

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Ninth Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 3, 1999, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
United States Coast Guard
427 Commercial Street Boston
All Hands Club

The ninth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council was called to order by Jack Wiggin, Chair. Eleven of the Advisory Council voting members were present. There were three new members of the council in attendance that did not yet have voting status. (see attached attendance sheet). There is not a quorum.

Approval of the minutes from the April 8, 1999

There was a motion to accept the April 8th minutes. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

Opening Comments

The letter responding to the proposed Logan Airport Expansion was sent. The letters requesting appointment for the new and returning council members will be sent to Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, for approval. There were invitations for the tour of the islands with Congressman Michael Capuano were sent to all the Advisory Council members. The agenda is still being prepared by a joint effort of an Advisory Council and Partnership team. One point that everyone agrees upon so far is the need for increased public access.

Annual Report

The annual report is still in production. The final draft will be sent out for approval. When finished it will be printed and distributed to all members

Report from the National Park Service

Peter Lewenberg, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Boston Harbor Islands, was introduced. He complimented the Advisory Council for their commitment to make this park work. He said that Secretary Durand and Governor Cellucci believe in the importance of the success of the park, as it is a model of public and private cooperation. There was discussion of the importance of the role of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). It was thought that the EOEA could serve as a bridge between the state agencies. The council commended the Secretary for his commitment and involvement in the islands.

The council believed that strong state support was critical to the success of the park. There was a belief that the commonwealth's current budget for public parks was very low and that the parks should be priority. The council supported the idea that some of the surplus fund that the state currently has should go toward public lands and the protection of open spaces rather than the proposed tax cut. Vivien Li volunteered to draft a letter regarding this and also commend the Secretary for his efforts devoted to the islands thus far. Peter Lewenberg said that if the state is looked to as the sole support for the park, the intention of the Partnership is sorely missed. The Partnership needs to work as a team to identify new sources of revenue. The recent success of the Island Alliance is very encouraging. Every partner needs to pull its own weight; a windfall from the state should not be counted on.

An update of the Peddock's Island situation was requested. As it now stands, the island is closed because of a contractual dispute regarding the pier. The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) will not accept delivery of an unfinished product and cannot open the pier. The hope is to resolve through a mediation process and reach a settlement before the season is over. The council members thought that there were ways to come to an interim settlement where the pier could still be used without losing any rights to have the structure finished, and didn't understand why the island remained closed. There was a motion made to draft a letter to the Partnership encouraging their strong support to get the island open to the public. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

Committee Reports

Planning

The draft general management plan is nearing completion and internal review is scheduled for July. Public meetings will be planned when the date of draft completion is known. The council suggested that the summary be printed in languages other than English. The role of the Advisory Council in the public comment period was discussed. It was felt that the council should take a strong role in getting the information out to the broadest audience possible. It was thought that the council would be in charge of arranging additional community meetings and getting a press release out to community and ethnic papers. The topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Operations

There is an inter-agency team staffing the 408 Atlantic Avenue information office. There is a new visitor contact station at Fan Pier. There is a new "ranger on a boat" program sponsored by the EPA on ferries that leave Long Wharf at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM (Monday–Friday). The Island Alliance has received funds to create a pilot program for Little Brewster and is working with the Coast Guard on obtaining a temporary dock. There are NPS staff working on visitor and management programs for the island.

Water Transportation

Diane Haynes, DEM, presented the recommended water transportation plan for the years 2000 to 2003. The goal is to keep fares low and to offer other special rates to open up opportunities to get to the islands and to encourage repeat visitation. There were several questions about the specifics of the plans. Deer and Long Islands were not shown on the plan. Diane responded that this is a short-term plan and Deer Island is not expected to be on-line until 2003. There is flexibility built into the plan to allow for service to islands as they come on-line. Other islands like Little Brewster would be serviced by charter operations. There was concern that Long Island not get lost in the shuffle, and should be opened as soon as possible. Marina Bay was suggested as a hub.

New Business

A draft budget for the council was distributed as a springboard for discussion. The Advisory Council is supported by federal funds, but the council felt that more money was needed operate more efficiently and to do the type of public outreach that was desired. It was requested that money be put in the budget for travel, as it was felt that the Advisory Council members should be represented when there are briefings in Washington, DC. The council wanted to continue the effort to remove the name National Recreation Area from the park's title. The draft budget and the request for travelling along with the Partnership members will be raised at the next Partnership meeting.

John Lewis gave a report on Spectacle Island. There was great disappointment with the condition of the island. The council was concerned that the Central Artery was backsliding on commitments The council will continue to monitor the situation. There is a site visit scheduled for June 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, September 16, 1999, 4:00-6:00 PM

Thursday, December 9, 1999, 6:00-8:00 PM

Thursday, March 2, 2000, 4:00-6:00 PM

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

June 3, 1999 Meeting

Attendance - As Corrected 9-30-99

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Sha-King Alston	
2. Edith Andrews	X
3. Regina Burke	
4. David Calnan	
5. Stephen Comer	
6. Mary Corcoran	
7. Peter Davidoff	
8. John Dinga	X
9. Bernie Dreibratt	
10. Joe Ferrino	X
11. William Giezentanner	
12. Carl Johnson*	NM
13. Seth Kaplan*	NM
14. Greg Ketchen	X
15. Phil Lemnios	
16. John Lewis	X
17. Vivien Li	X
18. Tom Lindberg	X
19. Bernice Mader Represented by Elizabeth Harrington	
20. Suzanne Gall Marsh	X
21. Ed McCabe	X
22. Rob Moir	X
23. Sherman Morss	
24. Karen O'Donnell*	NM
25. John Sam Sapiel	
26. Claudia Smith-Reid	X
27. Lawrence Snake	
28. Jack Wiggin	X

*NM - New Member

(not yet established as a voting member)

* NM - NEW MEMBER, NOT YET VOTING MEMBER

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (education)

Nick Haddad	
Sukey Padawar	X
David Weinstein	

Ex officio (municipalities)

Jim Cantwell Congressman William Delahunt	
Frederick Clark Congressman Joseph Moakley	
Jay Kiely Congressman Michael Capuano	
David Soule Metropolitan Area Planning Council	

Ex officio (Native American)

John Brown III	
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