

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
The Boston Children's Museum
300 Congress St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA
March 1, 2006, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Pat Morss, Chair, welcomed all.

The minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting were approved.

Exploring Island Microwilderness

Jessica Rykken gave a presentation about a scientific research study to discover the biodiversity of the insects and other invertebrates of the islands. This *all-taxa biotic inventory* will provide information for managers about the animals that inhabit the park's microwilderness as well as information about the interrelationship between species. The public will be encouraged to actively participate in the project and the data will be accessible on the internet.

Mary Raczko gave a presentation about how the public can become involved with this study. She said that citizen science programming will offer students and the general public the opportunity to help gather data for scientific studies while they are learning about the biodiversity in the park. Activities planned for volunteers this year that are associated with this study include a beetle blitz, a butterfly and dragonfly count, and programs where you can camp with a scientist. Other opportunities include bird monitoring, and helping out on a study that tracks the movements of invasive crabs. Biodiversity programming has also expanded with opportunities for the public to participate in island habitat and eel grass restoration projects.

Update on the Strategic Plan Review

Pat Morss announced that copies of the Advisory Council's review of the park's strategic plan are available. The council reviewed six initiatives: resource stabilization & remediation; natural resource inventory and monitoring; cultural resource baseline; visitor access; interpretation and education; and partnership effectiveness. The report documents the success of goals met or exceeded as well as the goals that were not met. The report also includes recommendations for future plans.

Park Updates

Bruce reminded all that the park is open year-round, not just the summer season. Worlds End and Thompson have year round programs. There are also boat cruises through the islands every month of the year and substantial educational programming occurs in the spring and fall. Family fun days and Boston Children's Theater performances will be back in July and August.

Bruce announced that ferry service to Georges Island will begin on May 6. June 24 is the summer kick-off. He said that starting this date there will be ferry service every half-hour from Long Wharf on weekends, and water shuttle service and camping will begin.

Bruce said that managers continue to prepare for the opening of Spectacle on June 24. Exhibits have been installed in the visitor center and interpretive signage has also been installed at several locations along the trails.

Bruce reported that there is a joint committee hearing at the State House for March 8 regarding a bill that could result in a 99-year lease of Outer Brewster Island for use as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility. He hopes to testify at the hearing.

Bruce mentioned that it is a priority to increase the diversity of the staff and visitors to the park.

Nomination Process

The interest group members broke off into groups to discuss nominations for vacant seats. The vacant seats and changes to ex-officio members on the council were announced as follows:

The Council made the following nominations for the vacant seats and following changes to ex-officio members at the Annual Meeting:

Advocacy – Charles Norris for voting member; Vivien Li as ex-officio.

Business and Commercial – No nomination offered for vacant seat; Peter Davidoff to replace Keith Mclearn as voting member.

Community Groups – Jennifer Bender and Ed Norton as voting members; L'Merchie Frasier as ex-officio.

Education and Cultural – Dottie Merrill as voting member; Pat Morss as ex-officio.

Environmental – Lauri Webster as voting member, no nomination offered for other vacant seat; John Dinga as ex-officio.

Municipalities – No nomination offered for vacant seat; Sean Glennon to replace Chris Reilly as voting member.

Native American – Chris Montgomery and Linda Poolaw as voting members.

The nominating committee recommended Peter Rosen for Chair, Claudia Smith-Reid for Vice-Chair, Linda Smith-Mooney as voting partner and Greg Ketchen as voting alternate partner. Pat Morss called for any additional nominees from the floor. There were none.

There was brief discussion among the Native American interest group members about the proposed nominations for their interest group; they requested more time to discuss the nominations that were put forth for their group. The interest group members continued the discussion in private in a side conference room while the meeting continued through the set agenda. After the side conference was over, Bettina Washington, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), confirmed the nominations that were previously put forth.

A motion was made to approve the nominations made by the interest groups and the recommendations made by the nominating committee. **The motion was passed.** Nominations will be sent to the Director of the National Park Service for appointment.

Peter Rosen took over as chair; he said that he looks forward to the new challenge of leading the council.

Public Comment

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI), gave a recommendation to reestablish the inter-island shuttle as a priority under the visitor access initiative of the next strategic plan. She encouraged the council members to get involved to learn about what the park has to offer and become advocates by helping 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. The survey was collated and reported in a way that helped the Partnership evaluate on-going operations.

Steve Marcus, FBHI, invited all to a talk featuring Roger Kennedy a former director of the National Park Service.

Kelly Fellner, NPS, announced two upcoming trips, a Peddocks Island walk on March 25 and a kids’ science tour on April 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
3/1/06 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS and interest group

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

Interest Groups

ADV – Boston Harbor Related Advocacy
 B&C – Business & Commercial
 COM – Community Groups
 EDU – Education and Cultural
 ENV – Environmental Organizations
 MUN – Municipalities
 NA – Native American

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (Education)

Russ Bowles	
Carl Johnson	X
Dottie Merrill	X
David Weinstein	X
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Community)

Ed Norton	X
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Ex officio (Business and Commercial)

Peter Davidoff	
Greg Ketchen	X

Ex officio (Advocacy)

Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
Karen O'Donnell	X

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	X

OTHERS

Bruce Jacobson	X
Larissa Fawcner	
Kelly Fellner	X
Diane Haynes	X
Steve Marcus	X
Allan Morris	
Karl Pastore	
Jessica Patrick	X
Jim Peters	X
Tom Powers	X
Mary Raczko	X
Steve Schaeffer	X
Chuck Smythe	X