

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
University of Massachusetts—Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard, Campus Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boston, MA  
March 5, 2008, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Peter Rosen, Co-Chair, welcomed all. The minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

**Discovering the Boston Harbor Islands**

Peter Rosen introduced Nicole Vecchiotti, Union Park Press, publisher of the new book *Discovering the Boston Harbor Islands: A Guide to the City's Hidden Shores*. Nicole described her hope that the book would be an indispensable guide to planning a trip and exploring the history of the islands. She introduced the author Christopher Klein. Christopher gave a slideshow and highlighted some of the lesser known stories of the islands. The book is in the final stages of production and should be available early this summer.

Gary McCann, Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island, asked why the Deer Island concentration camp was not mentioned in the presentation. Christopher said the internment of Native Americans on several islands is an important story to tell, and is included in the book.

Claudia Smith Reid asked if the book included the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts and the connection with Gallops Island. Christopher said that there was a brief mention.

**Branding Initiative**

Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent, reminded all that Island Alliance received grant money to develop a marketing strategy for their organization as well as for the park. Corey McPherson Nash (CMN) was awarded the contract. The Partnership and Advisory Council were given the opportunity to review the recommendations and designs through participation in the Marketing Committee and with special meetings. The final graphic design concepts were complete. He presented prototypes of a brochure, poster and the new front page of [BostonHarborIslands.org](http://BostonHarborIslands.org)

**Water Transportation**

Tom Power, Island Alliance, reported the park has a contract with Harbor Islands Express (HIE) as the preferred provider of water transportation. He introduced Bill Walker, co-owner of HIE.

Bill said they were entering their 4<sup>th</sup> season of a 10-year contract with the park. He announced that there would be improvements in service this year. HIE will staff the docks on the islands to help visitors with transportation logistics, freeing up rangers on the islands to do other duties. The season will be extended and will begin May 3,

continuing to November 2. There will be camping on Lovells Island during the shoulder seasons. HIE will run sunset cruises from June to Labor Day. Bill said two new 72-passenger interisland shuttles will be in service this year; this reflects a 50% increase in capacity. Access to Grape and Bumpkin will be improved with the addition of departures from Hingham. Bill said there will also be a new ticketing system that will allow for online sales and timed tickets for returns from the islands. There will be scheduled adjustments to improve service at peak times. Bill announced that due to gas prices rising, fares will increase to \$14/adults; \$10/students and seniors; and \$8/children. There will also be a \$3 fare for the interisland shuttle if visitors transfer at Georges Island to one of the camping islands. Bill added that all boats are ADA accessible, and cleaner running than many in the harbor. He explained HIE boats meet "Tier II" emissions standards and run on low or ultra-low sulfur fuel.

The group discussed the fare raise. Karen O'Donnell suggested connecting islands water transportation system with the MBTA. There was an idea to offer multiple ride tickets at a discount. Suzanne Gall Marsh asked for clarification on interisland shuttle ticketing.

### **Report Card Update**

Greg Ketchen reminded all that several years ago the council prepared analysis of the Partnership's 5-year strategic plan. The Partnership has not put together a new 5-year strategic plan so the council decided to provide their input in a different matter. The council identified a list of several park priorities. A list was distributed. Council members voted on their top 3 priorities. Results were organized by interest group, the priorities with the most votes were moved to the top. It was evident the top priorities were shared by many different interest groups. Frequent and affordable water transportation, support for a learning and research center proposal, support for a native American museum/cultural center, increasing access for students and protection of natural resources were among the top priorities listed. Greg said the council will continue to work on preparing a formal report to the Partnership regarding these.

There were several questions asked about the proposal for a learning and research center on Thompson Island. Bruce Jacobson offered a briefing on the topic at the next council meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

Peter Rosen explained that the seats designated for the Advisory Council on the Partnership are currently filled, but that it is time to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Pat Morss said the Nominating Committee is recommending that Peter Rosen chair the council. Claudia Smith-Reid declined to continue as Co-Chair due to changes in her schedule. The committee had no suggestions for Vice-Chair. Peter Rosen asked for nominations from the floor. Karen O'Donnell was suggested as vice-chair, and she accepted the nomination. A motion was made to elect Peter Rosen as Chair and Karen O'Donnell as Vice-Chair (pending her official appointment to the council). The motion was unanimously passed.

