

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston
December 1, 2004, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Greg Ketchen, Chair, welcomed all. There was not a quorum present (see attached attendance sheet). Greg opened the meeting.

Advisory Council Role

Greg Ketchen reported that some members of the council and George Price met to discuss the evolving role of the Advisory Council. Greg presented the recommendations of the group and asked for feedback from the council. The group recommended the following as top priorities:

- To advise – The council has a diverse group of talented members that can offer insight and expertise on a variety of park issues.
- To advocate – Council members can actively engage members of their organizations and utilize other networking opportunities and obtain feedback and support for the park. Members can also engage legislators in park topics.
- To move to action – Council members can act by reaching out to communities by giving presentations or leading tours. They can support and promote park programming, engage policy makers and tribal members, and by working to improve access to the islands.

The group discussed the proposed priorities. There was general agreement about them, though there were differing viewpoints about the advocacy role.

The council discussed specific ways to contribute. Pat Morss said that there is grant money available for several community trips. The council contributed to obtaining the grant, and there are opportunities to be involved in the planning and staffing of the trips. Larissa Fawcner, Island Alliance Marketing and Events Manager, presented ideas for Family Fun Days, activities that will be held on weekends this summer. Many of the ideas for events were generated by the council from a previous community outreach planning effort. Larissa invited members to participate in the event planning and welcomed any suggestions for vendors or resources. Pat Morss and Greg Ketchen offered to assist with the photography event.

The council discussed how to be effective as a group. Meeting frequency was discussed. Though the council only meets officially four times a year, there is the opportunity for study sessions, and there are monthly park meetings that council members attend. The group discussed the importance of council members attending park meetings and ways to get reports from the meetings back to the council as a whole. Council representation at Partnership meetings has been steady. It was desired to get more council members involved at the committee level. Other communication tools that the council has available are email, conference call capability and a discussion forum on BostonIslands.com. The council requested that minutes from all park meetings be posted on the park website. It was agreed to do so.

Annual Meeting

Greg Ketchen reminded all interest groups to work on their nominations for the annual meeting in March. There are a few members that have reached their term limits this year and will need to step down. There are also other vacant seats that need filled. Interest groups are responsible to nominate for their group. Officers also need to be elected; Greg asked for volunteers to serve on a nominating committee. The group discussed ideas for speakers and locations for the annual meeting.

Park Updates

Natural Resources

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, said that scientific research continues in the park. Peter Rosen, Northeastern University and Duncan Fitzgerald, Boston University, are leading a study on boat wakes impacts and their role in shoreline erosion processes. Bruce announced that an exciting new project will begin this spring, bringing a new focus to the invertebrates (the insects and other little creatures without backbones) that live in the park. Dr. E.O. Wilson visited the islands and became interested in our park because it is a small animal park, and as Dr. Wilson says... "little things rule the world". This visit kicked off a partnership with the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the park obtained funding for an invertebrate study. Harvard will staff the effort and house the insect collection. An important aspect of this project is the outreach program that will run concurrently. There will be the opportunity for the public to be actively involved in the study and discovery of the "little things" in this small animal park. Bruce showed a poster of a dragonfly produced by the museum and described the technology used to create it. Similar detailed photographs of island insects will be important educational outreach tools.

Docks

George Price, NPS, announced that the ADA dock project continues to move forward. Design has been completed, and will be bid out in late winter.

Harbor Pavilion

George Price gave an update on the harbor pavilion project on Parcel 14 of the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The park has received approval for space and plans to construct a building that will house a visitor contact station, restaurant, retail store and restrooms. The NPS will hold the property, Island Alliance will manage, and it will be staffed by the partnership, volunteers and other harbor organizations. Island Alliance and NPS are actively looking to secure funds for the design and construction.

Peddocks Island

Doug Welch, Island Alliance Business Director, reported that the asbestos removal in the guardhouse is complete. The test drill borings across Hull Gut are in process, the results should be available soon to provide information regarding the possible micro-tunnel for utilities. Because the costs of the micro-tunnel are more than initially estimated, they are also exploring other options that could provide maximum visitor benefit.

Water Transportation

George Price announced that the deficit for the inter-island water shuttle is around \$40k for this past season. The good news is that Secretary Herzfelder announced up to \$50k in matching

funds for water transportation next season; unfortunately these funds can not be used for the current deficit.

George said that although there were many positives of the season, but there were a number of issues involving communications, logistics and capacity that need to be resolved. The past season was also affected by a series of mechanical failures. Staff and volunteers have taken much of the brunt of the disappointment of visitors. Tom Powers, Island Alliance, added that NPS, DCR, Island Alliance and Harbor Express are also working on the larger issue of how to improve the water transportation next year, and ways to make it sustainable and even income generating.

Spectacle Island

Karl Pastore reported that DCR has allocated \$200k for Spectacle Island. He said that the exhibit design team is moving forward. Dredging around the marina will be done late summer or early fall. The installation of the photovoltaic system is almost complete. The leachate system still has serious problems that are not yet resolved. They are exploring other options to handle the waste water. Testing for asbestos continues. There has not been an opening date set, but there will be a meeting next week with the city and Central Artery. Hopefully, more will be known soon.

Public Comment

Steve Marcus, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the annual Seafarer's trip to Thompson Island on New Year's Day. There are also continuing a lecture series and will host the next one about the harbor cleanup on January 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

12/1/2004 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Kurt Bornheim	
2. Stephen Comer	
3. Theresa Czerepica	
4. John Dinga	
5. Bernie Dreiblatt	
6. Marianne Farrington	X
7. Joe Ferrino	
8. L. Fraiser	
9. Bill Hale	X
10. Carl Johnson	X
11. Seth Kaplan	
12. Greg Ketchen, Chair	X
13. Paul King	
14. John Lewis	
15. Vivien Li	
16. Krysten Lynch	
17. Ed McCabe	
18. Keith McClearn	
19. Pat Morss, Vice Chair	X
20. Linda Poolaw	
21. Kristin Priscella	
22. Bill Reardon	X
23. Peter Rosen	
24. Ellen Silverman	
25. Linda Smith-Mooney	X
26. Ben Walker	
27. Bettina Washington	
28. Vacant Seat	

^Leave of absence

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (Education)

Russ Bowles	X
Mary Corcoran	X
Dotty Merrill	
David Weinstein	X
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Community)

Claudia Smith Reid	
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Ex officio (Business and Commercial)

Peter Davidoff	X
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Ex officio (Advocacy)

Suzanne Gall Marsh	
Karen O'Donnell	

Ex officio (Environmental)

Bill Geizentanner	
Lauri Webster	

Ex officio (Municipalities)

Jim Gordon	
Congressman Stephen Lynch	
Daniel Ryan	
Congressman Michael Capuano	
Corrine Young	
Congressman William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Hiawatha Brown	
Mildred McCowan	
Chris Montgomery	X
Sam Sapiel	
Gil Solomon	

OTHERS

Bruce Jacobson	X
Larissa Fawkner	X
Kelly Fellner	
Alex Hall	X
Diane Haynes	
Steve Marcus	
Karl Pastore	
Jim Peters	
Tom Powers	X
George Price	X
Mary Raczko	X
Chuck Smythe	X
Doug Welch	