

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
Thirteenth Meeting Minutes  
University of Massachusetts—Boston  
100 Columbia Avenue, Healey Library, Boston, MA  
March 2, 2000, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

*As Corrected*

The thirteenth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council was called to order by Jack Wiggin, Chair. There is a quorum, 16 of the 28 Advisory Council members were present (see attached attendance sheet).

**Opening Comments**

Jack Wiggin welcomed all and thanked everyone for coming. He thanked the University for hosting the meeting and the Merck Family Fund for their support.

**Approval of Minutes from the December 9, 1999 and the February 10, 2000 meetings**

John Lewis requested a change to the February 10<sup>th</sup> minutes regarding the business plan for Spectacle Island. There was a motion to accept the minutes of December 9<sup>th</sup> and to accept the February 10<sup>th</sup> minutes with the requested change. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

**Annual Report**

Jack Wiggin summarized the activities of the Advisory Council over the past year. There were six meetings and three study sessions held. The council developed a budget and received a grant from the Merck Family Fund to support their efforts of public outreach regarding the park and the draft General Management Plan. A large portion of the Merck funds was used for hiring staff to assist in communication between council members, Partners and the public.

Jack explained that the annual report is still in draft form and will be distributed after it has gone through internal review.

The Advisory Council continues to contribute to and report at the monthly Partnership meetings. One of the council's initiatives is to gather information about the park (from visitors, volunteers, park staff, and personal visits) over the season to get an idea of what the visitor experience is like. The goal is to organize this data into a report card format to show what is working and what needs improvement. This information would then be presented to the Partnership.

**Election**

The following nominations were made:

- Advocacy Group – Vivien Li
- Business and Commercial Entities – Phil Lemnios
- Community Groups – Ed McCabe
- Education and Cultural Institutes – Pat Morss
- Environmental Organizations – John Lewis
- Municipalities – (pending)
- Native American – (pending)

The nominations will be forwarded to Bob Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, and he will make the final appointments.

The nominating committee recommended to re-elect Jack Wiggin as Chair and Suzanne Gall Marsh as Vice-Chair. Jack and Suzanne were recognized for the tremendous amount of time and effort they had put in over the past year and commended for their accomplishments. There was a motion to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

### **Community Partners**

Claudia Smith Reid and Edith Andrews, gave a presentation about the Community Partners program. It is sponsored by the National Parks Conservation Association and is designed to support National Park Service efforts to create a park system that is relevant to the full spectrum of the people of America. Claudia said that Boston is one of the pilot cities and that they are concentrating on relevancy and interpretation, employment opportunities and youth programs aimed to attract a diverse population to the parks. Edith Andrews said that Native American history and culture was often not mentioned and that she hoped that coming together in this forum could change the whole nature of parks to include many stories from many cultures now not heard. One focus of the program is to get young people involved in environmental stewardship, and to look at sustainability methods as a way of life. It is also hoped to increase diversity in the workforce of the National Park Service.

Boston Harbor Islands applied for a public land core grant that would fund youth programs with the goal of developing environmental awareness and stewardship as well as opportunities for career development. It was announced that all five projects applied for received funding. Three projects will be on the Boston Harbor Islands (Thompson, Little Brewster, Gallops Islands and Peddock's). The students will be performing backlog maintenance projects for the park and there also will be an educational and career component. They will meet with agency staff and learn about a variety of environmental careers. At the end of the summer, they will attend a community youth summit where they can share their experiences with other youth involved in similar projects.

### **Draft General Management Plan**

Suzanne Gall Marsh said that the purpose of the Advisory Council is to advise the Partnership regarding the development and implementation of the general management plan. She explained that the council is composed of all volunteers. She invited all to attend future council meetings and become involved with the council and the park.

The draft General Management Plan is expected to be released in mid-April. It will be a broad based, philosophical document that when finalized will guide future management decisions. The council is hosting several meetings during the 60-day comment period to get public feedback regarding the draft plan. Bruce Jacobson, NPS, said that an executive summary of the plan will be mailed out to everyone on our mailing list. The entire draft General Management Plan will be posted on the website [www.BostonIslands.com](http://www.BostonIslands.com) and will be mailed upon request.

The Advisory Council will also do a review of the draft plan separate from these public meeting forums. A formal meeting of the council was requested to review and discuss the plan. It was suggested that each interest group compile feedback from their constituencies and funnel those suggestions through the Advisory Council.

Sam Sapiel, Penobscot Nation, said that the graves and repatriation issues should be addressed. He said that many people don't know the role and history of Native Americans on the harbor islands and that people need to learn more about Native American issues. He asked that people wanting to know more about those issues please contact him.

