

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Sixteenth Meeting Minutes
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
100 First Street, 3rd Floor
Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, MA
September 6, 2000, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Jack Wiggin welcomed all. There was not a quorum. Eight of the 28 Advisory Council members were present (see attached attendance sheet). The approval of the minutes of previous meetings was tabled.

Deer Island Access Plan

Doug MacDonald, Executive Director of MWRA, thanked everyone for coming. He spoke of the improvements to the health of the harbor made over the last 10 years. He announced the opening of the new outfall pipe. Over the last 10 years the wastewater discharge into the inner harbor was reduced from 120 tons a day down to 20 tons a day. This new outfall pipe will reduce the discharge to zero. Doug talked about the importance of public access and involvement. The support of the public is critical if we are to keep the harbor clean. Deer Island will be a place that will have recreational opportunities, handicapped accessible trails as well as educational opportunities and places for quiet reflection.

Marianne Connolly, MWRA, presented a slide show showing the current progress of the public access plans. She said that MWRA is involved with an initiative to develop signage for Deer and Nut islands. They are working with park representatives in the hopes to develop a template that could be used park-wide. She also mentioned that MWRA is working with members of the Native American and Irish communities on the development and placement of memorials for each community.

Marianne announced that the MWRA water transportation contract expires in November 2000, and is not expected to be renewed, as the costs cannot be justified to the ratepayers. Water access is essential for school children, the scientific community, plant workers and the general public. They are exploring ways to get reasonably priced water transportation and possibly use the park's water transportation system. They have had discussions with MBTA about piggybacking on existing routes, but there was no interest. Concerns were stated about increased ground traffic through Winthrop that this would cause. The group discussed the details of MWRA needs, ridership, park involvement and current expenses.

There was a question about handicapped access. The trails around the perimeter of the island will be fully accessible. The pier does not currently meet ADA requirements.

Draft General Management Plan (GMP)

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Vice-Chair, said that the Advisory Council's comments regarding the GMP were submitted. George Price, NPS, gave an update on the status of the draft. He said that many comments were received, and that the majority were supportive. Many dealt with environmental issues, requesting more detail on the financial package and handicapped access. The next Native American consultation is

scheduled for September 26 & 27 to get specific input about the plan from Native Americans. Sam Sapiel and Gary McCann submitted a comment letter allegedly representing many tribes. At the last consultation meeting Sam was asked to retract the comments and he agreed. He later submitted a slightly revised version instead of a retraction. Gary McCann stated that Sam submitted the comment letter because he felt that there was a problem with the consultation process. Gary said that Sam sent a clarification letter that stated the comments contained in the original letter were Sam's alone and did not involve the other tribes.

The planning team is in the process of compiling the comments and incorporating them as appropriate into a final draft. This process is expected to continue through January 2001, as it is a complex process. He invited anyone interested in the process to attend the next Planning Committee meeting on September 19.

Park Report Card

Suzanne announced that the complimentary passes to the islands have been issued to all the members of the Advisory Council to perform an operational survey. The survey form has also been distributed and she encouraged all to get out to the islands to perform the survey. She encouraged the Council to get involved to learn about what the park has to offer and to find answers to operational shortcomings (island closings, inadequate bathroom facilities, staff shortages etc.). The results of the survey will be collated for the December meeting of the Partnership.

Public Participation

A Chelsea resident said that communication to the general public in Chelsea has been lacking, the current accessibility to the islands is not known. She thought that the islands represented an opportunity between for urban youth and city dwellers to enjoy some open space and that it would be a great educational tool. She hopes to foster a partnership between Chelsea and Boston Harbor Islands. George said that Chelsea politicians were contacted early on. This summer, The Boston Harbor Association started a pilot program getting Chelsea Boys and Girls Clubs out to the islands. He is available on an on-going basis to speak at public meetings.

New Business

The Advisory Council's interest group nomination process will start in December. Two positions in each interest group are expiring. The council needs to determine a way to formalize how to handle nominations, and involve more people. The terms for the representatives to the Partnership are also expiring.

NPS Update

George announced funding received for natural resource studies. The park also received alternate transportation monies. The public land core funded five very successful youth work/educational camps this summer, 3 of which were directly on the islands. He thanked Claudia Smith Reid for all her efforts.

Peter Lewenberg gave a quick update on operational issues. Construction has begun on Lovell's pier and that Peddock's was open for the first time in several years. There are still issues but they are working in the right direction.

Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance, gave a quick update on the Economic Development project. She said that they are interviewing individuals and hosting workshops to gather input. The moorings project has been stalled based on feedback from private boaters and lobstermen. They are working to address the concerns. A representative from a local yacht club stated his opposition to the project. They are concerned that they will lose the right to free anchorage. Other private boaters in the audience said that they preferred to have moorings, that they felt safer. Peter Lewenberg said that a key issue is to provide services that the public will accept. He mentioned that in some cases moorings have been mandated to prevent damage to resources. He said that the park is committed to working with all groups on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

September 6, 2000
Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Sha-King Alston	
2. Edith Andrews	
3. Regina Burke	
4. David Calnan	
5. Stephen Comer	
6. Mary Corcoran	X
7. Peter Davidoff	
8. John Dinga	
9. Bernie Dreibratt	
10. Joe Ferrino	X
11. William Giezentanner	
12. Carl Johnson	
13. Seth Kaplan	
14. Greg Ketchen	X
15. Phil Lemnios	
16. John Lewis	
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	
23. Sherman Morss	X
24. Karen O'Donnell	
25. John Sam Sapiel	
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	

Ex officio (Native American)

John Brown III	
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OTHERS

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