

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Twelfth Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium, Long Wharf, Conference Center
February 10, 2000, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

The twelfth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council was called to order by Jack Wiggin, Chair. There is a quorum, 20 of the 28 Advisory Council members were present (see attached attendance sheet).

Opening Comments

Jack Wiggin welcomed all and thanked everyone for coming and Greg Ketchen and the New England Aquarium for providing the meeting location.

Jack Wiggin introduced the members of SIPAC and explained that this meeting was to be an informational meeting on the status and planning of Spectacle Island. It was requested that any discussions or questions be held until the end of the presentation since many of the speakers were on a tight schedule.

Spectacle Island Presentation:

Sheila Lynch , SIPAC, gave a historical overview of Spectacle Island.

Mike Virta ,Central Artery Project, explained the construction progress made to date and described the work that remains to be done on the island. Topics included the construction of beaches, containment dikes, pathways, seawalls and an L shaped pier.

Chris Busch ,City of Boston, and Diane Haynes ,Department of Environmental Management, (DEM) talked about the next two years until the island is open to the public. They explained that a large number of parties are involved in the Spectacle Island project. The island is part of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area, owned by the City of Boston and DEM, and will be operated by a management team consisting of the New England Aquarium, University of Massachusetts and Modern Continental.

The future for the island will include a thirtyeight boat marina and an ADA compliant pier for ferries, shuttles and private boats. A visitor center will contain an information desk, exhibit area, maintenance garage for electric vehicle, restroom facilities with composting toilets, café and caretaker's living quarters. Landscaping will be used to integrate the pier, visitor center and the pathways.

Spectacle Island will utilize "green" technology. Composting toilets, gray water systems, photovoltaic arrays, radiant heating, electric vehicles and the use of recycled material will all be part of the zero emission project and sustainable management practices for the island.

George Price spoke about the plans for Spectacle Island and the upcoming event, Sail 2000. Spectacle Island is a prime viewing location for the parades of the tall ships as they enter and depart from the port of Boston. The owners first concen is to protect the resource. Access will be focused from the south shore and will probably be reservations only, with a maximum of 2500

people on the island at any time. The cost would include transportation plus a modest surcharge for activities.

Brian McDonald, New England Aquarium, explained about the potential programs and exhibits being considered for the island. Spectacle Island is only a 10-15 minute boat ride from Boston. The island will be open to the local population, international and domestic tourists, youth and adult groups as well as to corporate and private rentals. Activities may include swimming, sunbathing, volleyball, birding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. There will be both free and fee based activities on the island. Examples of potential fee-based activities include bike rentals, boat rentals, sailing lessons, overnight camping, and kayak lessons. This island offers a good opportunity to interpret sustainability. One of the main themes is the transformation from dump to park with an emphasis on "green technology".

Dave Dilts is assisting with the alternate energy initiative. He spoke about the zero emission project and the use of photovoltaics, electric vehicles and energy education to achieve this goal.

Greg Ketchen spoke about the future for the island after it opens in 2002. He sees it not as a final product but a continuing process as the whole island continues to evolve. Spectacle Island will be one of the gateways to the harbor islands. It will be important to market this island and spread the word.

Questions:

Edith Andrews asked about shade trees and resting spots around the island. Electric vehicles will be available to get around the island and in the future additional shade shelters may be constructed.

Suzanne Gall Marsh asked what the estimated carrying capacity for the island would be. The carrying capacity of 2500 for Spectacle Island is currently based on peak summer day visitation from George's Island. There may be the potential to increase the carrying capacity because the island is 105 acres.

What will the impact to George's Island be due to Spectacle Island becoming a hub to the park? Bruce Jacobson explained that Spectacle Island would just be one of the hubs to the park as stated in the draft General Management Plan. Spectacle Island can handle more development and visitation than some of the more ecologically fragile islands. Concern was expressed about beach augmentation and the long-term effects on those beaches. It was estimated that the beach in the saddle area would remain relatively the same and the southern beach is estimated to last approximately 20 years.

Questions were asked about the curriculum agenda for Spectacle and it was explained that at present the team is thinking in general terms.

Ed McCabe expressed great concern about boating and water safety. He stated that it is important to recognize the great risk and danger involved with undertaking swimming, boating, and diving. These are issues that need to be examined critically. We have a responsibility for other people's safety. Brian McDonald said that at this time they are just ideas and that a team will need to be formed to research and examine the possibilities in the future.

Sam Sapiel expressed concern about the effect of the outfall pipe on the island.

There was general concern about adequate personnel to staff and maintain the island.

Suzanne was interested in knowing about the fee-based programs and what percentage of revenue generated will return to the park? This issue is in the process of being resolved.

New Business:

Goals and objectives statements need to be turned in for distribution at the public meetings.

Advisory Council sub-committee for planning public meetings will be held on the 17th after the Partnership meeting.

George Price, National Park Service, (NPS) made an announcement that we received a 452 thousand dollar from a NPS HAZMAT/UST program. Funds will be used for the removal, replacement or analysis of underground tanks on George's Island, Thompson Island and Outer Brewster Island.

Saturday, February 12th is the winter wild life cruise sponsored by Boston Harbor Cruises and the Metropolitan District Commission the New England Aquarium is also hosting a winter wildlife cruise on that day.

Next Meetings:

Suzanne announced the Advisory Council Annual meeting will be on Thursday, March 2, 2000 at the Healy Library 11th floor, University of Massachusetts, Boston from 6 PM-8 PM.

The meeting was adjourned 6:14 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

February 10, 2000

Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Sha-King Alston	X
2. Edith Andrews	X
3. Regina Burke	X
4. David Calnan	
5. Stephen Comer	
6. Mary Corcoran	X
7. Peter Davidoff	
8. John Dinga	
9. Bernie Dreiblatt	
10. Joe Ferrino	X
11. William Giezentanner	
12. Carl Johnson	X
13. Seth Kaplan	X
14. Greg Ketchen	X
15. Phil Lemnios	X
16. John Lewis	X
17. Vivien Li	X
18. Tom Lindberg	X
19. Bernice Mader (Represented by Elizabeth Harrington*)	X
20. Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
21. Ed McCabe	X
22. Rob Moir	
23. Sherman Morss	X
24. Karen O'Donnell	X
25. John Sam Sapiel	X
26. Claudia Smith Reid	X
27. Lawrence Snake	
28. Jack Wiggin	X

* NOT VOTING MEMBER

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (education)

Nick Haddad	
Sukey Padawar	X
David Weinstein	

Ex officio (municipalities)

Dan Condon Congressman William Delahunt	
Frederick Clark Congressman Joseph Moakley	
Jay Kiely Congressman Michael Capuano	
David Soule/Mark Racicot Metropolitan Area Planning Council	MR

Ex officio (Native American)

John Brown III	
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OTHERS

Kathy Abbott	
Carolanne Brown	X
Lorraine Downey	X
Bruce Jacobson	X
Peter Lewenberg	
Kim Mitchell	
George Price	X
Mary Raczko	X