There was a question about Native American burials on the island. The question concerned money being spent to locate Native American burials. It was explained that the burial sites are not being explicitly sought out; but, when burial sites are discovered on the islands, they are handled according to state law. Edith Andrews and Jim Peters further addressed the question and explained that several archaeological surveys have already been done on the islands and that if human remains have been found they are protected by state law. They also explained that the law only protects so far and the discovery of remains doesn't always stop progress from happening, although the law sometimes provides for relocation. Bruce Jacobson said that 20 of the islands under state ownership are listed as state Archeological Districts. Many of the park plans are long term and deal with Native American issues.

### **Future Meetings**

It was agreed that meetings would now be held on Wednesdays. Meeting dates were set for June 7, 2000, September 6, 2000, December 6, 2000, and March 7, 2001. There was a motion made to adopt the meeting dates. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

### **National Park Service Report**

George Price thanked the Advisory Council for its continued support of the park. George reported on recent funding received by the National Park Service that totaled over one million dollars. Funds were received for youth programs, hazardous waste clean up, an inventory and monitoring program, Native American ethnography study, alternate transportation study, and a carrying capacity study.

Peter Lewenberg reported that Governor Cellucci toured the park last summer. The state has committed additional funds for this year that will supplement staffing on the islands. There are additional funds of \$300k in the House One budget for the MDC.

Kathy Abbott informed that over the past three years Island Alliance has raised \$1.5 million to support the Boston Harbor Islands. She just received word that the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism is awarding them a grant for \$85k to promote the harbor islands.

Job announcements for MDC, DEM and NPS have been posted for positions at the Boston Harbor Islands.

### **Public participation**

Frank Callahan asked if there would be moorings established around the islands this year. Kathy Abbott said that a RFP went out and they received two responses. She said that a meeting is scheduled March 15<sup>th</sup> with the island owners and there will be a decision made at that time.

There was a question about the houses that are falling down on Peddock's Island. George Price said that the state has taken title of the properties and is in the process for determining the future of each structure including demolition. The MDC currently has no funds to complete the process of taking them down. Until the needed funds are secured, having staff on the island should help control trouble.

There was a question if the pier on Peddock's Island would be repaired. It is expected that it will be and Peddock's will open this season.

It was brought to everyone's attention that a grant was just received for the Island of Hope Project to fund the restoration of an orchard on Thompson Island and that if you make up your mind to do something it can be accomplished.

Concern was expressed about visitation and the timing of the carrying capacity study. Over the next 3 years the park will be deciding carrying capacity, yet the draft general management plan is almost complete and docks are starting to be built. George Price stated that visitation is approximately one hundred thousand a year according to Boston Harbor Cruises. The state already has a system and carrying capacity in place. Chuck Beck, U.S. Coast Guard, said that they have established a carrying capacity for Little Brewster and continue to examine how many and how often people should be allowed to visit the lighthouse. It is important to establish a carrying capacity not to over run the island or staff.

There was a question if there were plans to ban personal watercraft throughout the park. George Price said that it would be an issue for the US Coast Guard, not the National Park Service.

The opinion was expressed that the MDC and DEM have different rules and issues, which is often confusing and could be improved by better interagency communication.

The issue of wildlife control was raised. George Price stated that the issue of integrated pest management would be approached by the agencies. Bruce Jacobson added that assistance from the National Park Service would be in the form of funding for studies. Only then will decisions be arrived at to select a management approach.

It was asked if this general management plan would really be used. Bruce Jacobson responded that it will need political will and financial backing, but they do expect to move forward.

Jack Wiggin tabled item on the report card to a study session next month.

Suzanne Gall Marsh presented copies of the "King's Handbook" to Mary Raczko and Carolanne Brown on behalf of the Advisory Council in appreciation for their assistance.

The Advisory Council recognized the effort and great work that Jack Wiggin has been doing for the Harbor Islands and presented him with an awarded to express their appreciation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council**

March 2, 2000

Meeting Attendance

**VOTING MEMBERS**

1. Sha-King Alston	
2. Edith Andrews	X
3. Regina Burke	X
4. David Calnan	
5. Stephen Comer	X
6. Mary Corcoran	X
7. Peter Davidoff	X
8. John Dinga	
9. Bernie Dreibratt	
10. Joe Ferrino	
11. William Giezentanner	
12. Carl Johnson	
13. Seth Kaplan	
14. Greg Ketchen	X
15. Phil Lemnios	
16. John Lewis	X
17. Vivien Li	X
18. Tom Lindberg	X
19. Bernice Mader ( Represented by Elizabeth Harrington*)	
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	
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	X
Carolanne Brown	X
Lorraine Downey	X
Bruce Jacobson	X
Peter Lewenberg	X
Kim Mitchell	X
George Price	X
Mary Raczko	X