

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Spectacle Island, Boston Harbor, MA
March 7, 2007, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Peter Rosen, Chair, welcomed all. He thanked the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for providing the meeting space at Spectacle Island.

Bruce Jacobson, National Park Service (NPS), gave a brief introduction to the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership and Advisory Council. He explained that the council consists of 28 members from 7 different interest groups, Advocacy, Business and Commercial, Community Groups, Education and Cultural, Environmental, Municipalities and Native American. Four council members serve on the Partnership as voting and voting alternate members. There are also several ex-officio members that fully participate in the council, as it is a consensus based group. The Advisory Council's purpose is to advise the Partnership on the implementation of the general management plan, including on-going park operations.

Conservation and Recreation Campaign

Kathy Abbott, Conservation and Recreation Campaign Director, spoke of her fond memories as a child of exploring nature on family vacations. Closer to home, she watched parks and woods; vacant lots and play yards disappear to development. Years later as a ranger on the Harbor Islands, she realized the importance of well managed public lands.

Kathy said that the Conservation and Recreation Campaign is focused on securing public funding for parks as well as telling the story of parks in Massachusetts being under funded and why that matters. She said that as a Commonwealth, we have gone from first to last. Massachusetts had the first public common, the first playground, the first hiking club, the first state Audubon and the first Metropolitan Park System. Today, Massachusetts is last in state and local spending on parks and recreation as a percentage of personal income and is 48th in per capita spending.

Kathy spoke of challenges to fund parks. She gave the Boston Harbor Islands as an example of the power of partnership among the public and private sectors and as a potential model of how to fund parks in the 21st century.

Kathy listed the campaign's accomplishments including making the issue more visible, building an empowering a network of conservation advocates, the formation of a new state administration, and the first ever parks caucus. She then encouraged individuals to take specific acts to support budget increases for parks, to elect officials that hold parks as a priority, and to talk about what parks mean to them. She encouraged all to tell the stories! The stories about why you love living in Massachusetts, why you love the Harbor Islands and what these special places mean to you should be told to friends, family, legislators and the media.

Kathy announced that she has taken a new position as Vice President for Field Operations for The Trustees of Reservations.

Council Business

The minutes from the September and December 2006 meetings were reviewed. A technical change regarding attendance was requested. Suzanne Gall Marsh and Maureen Cavanaugh were both present at the December 6 meeting.

Suzanne Gall Marsh gave a tribute to Paul King, a former council member that recently passed away. Paul was also a long-time Friends member and island enthusiast. His energy and dedication will be greatly missed.

Member Status

Mary Raczko, NPS, gave an update of member status. She said that appointments to the council are made by the Director of the NPS. Currently, there are no members because all former member appointments have expired. This means that the council can not take a formal vote at this meeting. She reported that 18 individuals previously have submitted resumes for consideration of the Director. The park is actively seeking to fill all of the seats and is accepting resumes from interested parties. Three names were offered as potential members: Maria Freddura, The Daily Catch; Karen O'Donnell, Sierra Club; and Victor Brogna, North End Waterfront Residents Association.

Nomination of Officers

Pat Morss gave a report from the Nominating Committee. He said that Advisory Council recommendations for Partners and Alternates were previously made by the council and are awaiting approval by the Director. These recommendations were Charlie Norris and Greg Ketchen as Voting Partners and Bill Hale and Maureen Cavanaugh. For officers, Pat said that the nominating committee recommends Peter Rosen and Claudia Smith-Reid as Co-Chairs and Mary Corcoran as Vice-Chair. Nominations were requested from the floor; there were none. There was general agreement to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee.

Park Update

Bruce Jacobson, NPS, announced the Centennial Initiative. The National Park Centennial Initiative is a proposal by the President to get the national park system ready for the celebration in 2016 of the National Park Service's first 100 years. This initiative includes \$100 million a year over and above normal National Park Service budgets for park and a Presidential Challenge to spur nonfederal funding with a match of federal money, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100 million a year for 10 years. Bruce said that there will be a public meeting held about the initiative very soon in Boston and he encouraged everyone to attend. Stay tuned for details.

