



**WHARF DISTRICT
COUNCIL**
B O S T O N

OCTOBER 17, 2018 (5-7 PM) Wharf District Council Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Marc Margulies, WDC President

Susanne Lavoie, Exec. Director

Chris Fincham, Treasurer

Tom Nally, A Better City

Alison Nolan & Matthew Murphy, Boston Harbor Cruises

Stephen Johnston, Boston Harbor Hotel

Alice Brown, Boston Harbor Now

Jim & Sandy Young, Custom House

Erin Piccirilli, Folio

Jesse Brackenbury, Rachel Lake, Greenway Conservancy

Leah Miano, Harborside Inn

Lee & Gail Kozol, Martha Laposata

Julie & Frank Mairano, Marcelle Willock, Harbor Towers I

Neal Hartman, Joanne Hayes-Rines, Wesley Stimpson Harbor Towers II

Ray Green, Sheila Willard & Heidi Wolf InterContinental Residences

John Larivee & Daniel Stewart, Rowes Wharf Residences

Captain Kenneth Fong, Sergeant Stephen Moy, Officer Ted Boyle, Boston Police Dept.

Lyan Albino, Boston Medical Center Police co-responder

Barbara Yanke Sara Brown, Steve Dahill, Victor Brogna;

City Councilor Ed Flynn

Diane Rubin, Prince Lobel.

SUSANNE LAVOIE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – OPENED THE MEETING, WELCOMED MEMBERS & GUESTS MARC MARGULIES, WDC PRESIDENT CHAIRED THE MEETING.

POLICE UPDATE, BPD DISTRICT A-1, CAPTAIN FONG

District A-1 Police activity in the Wharf District area has remained low. There were two assaults – one related to late night rowdiness at India and Milk Streets and another in the rear of the aquarium involving a homeless individual. Three robberies in the neighborhood include an auto theft at Rowes Wharf garage, a break-in at Sterling's Restaurant (60 State St) and a cell phone robbery at 171 Milk Street. In response to complaints of more homeless congregating in McKinley Square, Captain Fong noted that there has been increased patrols in the Square and that panhandling is not illegal unless the individual is blocking the sidewalk or within 70 feet of an ATM machine. Captain Kenneth Fong introduced Sergeant Stephen Moy who replaced Sergeant John Doris. The WDC thanks Sergeant Doris for his police work in our community and for his participation at our WDC meetings. Captain Fong also introduced Lyan Albino. Lyan works with the police in the community as the police co-responder on homeless matters.

COASTAL RESILIENCE STUDY FOR THE DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT – OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT – CARL SPECTOR, COMMISSIONER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE CITY OF BOSTON

Starting in 2019 the City of Boston will conduct a Coastal Resiliency Study that will include the Wharf District neighborhood. Climate Ready Studies have been conducted to date in East Boston, Charlestown and South Boston. These studies are part of the city's comprehensive and transformative vision that will invest in Boston's waterfront to protect the residents,

homes, jobs, and infrastructure against the impacts of rising sea level and climate change.

East Boston and Charlestown were selected first because they are vulnerable to flooding and are accessible/easy to access. Some short-term solutions given the results of the study were to install a deployable seawall in East Boston and raise

CONTINUED: COASTAL RESILIENCE STUDY FOR THE DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT

a section of Main Street in Charlestown by two feet which would protect against flooding for ~30 years.

The second study was performed in South Boston, Fort Point and the Seaport. Various solutions to the rising sea levels included constructing flood proof buildings, installing a vertical seawall, building a raised harbor walk and creating a living shoreline, beach and dunes.

