

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Learning Lab, Boston, MA
Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Peter Rosen, Chair, welcomed all. There was a motion made to accept the minutes of the December meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Massachusetts Ocean Management Initiative

Deerin Babb-Bott, Assistant Secretary in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, gave a presentation on the effort to develop an ocean management plan for Massachusetts waters, under the Oceans Act of 2008. The Act requires Massachusetts to develop a first-in-the-nation comprehensive plan to manage development in state waters that will balance natural resource preservation with traditional and new uses, including renewable energy. The draft plan should be available for public review in early July.

Strategic Plan

Greg Ketchen reminded all that the Partnership is developing a new strategic plan for the park. The Advisory Council had an opportunity to give some input on an early draft. The draft plan will be open to public review after internal comments from the Partnership and Advisory Council are incorporated.

Elections of Officers

Pat Morss said the Nominating Committee recommends Maureen Cavanaugh as Chair and Jennifer Bender Ferre as Vice Chair. He asked for other recommendations from the floor, there were none. A motion was made to elect the slate as above. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Bruce Jacobson thanked Peter for his service as Chair for the past two years.

Recommendations for New Members

The following slate of potential new members was presented: John Anderson, Maria Freddura, Mel Harris, Mary Anne Hendricks, Rick Kesseli, Phil Lemnios, Dale Linder, Rob Moir, Karen O'Donnell, and Elizabeth Solomon. There was unanimous agreement to move these names forward through the nomination process.

Ask the Superintendent

Bruce Jacobson responded to several questions. A summary of answers are below:

- ✧ Boston Harbor Islands Express ferry schedules are expected to be similar to last year. Massachusetts Port Authority, one of the park partners has offered to help format the schedule to make it more user friendly.
- ✧ Park Partners are working with UTILE , IDEO, and Reed Hildebrand on designs for the Harbor Park Pavilion at Long Wharf.
- ✧ Camping will be offered at Lovells, Grape, and Bumpkin Islands in the summer season. Off-season camping will likely be limited to weekends and Lovells Island.
- ✧ Docks and Piers
 - Docks on Bumpkin, Lovells, Peddocks and Grape are in good shape.
 - Thompson Island's pier is in good shape, but needs a new floating dock.
 - The dock on Georges will be usable for the ferries this season, but need to be replaced. DCR and NPS are in the process of developing a series of alternatives for the design and looking for funding for construction.
 - The floating dock on Little Brewster is scheduled to be installed in June.
 - The dock on Long Island was built to serve Camp Harborview and currently does not have access for the general public.
 - The dock on Deer Island was built as a temporary dock for construction purposes. It is not accessible for public use.

- ✧ Partners have submitted several projects for Recovery Act funding. Some of the projects are supported by high-level officials in both the state and federal systems, however the chances of them being funded are unknown; funding lists have yet to be announced. A few of the bigger requests were mentioned:
 - Georges Island pier replacement (DCR & NPS).
 - Thompson Island Wave Screen (NPS, TIOBEC)
 - Harbor Park Pavilion (NPS, BHIA)
 - Ecological Restoration (NPS)
 - Georges Island Improvements (DCR, BHIA)
 - Peddocks Island Improvements (DCR, BHIA)
 - Boats (BHIA)
- ✧ Boston Harbor Island Alliance is working with DCR on plans to potentially rehabilitate the guardhouse and chapel and demolish unsafe fort buildings on Peddocks Island and to upgrade public facilities on Georges Island, including a visitor center, new maintenance facilities and improved power generation.

New Business

Maureen Cavanaugh, newly-elected Chair, said the council has begun a process looking at how they best can achieve their mission as “voice of the people”. The council is energized with new members, and Maureen said she is looking forward to a productive year. The council took a moment to review their legislated purpose “to advise and make recommendations to the Partnership on the development and implementation of the general management plan for the islands, including ongoing park operations”. The group discussed the topic and brainstormed some ideas how to increase public participation. These ideas were collected on note cards and will be compiled and distributed for review.

Public Comment

Dan Knapp, World Turtle Productions, announced that he was working with park staff on a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation. The proposed program will have a focus on new media technologies; youth will learn new media techniques while sharing stories relevant to the park. He said he was interested in forming new partnerships, and invited all to learn more.

Karen O'Donnell, Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, asked about alternative energy plans for the islands. Tom Powers said solar panels are included in plans for the relocation of the maintenance facility on Georges Island and there will be improvements to the generator. He also said that they are looking at wind possibilities on Peddocks. A park feasibility study completed in 2004 identified potential sites on the island. Tom said they are now exploring if the electric supply generated would be enough for all planned developments and if there would be extra that could be sold back to the grid. He mentioned that Secretary Ian Bowles, Executive Office of Energy and Environment, is very interested and supportive of alternative energy projects in the state.

Suzanne Gall Marsh, Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, announced the Friends are celebrating their 30th anniversary with a Library Literacy Project. They are donating three books about the islands to many public and school libraries in the area. She also mentioned it is the 80th anniversary of the Friends of Flying Santa.

Suzanne also reported concerns about Rainsford Island. She referenced the recent Globe article and said the island is in deplorable condition. The council planned to look into the issue more closely.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
3-4-09 Meeting Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT (X)

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 1. Jennifer Bender, | X |
| 2. Kurt Bornheim | |
| 3. Victor Brogna, | X |
| 4. Maureen Cavanaugh, | X |
| 5. Theresa Czerepica | X |
| 6. Peter Davidoff* | |
| 7. Sean Glennon | X |
| 8. Bill Hale | |
| 9. Seth Kaplan | |
| 10. Greg Ketchen | X |
| 11. Steve Kirk | X |
| 12. Dottie Merrill | X |
| 13. Chris Montgomery | X |
| 14. Charlie Norris | X |
| 15. Pat Morss | X |
| 16. Bill Reardon | |
| 17. Peter Rosen, Chair | X |
| 18. Claudia Smith-Reid | X |
| 19. Bettina Washington | |
| 20. Lauri Webster | X |
| 21. Matt Wolfe | X |
| 22. Vacant Seat | |
| 23. Vacant Seat | |
| 24. Vacant Seat | |
| 25. Vacant Seat | |
| 26. Vacant Seat | |
| 27. Vacant Seat | |
| 28. Vacant Seat | |

OTHERS PRESENT

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Marc Albert, NPS | |
| John Anderson | X |
| Richard Armenia, NPS | |
| Russ Bowles | |
| Kelly Fellner, NPS | |
| Maria Freddura | |
| Alex Hall, DCR | |
| Mel Harris | X |
| Diane Haynes, BHIA | |
| Mary Anne Hendricks | X |
| Bruce Jacobson, NPS | X |
| Carl Johnson | X |
| Susan Kane, DCR | |
| Rick Kesseli | X |
| Vivien Li | |
| Dale Linder | X |
| Steve Marcus, FBHI | X |
| Suzanne Gall Marsh, FBHI | X |
| Rob Moir | X |
| Jim Peters, MCIA | X |
| Karen O'Donnell | X |
| Tom Powers, BHIA | X |
| Mary Raczko, NPS | X |
| Chuck Smythe, NPS | |
| Gil Solomon | |
| Carol Thistle, BHIA | |
| Tara Weaver, NPS | |
| David Weinstein | |
| Kristen Wyman, BHIA | |

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