

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, MA
September 7, 2005, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Pat Morss, Chair, welcomed all. Pat reminded all that this year is the 10-year anniversary of the creation of the national park area. He summarized the agenda for the meeting and mentioned that George Price has agreed to speak at the annual meeting in March.

Fort Andrews Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Project

Doug Welch, Island Alliance, gave an update on the Peddocks Island-Fort Andrews Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Project. The utility feasibility study is complete, and the project team is working through the environmental notification requirements and permitting process for providing utility service to the island. Danielle McLaughlin, Spaulding and Slye, provided some details of the project. The first phase will be to construct a micro-tunnel from Hull to Peddocks for water, sewer, electric and communications and to construct a toilet facility on the island. She announced that the environmental assessment should be ready for public comment soon. They have worked closely with Massachusetts Historical Commission; the project has general support and has not sparked controversy. Later efforts could include the rehabilitation of the guardhouse into a visitor center and the stabilization and rehabilitation of other fort structures and the development of an overnight family eco-tent camp.

The Council discussed. There was concern expressed about the snow fencing that completely closed off the fort area this summer as well as the importance of retaining the historical significance, the feel for what it was like to live there, during any rehabilitation that may occur. A suggestion was made to hold a meeting focusing on plans for the island. Bruce Jacobson, NPS, reminded all that there is only funding for this phase of the project, the construction of a utility line and toilet facility.

Strategic Plan Review

Pat Morss proposed that the Council participate in a review of the park's 5-year strategic plan. The idea is for groups to research how goals have or have not been achieved. Group leaders (which are also still needed) will write up a summary of their findings and Mary Raczko, NPS, will help to compile into a report that the Council can present to the Partnership in December or January. Pat passed around a sign up sheet and encouraged all to participate in the review of one of the five categories contained in the plan.

Advisory Council Membership

Pat Morss said that there are a number of membership details that need attention.

Most current members have not received official appointments from Washington, DC. Requirements vary, but most voting members will need to submit a resume showing their connection with the organization they represent along with a letter designating them as the representative from their organization. The Partnership Office will contact individuals with specifics. Once received, this paperwork will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for review.

Pat said that there are currently three vacant seats on the Council, and that there will be several more members stepping down this March. Time will be set aside at the December meeting of the Council for the interest groups to determine the nominations in advance of the March meeting. Pat suggested that all members start thinking about new organizations and individuals to engage; he also suggested approaching Kathy Abbott and Peter Lewenberg, who potentially could participate in the Council in their new roles.

Park Update

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, opened the floor for questions or concerns about the park.

There was concern expressed about Spectacle Island remaining closed. Bruce responded that park managers share that frustration, and that they and Island Alliance have done everything possible to prepare for an opening. At this point, the island is entangled in a large battle between the commonwealth and the Central Artery; it will take significant political power to move the process forward.

Concern was also expressed about the water shuttle service ending on Labor Day instead of Columbus Day. Tom Powers stated that in past years, the shuttle had run on a major deficit (last year's shortfall was \$70k). This year, even with the shorter season, income generated from the sale of ferry tickets, and support from DCR, NPS, and the City of Boston, there is still a significant deficit projected; it would have been much larger if the season was extended.

Bruce was asked about the staff of the Partnership Office, he listed the positions of the NPS and Island Alliance.

Mary Anne Hendricks expressed concern about handicapped accessibility of the islands. Bruce agreed that there is much work that needs done to improve accessibility. He reported that this fall the construction of accessible floats and ramps for three of the islands will begin.

New Business

John Dinga reported that the use of the island moorings has increased well over 50% in one year. John reminded the Council that some islands still do not have dinghies to shuttle passengers. Doug Welch, Island Alliance, reported that there was money allocated in a transportation bill to increase the number of moorings, hopefully back to the original number of 50.

Mary Raczko, NPS, reported that the next biodiversity event will be held on September 24. Participants will take part in a research study that is tracking the movements of invasive crabs as they travel up the East Coast, as well as contribute to the species list of the park's all-taxa biodiversity inventory of invertebrates.

Tom Powers announced that the 1st annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta will be held on Saturday, October 1. The course will be a figure eight around Georges Island; spectators will get a great view of the race. There will be activities on Georges throughout the day and a cookout and awards ceremony after the race.

Public Comment

Clare Hale, a Peddocks Island resident, gave an emotional plea to preserve Peddocks Island beyond the fort area. She voiced her frustration with managers' apparent disregard for the cottagers and the historical significance of other communities that were not connected with the military campus. She stated strong concern that the island is in a state of disrepair and continues to deteriorate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
9/7/05 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Kurt Bornheim	
2. Mary Corcoran	X
3. Theresa Czerepica	X
4. John Dinga	X
5. Bernie Dreiblatt	
6. Marianne Farrington	X
7. Joe Ferrino	
8. L'Merchie Fraiser	
9. Bill Hale	X
10. Seth Kaplan	
11. Paul King	X
12. Vivien Li	
13. Ed McCabe	X
14. Keith McClearn	
15. Pat Morss, Chair	X
16. Linda Poolaw	
17. Bill Reardon	X
18. Chris Reilly	
19. Peter Rosen	
20. John Sam Sapiel	
21. Ellen Silverman	
22. Linda Smith-Mooney	X
23. Claudia Smith-Reid, Vice Chair	
24. Bettina Washington	
25. Matt Wolfe	
26. Vacent Seat	
27. Vacent Seat	
28. Vacent Seat	

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (Education)

Russ Bowles	
Carl Johnson	
Dottie Merrill	
David Weinstein	X
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Community)

Ed Norton	
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Ex officio (Business and Commercial)

Peter Davidoff	
Greg Ketchen	X

Ex officio (Advocacy)

Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
Karen O'Donnell	

Ex officio (Environmental)

Bill Geizentanner	
John Lewis	
Lauri Webster	X

Ex officio (Municipalities)

Daniel Ryan Congressman Michael Capuano	
Corrine Young Congressman William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Hiawatha Brown	
Steve Comer	
Mary Anne Hendricks	X
Chris Montgomery	X
Gil Solomon	

OTHERS

Bruce Jacobson	X
Larissa Fawkner	
Kelly Fellner	
Diane Haynes	
Steve Marcus	
Allan Morris	
Karl Pastore	
Jim Peters	
Tom Powers	X
Mary Raczko	X
Steve Schaeffer	X
Chuck Smythe	
Doug Welch	X