

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Partnership Office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 217, Boston, MA
Wednesday, September 3, 2008, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Bruce Jacobson greeted all. He said Peter Rosen, Chair, sends his apologies, but was not able to attend. The approval of the minutes from June was postponed.

Georges Island Pier

Bruce Jacobson said that DCR is planning to replace the pier on Georges Island. The current pier has undergone repairs and is safe, but upgrade is an urgent matter. Replacing the pier is a large undertaking both in cost and scope of project. NPS will take the lead on federal compliance issues including public involvement in the process, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Bruce asked the council if they were interested in hosting a scoping meeting. The council agreed it fit with an important part of their mission to connect the public with park activities and projects.

Organizational Matters

Maureen Cavanaugh said a steering committee was formed in an effort to invigorate the Advisory Council. The steering committee is made up of council members that regularly attend each of the park committee and board meetings. The steering committee hopes to improve communication about park issues and council initiatives among Advisory Council members.

Mary Raczko, NPS, reminded all that council members are volunteers. She asked members to fill out forms so their hours of service can be counted toward the *Volunteers in Parks* program. She said she would keep track of members' participation in meetings, but that individual members should keep track of the time they spend on council initiatives and report to her. Mary passed out nametags to council members. These badges can be worn while in the park or at public meetings.

National Park Service Report

Bruce said that ferry service is now following the abbreviated fall schedule. There is still daily service to Georges and Spectacle. He reported the Marketing Committee is working on a redesign of the website bostonharborislands.org and the Planning Committee is developing a strategic plan for consideration by the Partnership.

Bruce announced Boston Harbor Island Alliance has designated a portion of the mitigation funds they received towards projects on Georges and Peddocks Islands. On Georges, designs for renovating the administration building will be prepared. On Peddocks, Bruner Cott was chosen to develop plans to renovate the chapel, guardhouse, and stables and to restore the parade grounds. They expect the scope of the project to also include completing improvements to these areas. Bruner Cott is also looking at costs to stabilize or demolish other buildings in the fort; many are not salvageable and will be marked for removal.

Bruce said that planning for the Harbor Park Pavilion continues for Parcel 14 of the Greenway, at State Street and Atlantic Avenue. NPS and the Boston Harbor Island Alliance are revisiting design options; there is no money yet identified for construction.

Bruce also mentioned NPS is working on formalizing a Native American Consultation Plan.

Kristen Wyman reported that an informal meeting was held in August with Nipmuc and Aquinnah Wampanoag representatives. This group made several recommendations for the Advisory Council to discuss and take action. Kristen passed out the recommendations which included the park hosting an annual 2-day NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) conference, protecting Native American burial sites through the use of new technologies, hiring Native Americans to support a tribal consultation process, developing a Native American Center on the islands, producing informational signage on Deer Island, and expanding Native American programming. Kristen asked the council for their support. Bruce said he would contact MWRA to explore possibilities for an interpretive sign on Deer Island, and he and Kelly Fellner will work with Native representatives on making improvements to public programming.

Kristen also gave an update about the 2nd Annual Native American Youth Media Institute held on Thompson Island from August 17-21. She said thirteen youth from Nipmuc, Mashpee Wampanoag and Massachusetts backgrounds came together with elders, instructors and mentors from native communities to explore historical and present day connections with Boston Harbor Islands. The youth received video production training so they can share their stories with a wider audience.

Next Meetings

The Georges Island Pier Scoping Session will be held on November 19, 2008 from 4:30 – 8:00 PM, location to be announced. The next quarterly meeting will be held December 3, 2008 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM, at the Partnership Office. The annual meeting will be held on March 4, 2009 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM location to be determined. A suggestion was made to ask Secretary Ian Bowles to speak at the annual meeting in March.

Public Comment

Karen O'Donnell said that people shouldn't forget Peddocks Island has more on it than Fort Andrews. She mentioned that a public toilet is needed on middle head.

Steve Marcus said it was disappointing that Peddocks Island had reduced access this year.

Carl Johnson submitted written comments after the meeting was over and asked for them to be included in the public comments section from this meeting. The following is a summary of his observations over the summer as a DCR ranger: Carl felt that ferry service was too expensive for families. He suggested selling books of 10 tickets for the cost of 8, or reducing the cost across the board. He thought the islands were a bargain for boaters; they were in general very satisfied. He commented that visitors were generally pleased with their interactions with rangers. He noticed that more visitors came from around the world or around the state than they did from Boston. He asked... "why". Carl also expressed several concerns around DCR staffing issues. He said there was a lack of maintenance staff, and rangers were asked to clean and maintain toilets. He noted rangers had rough living conditions, limited compensation for food, and no differential pay. He said there were many problems with the lifeguard staff this year and that, in his opinion, they were not working up to standards. One problem was that they were taking up seats on crowded ferries, leaving paying customers waiting at the dock.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
9/3/08 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS and interest group

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

Ex officio (Business & Commercial)

Maria Freddura	
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Ex officio (Advocacy)

Vivien Li	
Suzanne Gall Marsh	

Ex officio (Municipalities)

Daniel Ryan Congressman	
Michael Capuano Congressman	
Kathy Melia Congressman	
William Delahunt	

Ex officio (Native American)

Edith Andrews	
Mary Anne Hendricks	X
Gil Solomon	

OTHERS

Marc Albert, NPS	
Sheila Colwell, NPS	
Bruce Jacobson, NPS	X
Kelly Fellner, NPS	
Alex Hall, DCR	
Diane Haynes, BHIA	
Susan Kane, DCR	
Steve Marcus, FBHI	X
Arthur Pearson, TIOBEC	
Tom Powers, BHIA	
Mary Raczko, NPS	X
Chuck Smythe, NPS	X
Carol Thistle, BHIA	
Tara Weaver, NPS	
Kristen Wyman, BHIA	X

MCIA – MA Commission on Indian Affairs

DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation

FBHI – Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands

BHIA – Island Alliance

NPS – National Park Service

TIOBEC – Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center