

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation
Area Advisory Council

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

5222

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

02/25/2008 02/25/2010

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

P.L. 104-333

13. Effective Date

11/12/1996

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Advisory Council's (Council) purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership on the development and implementation of the general management plan for the islands, including ongoing park operations. The Council has two seats on the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, as required by P.L. 104-333. The Council is the primary mechanism used by the Partnership to consult with the public on matters of park planning and management, doing so through public meetings,

workshops, and other general public forums. The Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council directly aids the NPS in meeting the DOI's goal to "Restore trust and be a good neighbor." Council engagement with the public and with park management promotes transparency and provides a regular channel through which community members and organizations can share information with park management. This Council also furthers the SOI's goal to uphold its responsibilities to foster government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes. One Council member is appointed to represent Mashpee Wampanoag, a federally recognized tribe within Massachusetts. Additional benefits to the NPS and DOI stem from the efficiencies created when park managers have one streamlined source to collect information from public interest groups. This reduces the amount of time park staff spends engaging with individual community members and organizations. The Council does the work of capturing broad interest for the government, reducing the amount of staffing needed to collect public comment for planning decisions.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Advisory Council consists of not fewer than 18 individuals, to be appointed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service. The Secretary appoints no fewer than three individuals to represent each of the following categories of entities: municipalities; educational and cultural institutions; environmental organizations; business and commercial entities, including those related to transportation, tourism and the maritime industry; Boston Harbor-related advocacy organizations; and organizations

representing Native American interests. Community groups are also represented on the Council.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Advisory Council is administratively inactive. The Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Advisory Council typically holds four meetings per year. Meetings focus on issues related to Council membership and bylaws, community outreach efforts, anniversaries, general operations, and discussions on the Council's role as a FACA committee and as a voting member of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area Advisory Council was established to represent constituents of the island system. The island system is comprised of 34 islands within the Boston Harbor that are owned by private sector, state, municipal, and USCG entities. This Council seeks advice from concerned citizens and organizations that have an interest in the park, serving as a liaison between park management and the general public. The 28-member Council includes representatives of seven distinct interest groups, representing business and commercial interests, including those related to the maritime industry, tourism, and water transportation; municipalities; volunteer organizations; education and cultural organizations; and Native American interests. Native American interests are of particular importance in management decisions due to the park's enabling legislation that highlights the importance of understanding the history of Native American use and involvement

with the islands. The Council has traditionally served as the main vehicle for park management to collect and incorporate the interests and history of Native American communities in park planning. The importance of including other special interest groups, including private industry, local municipalities, and volunteer and advocacy organizations in park planning and decision making stems from the nature of the park and its surrounding community. Located proximal to a large urban landscape, Boston Harbor Islands decision making has the potential to impact many of the local communities it serves. Conversely, the decisions made by these special interest groups have the potential to impact park resources. The Council has proved a useful tool for information sharing and community-responsive planning that allows park managers to gather input, gain an understanding of public perspective, and address questions and concerns in a single forum. This use of a single, stream-lined public input process reduces the amount of time park management spends on engaging with individual community members and organizations. This adds to the park's ability to reach a larger audience with limited federal resources.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open.

21. Remarks

The Advisory Council is administratively inactive and did not meet in FY 2023. (1) EXPECTED CHARTER RENEWAL DATE -- Pursuant to the Commission's enabling legislation (P.L. 104-333), the biennial rechartering provisions of section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are waived for the Council. (2) EXPECTED COMMITTEE

TERMINATION DATE/SPECIFIC TERMINATION

AUTHORITY -- The enabling legislation

anticipates the Commission will exist into the foreseeable future, without termination.

Designated Federal Officer

Michael Creasy General Superintendent, National
Parks of Boston

Narrative Description

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area has unique legislation whereby the National Park Service does not own any land but instead serves as a facilitator at the landscape-scale for planning and coordination of resource management, educational, and operational activities.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Advisory Council is administratively inactive and did not meet in FY 2023.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

22

Number of Recommendations Comments

No recommendations in FY 2023. Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council has provided a total of 22 recommendations to park management. Summary of Council activities:

Provided comment and public meetings for park's General Management Plan- 2000

Provided position on new runway at Boston Logan International Airport- 2001 Provided position on development of water transportation system- 2001 Developed Native

American media project- 2003 Developed community outreach strategy- 2003 Provided comment on Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Initiative- 2003 Provided

statement on Wind Energy Initiative- 2003 Gathered public comments on Peddocks Island Adaptive Reuse of Fort Andrews Project- 2005 Submitted statement on liquified natural

gas facility on Outer Brewster Island- 2006 Provided analysis of park's strategic plan, with several recommendations for improvement- 2006 Reviewed and commented on branding

initiative of park's nonprofit partner- 2007 Provided list of park priorities, identifying 66 recommendations with 10 top priorities- 2008 Gathered public comment on Georges

Island Pier Project- 2008 Hosted several public comment workshops to develop park's 2016 Strategic Plan, providing written and verbal comments- 2009 Provided

recommendations for public outreach via social media- 2010 Reviewed a draft communication guide- 2010 Provided input on the park's pet policy- 2010 Provided

feedback on moorings, marina operations, and park infrastructure- 2012 Provided input on park's Call to Action Plan and Solid Waste Initiative- 2012 Held public workshop to

present the 2013 Boston University Master of City Planning and Urban Affairs Symposium

Team's Advisory Plan- 2013 Provided recommendations to update the park's General

Management Plan- 2013 Participated in a workshop to advise and assist in the development of a State of the Park report- 2014 Council focused inward on developing plans for increasing public participation in park management- 2015 Council focused on increasing membership, understanding council structure, and goal setting- 2016

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

30%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Advisory Council gives regular feedback to the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership. Observations and comments are ongoing and discussions are consensus based. The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership listens to the members of the Council on all aspects of Partnership deliberations. The Council will often submit multiple recommendations in one document or at one meeting. Managers often agree with 90% or more of the content, and do incorporate the Council's recommendations into plans and actions but there is not always funding available to fully implement.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

60%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

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Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency provides feedback through updates at Partnership, Advisory Council, and committee meetings. Partnership members and the Superintendent, the DFO, attend meetings so there is an exchange of information. When appropriate, feedback is provided

by email, fax, mail, social media or web pages.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Not Applicable