

**Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Harborside Learning Lab, Boston, MA**  
**Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Maureen Cavanaugh, Chair, welcomed all and members were introduced. The minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting were approved.

### **Messaging Workshop**

The Council continued work on creating a messaging platform for members to use when reaching out to the community. Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent, led Council members through a brainstorming process to clarify who they are and what they do as Council members. A sub-committee was formed to take the results of the brainstorming session (list attached) and draft an “elevator speech.” This elevator speech will be used to help Council members consistently and concisely convey the message of what the Council is, what it does, and how it operates. Rick Kasseli, Elizabeth Solomon, and Pat Morss volunteered to prepare a draft message that will be reviewed at the next meeting.

At the June meeting, there was agreement the Council should take an outreach role to build awareness and a basic understanding of the park, and also for the council to serve as a conduit for public feedback to the Partnership. Members reiterated the importance of doing this; the park needs supporters, advocates, and more public voices to advise the Partnership in park management and operational issues.

The Council discussed several things: possible forms of outreach and feedback mechanisms such as social networking; the importance of reaching out to non-visitors; ways to help Boston Harbor Island Alliance spread the word to their communities; and the pros and cons of producing another park “report card.”

### **Ask the Superintendent**

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

- ✧ A study is underway to see if Squantum Point, a property owned by DCR, near Marina Bay, would be a good location for a gateway to the “Massachusetts Cultural Coast”. The Massachusetts Cultural Coast is the brainchild of Congressman William Delahunt and comprises Quincy, Plymouth County, Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.
- ✧ NPS and DCR are actively looking for funding for the construction of a new pier for Georges Island; a new pier will cost approximately \$17M. DCR is submitting a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program request for \$25M with the help of NPS and Boston Harbor Island Alliance.
- ✧ Bruce said there are currently 3 projects underway on Georges Island: Construction of a new maintenance facility; a generator upgrade; and the renovation of the mine storage building into a visitor center.
- ✧ The Partnership adopted the 2016 Strategic Plan at the meeting on September 15, 2009. It will be available online. Hard copies are limited, but available to council members upon request.

**Member Status**

Mary Raczko, Partnership Liaison, reported that the current terms of many Council members are expiring in March 2010, though they are eligible for reappointment at the discretion of the Director of the National Park Service. If members are interested in continuing their service, they will need to submit their resumes or biographies to the Superintendent. Mary reminded all that members serve until replaced, so they do not need to step down. She reported that only 4 out of 10 Council members recommended for membership at the March 2009 meeting have returned the paperwork needed to forward their information for consideration by the Director. Mary said she had been holding the resumes of those that did submit them until she has a critical mass to forward on, but will send them soon. Mary mentioned there are still 2 vacancies on the Council.

**Public Comment**

Chris Montgomery reported the Native American Memorial planned for Deer Island was recently redesigned to fit the budget available. He shared a picture of the design approved by the Native American working group. MWRA is expected to approve the design soon and give the artist the go ahead to move forward.

Mary Anne Hendricks announced that a memorial service honoring the ancestors who perished on Deer Island will be held on October 24.

Steve Marcus, President of the Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, said the Friends can help support the goals in the 2016 Strategic Plan. He announced that the Friends offer programming all year round, lectures, boat trips and book signings.

The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Ken Burns film premieres on September 27.

**Next Meetings**

The next meeting of the Council will occur on December 2, 2009 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Partnership Office. The annual meeting will be held on March 3 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, location to be determined.

Council members offered suggestions for speakers at the annual meeting: Debora Cramer, Author of *Ocean: Our Water, Our World*; Philippe Cousteau, Jr.; Dr. E.O. Wilson; and Roger Kennedy, former Director of NPS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