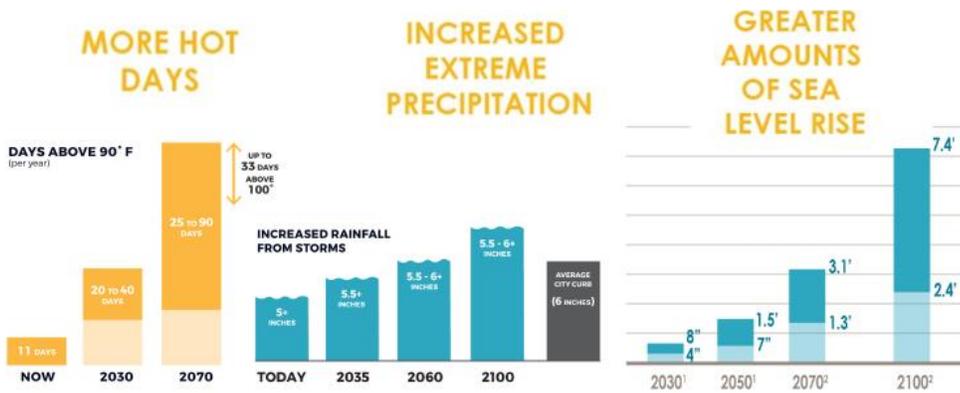
Carl presented the Coastal and Riverine flood maps of downtown and what the results would be of a 100-year flood (a flood that statistically has a 1-percent

chance of occurring in any given year.) He showed maps depicting the following scenarios. They can be found on the city's website.

- Beginning in the 2030's – 9 inches sea-level rise
- Beginning in the 2050's – 21 inches sea-level rise
- Beginning in the 2070's – 36 inches sea-level rise

Carl's presentation showed the projected impact climate in future years. We have the opportunity to prepare our coastline properties and harbor for the effects of these changes.

PROJECTED CLIMATE IMPACTS FOR BOSTON



COASTAL AND RIVERINE FLOODING

NEAR TERM (BEGINNING 2030s):
9 INCHES SEA LEVEL RISE



The light blue area on the map that is the Wharf District area shows the areas where flooding can be expected in the coming years.

CONTINUED: COASTAL RESILIENCE STUDY FOR THE DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT

The study involving the Wharf District area will take 9-12 months. It will include an internal steering committee, involve state resources to ensure all regulations are followed and engage directly with neighborhood residents. It is comprehensive and will go block by block. It will show what can be expected and how we can begin to prepare. While the city and state agencies need to prepare plans and implement viable solutions. There is much we can do

as individual property owners. Neighborhoods and property owners are encouraged to begin to evaluate their own situations and plan accordingly for a rising sea level. As we prepare for the study to begin, we are encouraged to visit Climate Ready Boston on the city's website for more information.

For more information go to www.boston.gov/departments/environment/climate-ready-boston

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CAFÉ IN HILTON HOTEL – MARK GRZELAK, MNM MANAGEMENT

The Fin Point restaurant group will be expanding their brand and opening a new coffee lounge on the backside of the Hilton Hotel on Batterymarch Street.

A new 40-45 seat restaurant concept called Tradesman will be open from 6AM – 7PM. Its focus will be coffee, breakfast sandwiches and a light lunch fare. They do have a liquor license which applies to the entire hotel. Estimated opening is mid-November.

GREENWAY STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN – JESSE BRACKENBURY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Greenway nears its 10-year anniversary, Jesse presented the details of a Foundational Funding Agreement. The past success of the Greenway has led to a new financial arrangement to benefit the Greenway Conservancy for the next several years including funding from the state for capital repairs, funding from the city and a newly created Greenway Bid.

The Conservancy performed a 10-month outreach and analysis study funded with a dedicated grant and utilized stakeholder interviews, focus groups, surveys and benchmarking interviews with other US Public Parks to produce the following findings.

- 1. Audience** – The Greenway Conservancy serves a large number of those who work and live downtown but also a strong number of visitors who do not have an immediate connection to downtown.
- 2. Perception** – Greenway visitors rate the park as highly favorable in terms of park-ness, public art, features/free events and change-ability.
- 3. Diversity** – All audiences have a positive perception of the park and the Greenway will continue to build relationships with a diverse community.
- 4. Offerings** – People were pleased with the current offerings (e.g.; food trucks and free events) and did not look for further expansion. There is interest the signature garden concept between the Oliver and High Street portion of the Greenway from world-renowned designer Julie Moir Messervy.

The 5-year goal of the Conservancy is to maintain their current level of success, continue to develop corporate and donor relationships, ensure they reach a diverse audience and extend the landmark multi-party agreement in the future.

BHN WATER TRANSPORTATION STUDY – UPDATE ON THE BOSTON HARBOR NOW – ALICE BROWN, DIRECTOR WATER TRANSPORTATION.

