

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Northeastern University
Shillman Hall, 115 Forsyth Street, Room 305, Boston, MA
September 6, 2006, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Peter Rosen, Chair, welcomed all.

The minutes of the June 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

Summer Review

Spectacle Island

Diane Haynes showed a presentation about the opening season of Spectacle Island. It was a very successful start; there has been a great deal of positive feedback from visitors. The marina has been very active, particularly for day use and on weekends. The park plans to work with the dock managers from Constitution Marina to increase marketing efforts next year. Dredging the harbor this fall should open up some more spaces for boats.

There was steady visitation on the island, often drawing as many visitors as Georges Island. The visitor center has both permanent and temporary exhibits, a ranger station and a café. Advisory Council members Greg Ketchen and Pat Morss created a temporary exhibit of the photos from the park's 2005 photo contest. Linda Smith-Mooney of Captain Flye Corporation was awarded the 3-year contract to run the food service.

The swimming beach was staffed with DCR lifeguards and was a popular spot, attracting regular beach-goers by summer's end. Events this season included a City of Boston sponsored triathlon, and jazz every Sunday at the visitor center.

Planning continues for next year with possibilities to add more evening programs and special events. NPS is working on a vegetation management plan for the island. A public art project is being developed in cooperation with the Institute for Contemporary Art. The managers are also reviewing the alcohol, bicycle and dog policies. A council member asked about the policy for collecting beach glass. Kelly Fellner, NPS, responded that collecting sea glass for commercial use is prohibited; it is a challenging issue for the managers.

Teacher Workshops

Carl Johnson reported that the park held seven teacher workshops in August. Fifty-seven teachers participated in at least one of the sessions. Five of the sessions focused on science related topics: Peter Rosen, Northeastern University, led a discussion of geology and a shore-line erosion study; Jessica Rykken, Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, held a session on the all-taxa biodiversity inventory; David Delaney, McGill University, introduced the group to an invasive crab study that the students could participate in; and Marc Albert, NPS, led a session on invasive plants. The teachers started each workshop on Spectacle Island; the facilities there were very well received.

Water Transportation

David Weinstein said that the service that Ritchie Sutherland once provided with the *MV Irene* is greatly missed. He suggested the park open negotiations again for his participation. David said that Ritchie provided not only summer shuttle transportation service, but was a key boat for education programs and supported the island rangers.

Kelly Fellner said that last year, the shuttle system had an \$80k shortfall. This year, funding for only one shuttle was available. An added challenge was that the park started the season with a boat that had a 115 passenger capacity. This boat had mechanical issues and was taken out of service early in the season. The boat that replaced it only had a capacity of 28 passengers. It was a challenging year. Though, visitation and ferry ridership were up. Ferry service was enhanced by having two boats dedicated to weekend service to Georges and Spectacle Islands. There were still some capacity issues and long lines during busy times of the day, but there had been improvement from last year

Dock Projects

There was a discussion about the \$2.5M universal access dock project. This money was dedicated to the capital project and not available to support operating costs of the water transportation system. The dock projects on Bumpkin, Lovells and Grape are complete.

The bid for a permanent float system for Little Brewster Island came in significantly higher than the funds available. The USCG is looking for other engineering options to stay within the budget. The park is working with Massport to continue using the temporary dock in the 2007 season.

The Thompson Island dock project faces similar challenges as the Little Brewster project, but planning continues.

Outer Brewster

There has been no movement on the proposal to place a liquefied natural gas storage facility on Outer Brewster Island.

Peddocks Island

The construction of the utility line from Hull to Peddocks is complete. There is now the potential for water, sewer, electric and telecommunications service on Peddocks Island.

Advisory Council Membership

Mary Raczko, NPS, reminded all that appointments to the council are made by the Director of the National Park Service. Pending members need to turn in their resumes or biographies for consideration. Letters of support are also recommended, and should be sent addressed to Bruce Jacobson.

New Business

Peter led a discussion about next steps for the council. It was agreed that the council would review the outreach initiatives to assist in developing new goals for the council.

The group also discussed ideas for a speaker at the annual meeting in March. They also suggested Spectacle Island, Northeastern University or the Boston Children's Museum as possible locations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
9/6/06 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS and interest group

1. Jennifer Bender, ENV	X
2. Kurt Bornheim, MUN	
3. Maureen Cavanaugh, B&C	X
4. Mary Corcoran, EDU	
5. Theresa Czerepica, COM	X
6. Peter Davidoff, B&C	
7. Jennifer Bender, ENV	
8. Sean Glennon, MUN	
9. Bill Hale, ADV	X
10. Seth Kaplan, ENV	
11. Greg Ketchen, B&C	X
12. Paul King, ADV	
13. Dottie Merrill, EDU	X
14. Chris Montgomery, NA	X
15. Charlie Norris, ADV	X
16. Ed Norton, COM	X
17. Linda Poolaw, NA	
18. Bill Reardon, MUN	X
19. Peter Rosen, Chair, EDU	X
20. John Sam Sapiel, NA	
21. Ellen Silverman, B&C	
22. Claudia Smith-Reid, Vice Chair, COM	
23. Bettina Washington, NA	
24. Lauri Webster, ENV	
25. Matt Wolfe, ADV	
26. Vacant Seat, MUN	
27. Vacant Seat, COM	
28. Vacant Seat, EDU	

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	
Pat Morss	X
David Weinstein	X
Jack Wiggan	

Ex officio (Community)

L'Merchie Fraiser	
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Ex officio (Advocacy)

Vivien Li	
Suzanne Gall Marsh	
Karen O'Donnell	

Ex officio (Environmental)

John Dinga	
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Ex officio (Municipalities)

Daniel Ryan	
Congressman Michael Capuano	
Corrine Young	
Congressman William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Mary Anne Hendricks	
Gil Solomon	

OTHERS

Bruce Jacobson, NPS	X
Kelly Fellner, NPS	
Diane Haynes, Island Alliance	X
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	X
Jim Peters, MCIA	
Tom Powers, Island Alliance	
Mary Raczko, NPS	X
Chuck Smythe, NPS	