

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
University of Massachusetts—Boston,
100 Morrissey Blvd., Student Center, Boston, MA
March 2, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Greg Ketchen, Chair, welcomed all. He announced that George Price has been assigned to Cape Cod National Seashore as Acting Superintendent. Bruce Jacobson will be Acting Superintendent at Boston Harbor Islands. Greg said that the Council would like to recognize George for his contributions to the islands, and asked for contributions toward the purchase of a framed picture with an inscription.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the meetings held in June, September and December 2003. **The motion was unanimously passed.**

Invasive Plant Study

Greg Ketchen introduced Ted Elliman who gave a presentation on the plants of the harbor islands. Ted showed slides of native and non-native plant life in the park. He said that 32 of the islands in the park were surveyed during 2001-2003, and to date 520 plants species have been identified. Approximately 46% are exotic plants, and on many islands non-native plants are 50% or more of the total flora. Ted said that he is currently working on the next phase of the research project, which is mapping the distribution of the invasive species. He is also preparing recommendations for control measures for the most aggressive non-native species and protection of the rare species. The group discussed. Bruce Jacobson, NPS, thanked Ted for his work and explained that the scientific studies done are all part of an effort to understand the islands so that managers can make informed decisions.

Park Updates

Bruce Jacobson said that scientific research continues in the park. 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. Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology will lead the effort. An important aspect of this project is the outreach program that will run concurrently.

Tom Powers, Island Alliance, introduced Steve Schaffer, Development Director. Island Alliance is now fully staffed.

Tom said that the utility feasibility study for Peddocks Island is complete. The proposal to install a utilities micro-tunnel from Hull with water, sewer and communications lines, as well as to restore the guardhouse and transform it into a visitor center turned out to be more expensive than originally thought. The micro-tunnel will take the majority of the available \$5M, with little left over for other improvements. The Island Alliance Board took a close look at other options to provide utilities. The operating costs for these options were so high that they were not feasible in the long-term. Island Alliance is moving forward with the permitting process for the micro-tunnel.

Kelly Fellner, NPS, said that the park is working hard to improve and expand education programs. She said that two DCR seasonal rangers stationed at the Partnership Office have been working on education programs in and out of classrooms.

Kelly reported that work on the Native American video project continues. They are looking forward to interviewing more people. Some middle school teachers have already heard about the project and are very interested in it. She welcomed all questions and encouraged participation.

Kelly handed out position descriptions for summer jobs available in the park.

Diane Haynes, Island Alliance, said that planning continues for opening Spectacle Island this summer. The exhibit design team is moving forward, signs and exhibits should be ready late this summer. A study session will be scheduled soon to give an opportunity to preview the exhibits and the proposed public art project.

Larissa Fawkner, Island Alliance, announced the weekend programming for the summer. The schedule has been expanded this year, and Family Fun Days events will occur on Saturdays and Sundays in July and August. She thanked the Advisory Council for their suggestions and their ideas for programming, many of the ideas for programming came from the council's outreach efforts. She encouraged members to become involved in the planning process and execution of the events.

Nomination Process

The nominations for the vacant seats and the changes to ex-officio members on the council were announced as follows:

Advocacy – Bill Hale for voting member; Matt Wolfe will replace Krysten Lynch.

Business and Commercial – No nomination offered for vacant seat; Greg Ketchen as ex-officio.

Community Groups – Claudia Smith-Reid as voting member (replaces Ben Walker); Ed Norton as voting member.

Education and Cultural – Mary Corcoran as voting member; Carl Johnson as ex-officio.

Environmental – no nomination offered for vacant seat; John Lewis as ex-officio.

Municipalities – Bill Reardon as voting member.

Native American – Sam Sapiel as voting member; Steve Comer as ex-officio; no nomination offered for vacant seat.

A motion was made to approve the nominations. **The motion was unanimously passed.** Nominations will be sent to the Secretary of Interior for review.

Election

The nominating committee recommended Pat Morss for Chair and Claudia Smith-Reid for Vice-Chair. The group discussed. A motion was made to accept these recommendations. **The motion was unanimously passed.**

Pat Morss said that he looked forward to leading the council over the next year. Projects include community outreach and ways to advocate for the park. He

encouraged members to promote the park and handed out disks with photos and a template for PowerPoint presentations.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, 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.) She suggested reviving the park “report card” process that the council was involved in years past. This was a public survey process and a way to get public input and understand what the public wants. The survey was collated and reported in a way that helped the Partnership evaluate on-going operations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

3/2/05 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

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

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	X

OTHERS

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