

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Eleventh Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium, Conference Center
Long Wharf, Boston, MA
December 9, 1999, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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

Opening Comments

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

Approval of Minutes from the September 30, 1999 meeting

There was a motion to accept the minutes of the September 30 meeting, and was seconded. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

Draft General Management Plan

George Price reported on the status of the draft General Management Plan (GMP). He said that Barbara Mackey and her staff collected and reviewed all comments that had been received. Many comments were incorporated and helped clarify the plan. The draft was sent to a National Park Service (NPS) policy office in Washington, DC for review. Preliminary comments have been received from the policy office and are being addressed. Most of the questions related to the unique nature of the park and the partnership and the fact that NPS planning policies have been recently revised. This park is one of the first to create a general management plan under the new guidelines; general management plans used to be very prescriptive and now are broader based. The planning team anticipates getting formal written comments from the policy office and will share them with the Planning Committee.

Phil Lemnios inquired about the time of release of the draft GMP. It was thought that the document would be ready late January or February. It was noted that the timing would effect the planning of community meetings.

Seth Kaplan was concerned about the changes made to the draft that would not be seen until publication, and the start of the public comment period. George said that the draft was a constantly evolving document. Changes were made to the draft throughout the drafting process based on comments that were received. Washington's preliminary questions and comments were shared with the Planning Committee and went through the planning process before any changes were made to the document.

Suzanne Gall Marsh expressed a desire to see the feedback from questions and issues that have been brought up by Washington. George said that the comment letter they are expecting from Washington should contain the information and will be available through the Planning Committee. The questions Washington raises will need to be resolved before the document can become an official draft. George reminded all that it would be a draft when published not a final

document. Suzanne requested more information about the process that the plan will go through.

The council was very concerned with getting the information about the plan to the public so that there would be a high level of public participation in the planning process. It was asked if the draft would be available on the Internet. George thought that the executive summary would be available. Seth Kaplan made a motion that the Advisory Council recommend that the entire document be available on the World Wide Web. The motion was seconded. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

Sam Sapiel stated that the main objective of the Native Americans was the repatriation of graves; another priority for them was a memorial.

Public Meetings

There was discussion about hosting the public meetings. Phil Lemnios was concerned that Advisory Council members would be seen as proponents of the plan because they were hosting the meetings. Jack Wiggin said that council members would be there not to endorse the plan, but help explain it and the park to the public. A study session to plan for the meetings was scheduled for January 6.

There was discussion of how to record the public comments received. George said that these meetings are not a legal hearing. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile to memorialize verbal comments made during the meeting. Last time during the question and answer period all comments were transcribed. The council thought that other ways to get the word out should be explored. The planning office will publish a new addition of Newswave. Phil suggested using public access cable stations.

Joe Ferrino proposed that a short survey become part of the evaluation process. He suggested that survey forms be handed out at the presentations and be available on the Webpage. People could fill out the survey form after the presentations and submit it before leaving. This idea was suggested because a lot of people may not want to take time to write letters and a survey may be a way to get important input. The committee discussed what should be included in the survey, how long it should take to fill out and how to make up the questions without slanting the responses. The idea of a survey was supported but people felt but would also be difficult. It was suggested that both Joe and Claudia move forward with the idea and work with the Planning Committee. Claudia recommended that each interest group identify one question. Phil suggested basing the questions on the presentation format. It was mentioned that often the most appropriate vehicle to get comments is a blank piece of paper.

Annual Budget

Jack said that \$15K was received from Merck Family Fund to support public outreach efforts. The budget was reviewed. There was a motion made to accept the budget as proposed and to hire Carolanne Brown as part-time administrative support to the council. **The motion was carried.** Ruth Goldman, from Merck Family fund was introduced. She encouraged the council to look at the Webpage www.merckff.org to get more information about the organization. She said that once one grant was received, it usually was not difficult to attract similar grants and could open up the possibility of multi-year grants. There was a motion made to pursue additional funding for the council. **The motion was carried.** A grants sub-committee was formed (Joe Ferrino,

Claudia Smith Reid, Jack Wiggin, Kim Mitchell and Carolanne Brown).

Committee Assignments

Jack passed out a list that showed the committee assignments of Advisory Council members. He asked that the list be updated, and that a lead and alternate be chosen for each Partnership Committee.

Elections

The nominating process for the March elections has officially begun. The interest groups need to make nominations for the vacant seats. The earlier the nominations can be made, the better chance to get official standing in a timely manner. There is also a desire to increase the number of ex-officios. A nominating committee (Edith Andrews, Joe Ferrino, Karen O'Donnell, and Phil Lemnios) was created to nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Claudia informed everyone that Peter Davidoff had brain surgery and suggested that something be done as a group to let him know the Advisory Council is concerned and wishes him well.

Sail 2000

Sail 2000 is a significant event occurring July 11-July 16 that will impact the Boston Harbor Islands. The parades on Tuesday and Sunday will be the primary events. Hopefully, some tall ships will dock at the islands. The *Ernestina* was an early responder that expressed interest in programs out by the islands. The Operations Committee is gathering information on the plans of each island owner. Thompson, Deer, Gallop's and the tip of Lovell's are all good viewing locations. The island owners' first concern is to protect the resources. MWRA is discussing plans for Deer Island. The City of Boston is looking at the options for Long Island. DEM is most concerned with Gallop's Island. Last time, Gallop's was overrun with visitors and it took the island years to recover. Spectacle Island is a primary viewing location, but not scheduled to be open until 2003, and there are no funds budgeted for an event. The City of Boston and DEM are discussing options for an event and ways to raise the needed funds.

The committee discussed the status of the construction on Spectacle Island. An event would also draw attention to the condition of the island. Seth said that the window of opportunity to prove legal accountability for shortcomings usually closes when construction is finished. The council thought it important to get a full report on the status of Spectacle Island and a meeting was scheduled February 10.

New Business:

Suzanne introduced Peter Lewenberg as the representative from the State. The question was raised if he could be the official Representative from the State to the Advisory Council, to make reports and answer questions. Seth Kaplan suggested that he bring DEM/MDC representative to meetings. Peter said he would be glad to represent the commonwealth or get representatives as needed.

There was a motion to allow a report from Peter Lewenberg as the state's representative to the Advisory Council on the agenda for each meeting. **The motion was carried.**

The damage to Lovell's pier was clarified. The damage was to the floats, not to the standing pier

and was not due to hurricane Floyd. Silting is making it difficult for larger boats to land and if the size of the float is not increased they will not have enough room dock safely. The MDC is discussing alternative methods to accommodate larger boats in the hopes that it can be open for the 2000 season.

Next Meetings:

Thursday, January 6, 4pm–6pm, location to be announced
Topic—Public Meetings

Thursday, February 10, 4pm–6pm, location to be announced
Topic—Spectacle Island

Thursday, March 2, 6pm—8pm, location to be announced
Annual Meeting

The meeting was adjourned 6:10 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

December 9, 1999

Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Sha-King Alston	
2. Edith Andrews	X
3. Regina Burke	X
4. David Calnan	
5. Stephen Comer	
6. Mary Corcoran	
7. Peter Davidoff	
8. John Dinga	X
9. Bernie Dreiblatt	
10. Joe Ferrino	X
11. William Giezentanner	X
12. Carl Johnson	
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*)	EH*
20. Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
21. Ed McCabe	
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	
Peter Lewenberg	X
Kim Mitchell	X
George Price	X
Mary Raczko	X