

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Tenth Meeting Minutes
New England Aquarium, Long Wharf, Conference Center
September, 30 1999, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The tenth meeting of the Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council was called to order by Jack Wiggin, Chair. There is not a quorum, 14 of the 28 Advisory Council members were present (see attached attendance sheet).

Opening Comments

Jack Wiggin welcomed all and thanked Greg Ketchen and the New England Aquarium for providing the meeting space and Kathy Abbott and the Island Alliance for the refreshments.

Approval of Minutes from the June 3, 1999 meeting

There was one change requested concerning attendance. Joe Ferrino was at the meeting, but not shown as attending. There was a motion to accept the minutes of the June 3 meeting, with the change. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

Update on the Status of the Draft General Management Plan

Barbara Mackey, National Park Service (NPS), said that she was in the process of compiling the comments that came back from the Partners review of the draft General Management Plan (GMP). The incorporated comments have helped clarify the plan without changing the content. It is taking longer than expected; they are at least six weeks away from publication of the draft. The public comment period starts after the release. A summary brochure is also being worked on and may be ready for printing before the draft GMP. The brochure will contain a tear-away section for feedback.

The dates for the public meetings have not been set yet, because the publication date is not known. It was asked if there was a legal requirement for public meetings and the answer was no, only that there was an opportunity for public input. Barbara suggested hosting 2 or 3 public meetings at Faneuil Hall; she envisioned an open house with displays, maybe a presentation given at a certain time. She is hoping to have a package of materials available for the Advisory Council to use when running meetings. The council thought it was important to have NPS staff attend all meetings. It is thought that there should be meetings all around the Boston area: Lynn, Waltham, Dorchester, Roxbury, Hingham, and others, similar to meetings that were held when introducing the islands a couple of years ago. It was thought that only one would really be needed at Faneuil Hall. Barbara thought that was a good idea. NPS personnel will be available to participate in those meetings but will not lead them. If the council wanted additional meetings, NPS attendance would have to be discussed.

Mark Racicot volunteered to arrange a Waltham meeting. The council had a concern that communities would not get enough advance notice. Barbara said that a package including the

draft plan would be sent to all municipalities. She will give Jack a list of people that will be receiving those packets. It is also possible to add to that distribution list.

In addition to public comment, there will also be a federally recognized consultation to the Native American Tribes. Bruce Jacobson suggested a different format than the evening meetings be considered. It was his experience that evening meetings have not been very effective in getting the word out. There was concern expressed that the public meeting times might be during the holidays. The council discussed how to get the word out to the public. A press release needs to be drafted, lead-time is needed to get the information into community/minority newspapers and an opportunity to get a feature story and publicity should also be considered. Dates and locations need to be identified before the next meeting of the Advisory Council. A Sub-Committee was formed: Phil Lemnios, Tom Lindberg, Joe Ferrino, Lorraine Downey, Suzanne Gall Marsh, and Mary Corcoran.

The council suggested that a new issue of Newswave should be published. Barbara said that she would work on one.

The Advisory Council also needs to figure out a process for compiling their own comments together for formal comment. In August, a small group got together, but the whole council needs to be involved. There was a suggestion made to add an additional meeting of the full council for this purpose. It was thought that a long meeting would be needed to give time for the interest groups to break out, then come back together as a whole.

Report from the Island Alliance

Kathy Abbott, Island Alliance gave a report on the status of the Boston Harbor Islands Economic Development Plan. Kathy said that this year's dinner would take place on Tuesday, November 23.

The Advisory Council will get a total of 8 tickets: two for each voting partner (4), and two for each chair and vice chair (4). The Advisory Council can distribute them any way desired. There may also be other ways for the members to attend. Island Alliance will ask corporations for seat contribution at the tables. Also, at least 12 volunteers are still needed to help out for the evening.

Merck Family Fund Submission

There has been encouraging feedback regarding the Merck Family Fund submission. The results should be in by November.

Review/update on the past season on the islands

The volunteers working on the islands have reported some very serious issues that need attention. The Operations Committee was asked to do a summer review at the November Partnership meeting. The council needs to determine how they should be involved with these types of issues. It was thought that a letter should be drafted to the Partnership. It was suggested that the council take the extra step to propose a solution. Suzanne Gall Marsh was asked to generate a list and work on a letter to submit to the Partnership. There was an idea to capture the ideas in a report card fashion, something that would show both the positives and negatives.

Report from the National Park Service

George Price reported that the new Advisory Council members have been officially recognized and they should have received their appointment letters from Washington, DC.

The program on Little Brewster was incredibly well received and was a model program of collaboration of Partners. The pilot program was supported by grant money. They are in search of a permanent dock and funding to continue the program. The Discovery Center sponsored by a grant from Coca-Cola through the NPCA was opened on Fan Pier. Island Alliance opened a retail store on Fan Pier. There was a successful new program initiated this year called "Ranger on a Boat" that was sponsored by the EPA. Federal funding has been received for the seawall on George's Island (\$781K), Restrooms on Thompson Island (\$66.5K) and a pier on Gallop's Island (\$103K).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Next Meetings: December 9, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
January 6, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council

September 30, 1999 Meeting Attendance

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Sha-King Alston	
2. Edith Andrews	X
3. Regina Burke	
4. David Calnan	
5. Stephen Comer	
6. Mary Corcoran	X
7. Peter Davidoff	X
8. John Dinga	X
9. Bernie Dreiblatt	
10. Joe Ferrino	X
11. William Giezentanner	
12. Carl Johnson	X
13. Seth Kaplan	
14. Greg Ketchen	X
15. Phil Lemnios	X
16. John Lewis	
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	
23. Sherman Morss	X
24. Karen O'Donnell	
25. John Sam Sapiel	
26. Claudia Smith-Reid	
27. Lawrence Snake	
28. Jack Wiggin	X

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex officio (education)

Nick Haddad	
Sukey Padawar	
David Weinstein	

Ex officio (municipalities)

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

Ex officio (Native American)

John Brown III	
----------------	--

Park Service/Island Alliance/EOEA Attendance

Kathy Abbott	X
Lauren Downing	
Bruce Jacobson	X
Peter Lewenberg	X
Kim Mitchell	X
George Price	X
Mary Raczko	X