Bruce also mentioned several projects that continue to move forward, the all-taxa biodiversity inventory, citizen science and stewardship efforts. He said that the park brochure, the "unigrid" is currently under revision with the help of Harper's Ferry and the marketing and education committees. Bruce also announced a week long Native American youth workshop funded by the NPS. Youth from local Native American communities will learn the technical skills needed to record oral histories and go into

their communities to gather these stories and produce a continuation of the series "Living in Two Worlds".

Darryl Forgione, DCR, reported on the status of several construction projects. The sewer line to Spectacle is complete. Marine dredging has been delayed, but will move forward in the near future. He said they were looking at ways to make Spectacle more "green", and are investigating geothermal and micro turbine options. Darryl said that they hope to construct a shower changing area near the beach on Spectacle this season.

Susan Kane, DCR, said that she is excited about the upcoming year. The DCR struggled through last year without an operating budget, this year they have one and have been allocated more seasonal staff, including more rangers, maintenance staff and boat operators. She did announce that they decided not to have lifeguards on Lovells, and the public will be directed to the fully staffed beach on Spectacle.

Susan reported that there will be campground improvements this year. NPS received a grant for recycled lumber and boardwalks and tent platforms will be constructed on Lovells and Grape. She mentioned that the Institute of Contemporary Art will have exhibits this summer at Spectacle, Georges and Lovells Islands. Susan also reported that there will be a new concessionaire at Georges Island.

Bruce Jacobson introduced Sarah Waterworth, NPS Program Assistant and announced that Kristen Sherman will be the new Program and Events Manager for Island Alliance.

Public Comment

There was a question about how many visitors come to the park. Bruce Jacobson said that it is approximately 300,000 annually; that number includes land-based sites. It is a park goal to increase boat ridership.

There was a question about water transportation to the park from Lynn. Bruce said that several years ago, there was service to the islands from Lynn on some commuter runs, but the service ended. Mike McGurl, Harbor Express, said that they want to match demand with service, but they need to know the demand. Carol Fithian, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, suggested there is great need for a gateway from the North Shore, and that she and many others would like to see the service come back. Currently, ferry service is just from Boston and Quincy.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, said that Sam Sapiel and Linda Poolaw were not able to attend today, but remain interested.

Nancy Martin, Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said that the Friends will offer joint cruises this year with the park, as well as specialty cruises.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
3/7/07 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS and interest group

1. Jennifer Bender, ENV	
2. Kurt Bornheim, MUN	
3. Maureen Cavanaugh, B&C	X
4. Mary Corcoran, EDU	
5. Theresa Czerepica, COM	
6. Peter Davidoff, B&C	
7. Jennifer Bender, ENV	
8. Sean Glennon, MUN	
9. Bill Hale, ADV	
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	
16. Ed Norton, COM	
17. Linda Poolaw, NA	
18. Bill Reardon, MUN	
19. Peter Rosen, Chair, EDU	X
20. John Sam Sapiel, NA	
21. Ellen Silverman, B&C	
22. Claudia Smith-Reid, Vice Chair, COM	X
23. Bettina Washington, NA	
24. Lauri Webster, ENV	X
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	X
Carl Johnson	X
Pat Morss	X
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Community)

L'Merchie Fraiser	
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Ex officio (Advocacy)

Vivien Li	
Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
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

Marc Albert, NPS	X
Sheila Colwell	X
Bruce Jacobson, NPS	X
Kelly Fellner, NPS	
Darryl Forgione, DCR	X
Alex Hall, DCR	X
Diane Haynes, IA	
Susan Kane, DCR	X
Steve Marcus, FBHI	X
Bob McIntosh, NPS	X
Jim Peters, BIA	X
Ed Pitcavage, TTOR	X
Tom Powers, IA	
Mary Raczko, NPS	X
Chuck Smythe, NPS	
David Weinstein, IA	X