## **National Park Service Report**

Because of time constraints, Bruce Jacobson offered to answer questions for the attendees in lieu of a formal park update. Bruce was asked about Camp Harbor View on Long Island. He said that this camp is run by the Boys and Girls Club in cooperation with Camp Harborview and the City of Boston, and hosted 600 youth each summer in 2-month sessions. Last year, Thompson Island and NPS offered educational programming for the Harborview campers. He reported that the City of Boston is planning to construct a dock on the old pier site to improve access to the island. He said he will soon meet with City staff about their public access plans for the island.

There was a question about the dock on Little Brewster Island. Bruce said the US Coast Guard announced that a contractor was chosen for a design-to-build dock for Little Brewster Island. It is not known yet what impact the construction may have for the season.

Bruce was asked about the status of Gallops Island. Bruce responded that Gallops remains closed to the public and there has been no recent progress on environmental remediation. Both NPS and DCR have put in funding requests for an assessment of contaminants and remediation options.

There was a request for any updates on Peddocks Island. Bruce said that Island Alliance received \$5.3M in remediation funds from construction of an offshore liquefied natural gas transfer station near Gloucester. Early thoughts are to use some of this money for improvements on Peddocks, bringing utilities to the guard house and chapel, and making improvements to both buildings and the parade ground.

Bruce responded to a question about the pier on Georges Island. Though the main pier remains open, portions of it are unusable this year. The pier is aging and needs to be replaced, it was thought to be an \$8M project. DCR is currently looking at design options; both NPS and DCR continue to look for funds to replace the pier.

## **Public Comment**

Suzanne Gall Marsh said the Volunteers and Friends of Boston Harbor Islands are offering several special trips this year.

Suzanne announced a DCR report on the conditions of cottages on Peddocks Island is available from the Partnership office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council  
3/5/08 Meeting Attendance

**VOTING MEMBERS and interest group**

1. Jennifer Bender, ENV	
2. Kurt Bornheim*, MUN	
3. Victor Brogna*, COM	
4. Maureen Cavanaugh, B&C	<b>X</b>
5. Mary Corcoran, EDU	
6. Theresa Czerepica, COM	<b>X</b>
7. Peter Davidoff, B&C	
8. Sean Glennon, MUN	<b>X</b>
9. Bill Hale, ADV	<b>X</b>
10. David Kales*, ADV	
11. Seth Kaplan, ENV	
12. Greg Ketchen, B&C	<b>X</b>
13. Steve Kirk*, B&C	
14. Dottie Merrill, EDU	
15. Chris Montgomery, NA	<b>X</b>
16. Charlie Norris, ADV	<b>X</b>
17. Pat Morss*, EDU	<b>X</b>
18. Karen O'Donnell*, ENV	<b>X</b>
19. Linda Poolaw, NA	
20. Bill Reardon, MUN	<b>X</b>
21. Peter Rosen, Co-Chair, EDU	<b>X</b>
22. Claudia Smith-Reid, Co-Chair, COM	<b>X</b>
23. Bettina Washington*, NA	
24. Lauri Webster, ENV	
25. Matt Wolfe, ADV	
26. Vacant Seat, COM	
27. Vacant Seat, MUN	
28. Vacant Seat, NA	

\*appointments pending

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	<b>X</b>
Carl Johnson	<b>X</b>
David Weinstein	
Jack Wiggin	

Ex officio (Business & Commercial)

Maria Freddura	<b>X</b>
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Ex officio (Advocacy)

Vivien Li	
Suzanne Gall Marsh	<b>X</b>

Ex officio (Environmental)

John Dinga	<b>X</b>
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Ex officio (Municipalities)

Daniel Ryan Congressman Michael Capuano	
Kathy Melia Congressman William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Mary Anne Hendricks	<b>X</b>
Gil Solomon	<b>X</b>

**OTHERS**

Marc Albert, NPS	
Bruce Jacobson, NPS	<b>X</b>
Kelly Fellner, NPS	<b>X</b>
Alex Hall, DCR	
Diane Haynes, IA	
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	<b>X</b>
Jim Peters, MCIA	<b>X</b>
Tom Powers, IA	<b>X</b>
Mary Raczko, NPS	<b>X</b>
Chuck Smythe, NPS	
Carol Thistle, IA	

MCIA – MA Commission on Indian Affairs  
DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation  
FBHI – Volunteers & Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands  
IA – Island Alliance  
NPS – National Park Service