did extensive research over a 4-month period, and prepared the report. The team presented their Advisory Plan at a special workshop of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council on May 13. Bruce gave a presentation summarizing the recommendations:

- To strengthen outreach efforts by using technology and cultural competency to attract a more diverse visitor base.
- To include climate change in planning documents to recognize the impacts and inform long-term planning efforts.
- To commission a financial sustainability analysis to identify opportunities for revenue generation from the private sector.
- To ensure longevity of Partnership communication channels through formal conflict mediation mechanisms and to maintain institutional memory.
- To develop a foundation statement to clarify fundamental resources and values and revisit priorities for the park and Partnership.

Bruce said the full plan will be available online at:
nps.gov/boha/parkmgmt/planning-documents.htm.

The Partners discussed. Bruce reminded all that the Partnership approved a Climate Friendly Parks Action Plan in 2010. He said that a recent EPA settlement regarding power plant emissions could be a source of funding to help move the action plan forward.

There was general agreement that the Advisory Plan was useful, and will help inform the new superintendent. Partners asked what a foundation statement is. Bruce said that a foundation statement is a National Park Service document that supports planning efforts and management of the park. It presents a shared understanding of what is most important about the park and describes the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes, and other special mandates. Maureen asked if there will be any action taken to implement the recommendations in the Advisory Plan. Bruce said that that it is a stated goal of the NPS to have all parks develop a foundation statement by 2016, and that the new superintendent would likely be the best person to address the question. It is an issue that could also be put forth to the Planning Committee. He reminded all that with his departure, the

Planning Committee will need a new Chair. All Partnership committees must be chaired by either an appointed Voting Partner or a Voting Alternate.

Boston Harbor Islands Center

Marc Albert gave a presentation about the Boston Harbor Islands Center for Stewardship, Research and Learning. The Center links students, educators, researchers, park managers, and community volunteers through experiential learning that is linked to scientific and scholarly research. The lead partners are National Park Service, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, and University of Massachusetts Boston. The presentation is attached.

Transitions

Jane Ellis announced that Tom Powers is leaving Boston Harbor Island Alliance effective June 4. He will stay on as a volunteer until the end of June to help with the annual gala. Phil Griffiths was selected as the new President, and will start on June 5.

Mike Caldwell said that Bruce Jacobson is leaving mid-July. An NPS transition team is coming the week of July 20 to get a deeper understanding of park operations, challenges, and issues facing the park. All partners will get an invitation for an interview. The team will also interview Advisory Council and park staff. The team will prepare recommendations to NPS to help inform the hiring of a new superintendent. They will also look at how to improve efficiencies, specifically, where it might make sense to combine some functions with Boston National Historical Park. The NPS staff is very small at the islands, and the administrative burden is high. It is expected that there may be an advantage found for both parks to combine some administrative functions. Mike said that the position for Acting Superintendent is advertised now, with an expected start date of mid-July. They hope to announce the permanent job in July, and have the new superintendent start in October.

Ed Lambert gave thanks to both Tom and Bruce for their extraordinary leadership and wishes them well. Bruce Jacobson said that he has been at all but one of the 124 Partnership meetings, and gave thanks to all for contributing to the Partnership's success.

Nominating Committee

Bruce said the Partnership is currently without a vice-chair as Richard Sullivan has left state service. He said that Arthur Pearson's term as chair ends in July. A motion was made to reactivate the Nominating Committee to recommend officers for the next year. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Antonia Pollak offered to Chair the Nominating Committee and Marianne Connolly and Susan Kane volunteered to serve.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh, Vice-chair, said the Council requests an encore presentation about the Boston University Advisory Plan for the next meeting on June 5. Many Advisory Council members were not able to attend the May workshop.

Other Business

A bill is under consideration by the Massachusetts legislature that could help clarify the joint use and operation of Spectacle Island.

Bruce said there is ongoing discussion about how to recognize Krystle Campbell. Park managers are working with Krystle's family members to find the most appropriate way. There are a couple of options currently under consideration.

The Peddocks Island yurts are expected to be ready for the June 21st opening. Weekend reservations are already sold out for the season. There are also tent and group sites available on the island.

Fred Laskey said visitation to Nut and Deer Islands is growing. Marianne Connolly said that Native American and Irish Memorial projects on Deer Island are progressing, and may be completed by October.

Public Comment

There was a request made to clarify the fare structure for the interisland ferry and to put that information on the park websites. Jane said that there is an additional \$3 fee for the interisland ferry if visitors depart from Long Wharf. The fee is waived for registered campers. There is no additional fee if you depart from Hingham or Hull.

Suzanne Gall Marsh said that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program is going on its 8th season and is very popular. She said participants really enjoy the trips to Deer Island and Spectacle Island.

The meeting was adjourned.