Boston Harbor Now is in the process of completing two water transportation studies to better serve the needs of the current and future customer base. The final results of the study are expected to be released in January 2019. Alice Brown, director of water transportation, presented a general overview to the WDC.

The study was split into the two components below and sponsored by MASSDOT, Massport, and NPS amongst many others.

1. Comprehensive Boston Harbor Water Transportation Study and Business Plans

Comprehensive business plans for up to three financially sustainable services that can be launched in one to five years.

2. Water Transportation Strategy for the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park

An RFI and RFP to procure a ferry service operator for the islands in 2019 and beyond.

In order to gather information, BHN used three sources: a stakeholder workshop, open house, and a stated preference survey.

The draft reports, that can be found at www.bostonharbornow.org/what-we-do/work/water-transportation/water-transportation-study, used feedback from the workshops, existing conditions, Commuter Ferry best practices from NYC, San Francisco, and Seattle as well as Island Park best practices from Golden Gate, Governors Island, and Fort Delaware.

Preliminary takeaways from the study was that Downtown (Long Wharf) was identified as the ferry stop that has the highest level of demand which resulted in the following route depicted in the “Inner Harbor Connector” diagram below. The star pattern shows Charlestown, East Boston and Seaport on the route with a Downtown stop in-between each of the others.

The Quincy/Columbia Point route has also been identified, given the results of the study. The goal of adding this route would be to promote water travel from the South Shore (Quincy) to Downtown (Long Wharf) and utilizing the Columbia Point stop for tourism purposes such as visiting the JFK library.

The Lovejoy Wharf to Fan Pier route is still in the process of being finalized.

The City of Lynn also has a business plan for water transportation to and from downtown Boston.

Additionally, Alice answered questions regarding the new Encore Boston Harbor Casino in Everett. The city of Lynn has a business plan for water transportation to and from the casino. The casino is a private entity and will have a private dock. They have purchased three vessels with a 40-person capacity to transport to and from various docks in the Harbor.



GREENWAY ACTIVITIES UPDATE – RACHEL LAKE, GREENWAY CONSERVANCY

There will be a Fall Food Truck Festival Saturday October 27 from 11:00AM – 3:00PM On The Greenway at Atlantic Avenue & High Street.

The Greenway Carousel remains open on the weekends, Trillium beer garden will run through October 28 and The GLOW illuminated signs will remain on the Greenway through April 2019.

COMMUNITY – HARBOR FIREWORKS FUND – JOANNE HAYES-RINES, PRESIDENT FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK

With your support, the Boston Harbor Fireworks Fund Committee – Boston Harbor Now, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park and Wharf District Council – are able to bring three fabulous fireworks displays to the Boston Harbor to celebrate America's Independence, to kick off Labor Day weekend and to ring in the New Year at midnight.

We are asking hope you will consider making a donation – not donation is too big or too small. The Wharf District council has donated \$500 towards the New Years Eve barge.

www.bostonharbornow.org/fireworks/ Donations are tax deductible.

WDC TREASURER'S REPORT – CHRIS FINCHAM, TREASURER

There are no major expenditures this year. Chris will continue to collect any outstanding annual dues from the members.

PUBLIC REALM VISION VIDEO & NEXT STEPS – MARC MARGULIES

We are still looking for financing for the "Public Realm Vision" Video. The video is Phase II of the Wharf District Council Public Realm Vision – What could be. What the neighborhood could look like. To help the Wharf District realize its full potential.

The video is intended to inspire decision-making that will lead to transformative ideas in the Wharf District public realm. To build public consensus around the construction of a world-class waterfront environment, we must inspire the public and build enthusiasm about the richness of opportunity. The video will show both before and after – a series of existing condition images that then illustrate an exciting transformation. And finally, allow for the excitement and benefits of the future to come together with this neighborhood's unique and very special of the past.

If we all see and understand the extraordinary possibilities (as outlined in the "Vision" and in the early concepts for the Blueway) then it will be easier to support the important initiatives of improvement, resilience, and accessibility - for both funding and public approval of change.

Currently we have raised \$30,000 of our \$50,000 goal.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 20, 2018. (DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO THANKSGIVING, THIS MEETING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED.)

MEETING ADJOURNED.