BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 1998
Boston Redevelopment Authority
City Hall, Boston, MA

Chairman Webber called the Partnership meeting to order.

The minutes of the December 10, 1997 meeting were accepted.

PRESENT: George Armstrong, TIOBEC; Kathy Abbott, IA; Jim Doolin, Massport; Trudy Coxe, EOEA; Commander Dan May, Coast Guard; Brian Broderick, MDC; Cathy Douglas Stone, City of Boston; Richard Howe, TTOR; George Price, NPS

Reports from the Committees followed.

Advisory Council Report, George Price
The names of the Advisory Council nominees have been checked and sent to Washington for approval; the details of the Charter are being worked out as well. A workshop for the nominees will be held on January 27, 1998; the first official meeting of the Advisory Council will be on March 10, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Fish Pier Exchange Building. A reception will follow. Funds will be available to cover the travel of the Native American members who are coming from great distances. At that meeting, the members will ratify the governmental issues for the Council. Advisory Council members will be invited to attend the Partnership meeting on March 11, 10:30 to 12:00.

Finance Report, Cathy Douglas Stone
The committee is developing answers for four basic questions:
1. How are the funds (and voluntary contributions from non-profit organizations) that each agency contributes accounted for?
2. Does the Partnership have its own budget and how is it generated?
3. Do Partnership members fund their own or other projects?
4. Does the Island Alliance operate differently from other Partners and how does it decide what to fund?

Answers to these questions have legal impacts. We need to determine how the Partnership can be a decision-making body. Regarding the Island Alliance, need to determine what is required to allow fiscal transactions to take place. For the state, we need to determine which authority the state has to spend money on land that it doesn't own; e.g. to legally acknowledge the existence of the Partnership. Peter Webber will head up the team to draft legislation together to give the state spending authority for Partnership projects. For Spectacle Islands, which is city/state owned, the expenditures need to be seamless.

Cathy Stone said that it's different with this park; there are so many owners. Sarah Peskin, NPS, said that the Management Plan will recommend funding strategies along

with proposed development projects. She also said that the legislation allows the Partnership to spend funds as an entity.

Education Programs and Park Operations Report by George Price
By February 18, the committee will have a schedule of events. It is working on spring, summer and fall events, including jazz concerts. The committee would like to consider extended hours, but that requires extending the Boston Harbor Cruises service.

Partnership Meeting Dates
February 18, 1998 at the BRA board room, 12:00 to 2:00
March 11, 1998, 10:30 to 12:30
April 8, 1998, 12:00 to 2:00

Additional Planning Workshop: March 9 at the Indian Center, 105 S. Huntington Ave
This site is on the MBTA Green line

Marketing and Public Relations Report by Kathy Abbott
The advertising firm of Holland Mark Martin Edmund has developed a proposal for "virtual visitor center" web page for the park. They developed a graphic look and a plan for marketing the site to potential visitors. Regarding the logo, the committee will select one to submit to the Partnership at the next meeting. The deadline for final selection is February 26 so that merchandise can be underway.

Planning Committee Report by Lorraine Downey
The planning team has given two very successful workshops and received thoughtful comments, e.g.:

- leave the islands completely alone
- some should be developed with active recreation
- increase the access via ferry
- have more ferry routes
- increase food services
- whimsy!
- financial situation – how does it work?

Responding to the last issue, Trudy Cox said that we need a way to show how much each agency contributes. Chairman Webber said that the state can give both operating and capital funds. She said that the Partnership should use the agencies' contributions to leverage additional funds from Congress.

In all, the staff sent out 13,000 brochures and many notices to news media. Attendance has been high and participants seemed pleased to have the chance to give their opinions.

The Slide Show, narrated by Sarah Peskin
The planning team gave the slide show that was developed for the workshops.

Public Comments
Gary McCann thanked the Partnership for making arrangements so the Native American members of the Advisory Council could attend the March meeting.

Vivien Li appreciated the attention to diversity shown by the Partnership.

Jim Lampke from Hull, said that the town of Hull was one of four finalists for the proposed National Lighthouse Museum and requested that Partnership members send letters of support. The museum would be located on the mainland, but within sight of the Boston Light. George Price said that the Partnership's legislation allows for the support of this proposal because Hull is a full partner with the park. The museum officials are planning a visit to Hull March 29-30. The Partnership voted unanimously that the proposal was "compatible and consistent with our mission."

George Marsh thanked the MDC for an informative tour of Peddock's Island. He asked if the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands will be involved in the discussions for the renewal of the contract for Boston Harbor Cruises. Chairman Webber replied that the contract will be extended and that he welcomed comments.

Field Trips by George Price
The next trip will be on February 27 to Thompson's Island, 10:00 to 2:00.

Agency reports
In the interest of time, Chairman Webber suspended these reports.

Meeting adjourned.