

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
Fifteenth Meeting Minutes  
New England Aquarium, Conference Center  
Long Wharf, Boston, MA  
July 12, 2000, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Jack welcomed all and declared a quorum. Sixteen of the 28 Advisory Council members were present (see attached attendance sheet). There was a motion made to accept the minutes from the March 2 meeting. **The motion was carried.**

**Opening Comments**

Jack said that the purpose of this session was to create a response from the Advisory Council as a whole regarding the draft General Management Plan (GMP). Written comments were collected, but not received from all interest groups. It was expected that some comments of the individual interest groups could be endorsed by the entire council. Jack invited all to attend the next Planning Committee meeting where editorial comments/corrections could be passed along outside of the process requiring a formal written response.

**Draft General Management Plan**

The council broke into interest groups for 20 minutes and reported out.

There was discussion about the plan in general. Concern was expressed about this plan ever being carried through. There have been several plans that have come and gone and it has been very frustrating. The problem was seen to be money. The standards of this plan call for \$7-9 million per year operating costs and over \$66 million in infrastructure needs. Tom Lindberg stated that the budget responsibilities should be clearly stated and that it was critical for the state to have heavy commitment. Federal commitment should also be substantial and clarified. Cities and towns should also contribute and Island Alliance should have a realistic amount it is expected to raise. He gave the example of 50% state, 25% federal, 10% Island Alliance, 10-15% Cities/towns, other sources. He said that there is no legislative strategy and nothing will ever happen without the strong support of the state.

- ⊕ Comment letter should include the importance of the strategic and interpretive plans and the overall follow through of the plan itself.
- ⊕ Letter should have reference to economics, make it clear not going to succeed unless funded. Revenue should go back to islands, head toward self-sustaining.
- ⊕ Letter should include substantial commitment of the State. State has to be on board to bring park to National Park standards.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, thought that the 60-day comment period was not enough time to address the issues. He warned that signing off on the document had implications.

- ⊕ It was decided that the council did not have to support Alternative C over again. The letter will state that these are the comments on Alternative C.

Bill Geizentanner, Appalachian Mountain Club, brought up the issue of the firing range. He felt it was extremely inconsistent with the growing presence of people in a National Park. It is also an environmental hazard. He also stated that the draft was confusing because it was general for some things, and very specific for others.

Karen O'Donnell, Peddock's Island Association, said that there is a plan to see cottages and communities gone from Peddock's and that it should be an open process. She stated that there should be a reuse of buildings.

### Environmental Group

- ⊕ The water was seen as an integral part of the park. The council felt strongly that the water sheet was important to the park. Many interest groups, environmental, Native American and Education desired to push the theme of wholeness the inter-connections of the islands with the water and that the land should not be separated from it, water should be mentioned in the plan. It was recognized as important in environmental issues as well as safety.

There was the caution that if you broadened the plan into the water sheet, it would seem necessary to also include issues like air quality, noise and all the creatures in the water etc. How much management responsibility can be taken reasonably?

- ⊕ The estuary theme was important, the council felt that the very same Partners have responsibilities over the land and water like the USCG, EPA, Federal Government, City, EOEAs supervise people that manage both. The Council agreed to use the first 2 paragraphs of Seth Kaplan's letter as general comment.
- ⊕ Important to frame comments to demand a response. Questions could just lead to answers with no changes.

### Business Group

- ⊕ Revenue generation/fee retention issues should be elevated to council wide comment.

There was discussion about contracting practices.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that it is important to know if the park will follow the state or federal concession laws. It extends far beyond concessions, but to leasing, special permits etc.

### Municipalities

- ⊕ Transportation issues were important to all members of the council. Need a reliable expanded system. Gateways important.

It was suggested to also mention moorings, recreational facilities, access to private boaters. Regina Burke, Hull Chamber of Commerce, was concerned about the proposed mooring fields interfering with the livelihood of commercial lobster fishermen, a major topic at the Quincy meeting. John Lewis, Sierra Club, said that there is going to be conflict on that issue, most boaters want them, most fishermen don't.

## Education

- ⊕ Every child in public schools in the area should get to the islands to learn about them.

Native American Center would be a great way to do that, it fits nicely in to all schools curriculum, not all schools have marine topics.

The interpretive plan and estuary theme were both seen as important issues along with living up to visitor expectations about National Parks. It was stated that the plan has a reference to Fort Point and it doesn't exist. It was suggested to have a survey of animals and plants as well as an up to date listing of species of special concern listed. It was noted that the plan says the water is not included in the park, yet makes reference to the activities of Envirolab - which does water sampling exclusively.

## Native American

Gary McCann said that the tribes have not yet had their consultation.

Edith Andrews, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), requested that the plan mention tribe's names wherever they appear, now only references to Indians in general. It was very confusing the way the plan was written, King Philip was not even identified as a Wampanoag. It could easily confuse a person that was not familiar with the story. She was asked to provide the specific corrections.

Jim Peters, Commission on Indian Affairs, said the current plan has misleading references and should definitely state the tribe's names. He suggested that there be Native American interpretive centers, videos, dioramas, exhibits and signage on all islands (one example of signage on vegetation, give the Indian name and the uses for the plant). He also suggested a village on one island to attract visitors.

Steve Comer, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, said that the primary victims affected by the King Philip's war were the Wampanoags and the Nipmucks and the Massachusetts (no known living decedents). It the decedents of those tribes only that should be giving the history.

- ⊕ The plan should elaborate more of the pre-colonial uses of the islands and mention tribe's names.

## Community Groups

- ⊕ Access, Access, Access and affordability so that more youth brought to the islands.
- ⊕ Islands should provide vocational and educational opportunities.

Concern that plan would lock in the current thinking only. Young people will inherit the park and the plan should not be written so there is no flexibility of new ideas and future improvements.

### Municipalities

- ⊕ Concern over communications/safety coordination of agencies that have responsibilities for the islands and the harbor.
- ⊕ Communities expressing a desire to be a gateway should be given every opportunity to establish a site. More gateways are preferred to fewer gateways.

### General Comments

Maps should show commuter boat service since it shows public transit land stops.

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council**

July 12, 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	
7. Peter Davidoff	
8. John Dinga	X
9. Bernie Dreibratt	
10. Joe Ferrino	X
11. William Giezentanner	X
12. Carl Johnson	X
13. Seth Kaplan	X
14. Greg Ketchen	X
15. Phil Lemnios	
16. John Lewis	X
17. Vivien Li	
18. Tom Lindberg	X
19. Bernice Mader ( Represented by Elizabeth Harrington*)	
20. Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
21. Ed McCabe	
22. Rob Moir	X
23. Sherman Morss	
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	
Lorraine Downey	
Bruce Jacobson	X
Peter Lewenberg	
Kim Mitchell	
George Price	
Mary Raczko	X