

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company  
Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA  
December 5, 2001, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Tom Lindberg, Co-chair, welcomed all. Thirteen voting members of the 28 Advisory Council were present (see attached attendance sheet). There was not a quorum. The approval of the minutes from the March, June and September meetings was tabled.

Pat Morss presented a slide show of his photography of the islands over the summer. He gave a pictorial overview of the islands and highlighted some aspects of the natural beauty and historical significance that the park has to offer visitors.

### **Summer Review**

George Price, National Park Service, reported that many scientific research projects were in progress throughout the summer. Mary Foley, Chief Scientist, National Park Service, is working with Bruce Jacobson, Assistant Project Manager for Boston Harbor Islands, National Park Service, to coordinate research efforts. There are plans to hold a research conference in spring to exchange current information.

Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, reported that summer operations went well. He said that two new programs, the Landmark Symphony on George's Island, and the Boston Harbor Islands Triathlon were very successful, and brought new visitors to the park. The Partnership will continue to try to add new events and activities to the islands, as it is really a great vehicle to get greater public participation in the park. He reported that the Department of Environmental Management opened Great Brewster to the public for the first time in ten years. Gallops Island remains closed and the agency is actively researching funding sources to do the extensive environmental remediation that is necessary to re-open the island. They were making progress until efforts were stalled, first with the death of Congressman Joseph Moakley, then with September 11. The agency is doing everything it can to reopen the island to the public, but it is unlikely that it will reopen for 2002. Georges, Lovells, Peddocks, Grape and Bumpkin islands were also open and reported successful seasons. There were staffing shortages early in the season due to budget issues at that time of year (end of the fiscal year). They are working on ways to address those issues next season. Peter reported that Michael Testa has been appointed as Director of Reservations for the Metropolitan District Commission and that Samantha Overton Bussell is now a voting alternate on the Partnership. They both desire to improve operations on the islands but are faced with an unknown budget this year. He said that everyone is waiting to see what the fall out of the budget will be and that we should know more next spring. Peter invited all comments or questions about the State owned islands, to be made directly to him.

George introduced Kelly Fellner, Supervisory Ranger, National Park Service. He said that Kelly will focus on operations and education efforts of the park and she manages the information office. Kelly reported that this year there were 54,000 visitor contacts received by the Project Office. The Long Wharf kiosk and the phone inquiries were the main points of contact. Long Wharf lunchtime talks about the Harbor Islands were added this year. The Discovery Center was also open (until September 11) and staffed by a ranger doing roving interpretation. She reported that visitation numbers were received from Boston Harbor Cruises through September. The numbers showed an increase in visitation from last year, though visitation has been relatively constant for the past several years.

George said that the mooring program was launched this season, though it had a late start. The permit for fifty moorings was received and 50 moorings were placed around 5 islands. The

goal is to expand the program to make it a more financially viable program and to get the word out that moorings are now available.

George reported that the National Park Service is required to do visitor satisfaction surveys every year. The results are in and 88% of visitors surveyed were satisfied and had a good or very good experience on the islands. The breakdown showed that concessions was the area that brought the number down.

Phil Lemnios, Co-Chair, asked what areas need additional attention. George said that they have wanted to expand the season or even expand the hours the park would be open during the day. It does not look like the reality of the boat contract would allow for these types of changes. They also would like to expand transportation to include more communities. George said that they are always looking at new programming opportunities. He announced that Deer Island would be launching its public access program next summer and that Spectacle Island continues to progress.

Karen O'Donnell asked about the timeline of the gas pipeline and if the park was involved in the mitigation process.

Suzanne Gall Marsh said that two Metropolitan District Commission work boats were in serious disrepair and asked if there were plans to fix them. Peter answered that they are aware and that Holly Richardson has been very aggressive in requests for repair and maintenance. The Metropolitan District Commission is in the process of setting priorities for funding projects.

### **Report from the National Park Service**

George Price reported that the National Park Service facilitated the transfer of four boats from the United States Coast Guard to the State Police, Environmental Police, City of Boston Police and the University of Massachusetts. These boats will all assist the agencies in their responsibilities to the islands. Three of these boats were used during the response to September 11.

George reported the general management plan is still with the publisher. Barbara Mackey and Bruce Jacobson continue to work with Lehman Millet to prepare the document for printing.

George announced that the National Park Service sponsors a free harbor tour in honor of Veterans' Day. This was part of a national program initiated by Secretary Norton that waived entrance fees to National Parks during Veterans' Day weekend to encourage Americans to seek solace and inspiration in the nation's parks monuments and memorials.

### **Planning for the Annual Meeting**

The group discussed the March Annual meeting. They discussed getting a guest speaker. Tom Lindberg said that he will be leaving the council as a member and as a co-chair due to time restraints. A study session was scheduled for January to plan for the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM

### **Next Meeting Dates**

January 10, 2002 - Location to be announced, March 11, 2002, Children's Museum.

## Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

December 5, 2001  
Meeting Attendance

### VOTING MEMBERS

1. Edith Andrews	
2. Regina Burke	<b>X</b>
3. Charles Cristello*	<b>X</b>
4. Stephen Comer	
5. Mary Corcoran	<b>X</b>
6. Peter Davidoff	<b>X</b>
7. John Dinga	
8. Bernie Dreiblatt	
9. Joe Ferrino	<b>X</b>
10. Patricia Foley* (Lisa)	
11. William Giezentanner	
12. Carl Johnson	
13. Seth Kaplan	
14. Greg Ketchen	
15. Phil Lemnios	<b>X</b>
16. John Lewis	<b>X</b>
17. Vivien Li	
18. Tom Lindberg	<b>X</b>
19. Bernice Mader Chris Reilly	
20. Suzanne Gall Marsh	<b>X</b>
21. Ellen McBride*	
22. Ed McCabe	<b>X</b>
23. Sherman Morss	<b>X</b>
24. Karen O'Donnell	<b>X</b>
25. John Sam Sapiel	
26. Claudia Smith-Reid	<b>X</b>
27. Lawrence Snake	
28. Jack Wiggan	

\* Does not have voting status yet

### NON-VOTING MEMBERS

#### Ex officio (Education)

Nick Haddad	
Dotty Merrill	
Rob Moir	
Sukey Padawar	
Peter Rosen	
David Weinstein	

#### Ex officio (Community)

Sha-King Alston	
Lorraine Downey	<b>X</b>

#### Ex officio (Environmental)

Marci Tyre	
------------	--

#### Ex officio (Municipalities)

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

#### Ex officio (Native American)

Hiawatha Brown	
Mildred McCowan	
Chris Montgomery	<b>X</b>

### OTHERS

Kathy Abbott	<b>X</b>
Diane Haynes	
Bruce Jacobson	
Peter Lewenberg	<b>X</b>
George Price	<b>X</b>
Mary Raczko	<b>X</b>
Doug Welch	<b>X</b>