

# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

THERE ARE NO TIMES LIKE THESE TIMES

April 8, 2008

## **Esplanade Association discusses survey results at its annual meeting**

By Stephen Quigley

The Esplanade is a mecca not exclusively for downtown residents. In fact, approximately 65 percent of the people who use the parkland do not live in Beacon Hill or Back Bay, according to a survey that was conducted last year by The Esplanade Association (TEA).

So what else is new?

Other points in the survey, which was discussed at the TEA's annual meeting last Thursday, indicated that users of the Esplanade expressed high satisfaction about access to the park but that these same people were dissatisfied about availability of restrooms and drinking fountains.

Of course, despite its reputation as a tourist destination, Boston has never been known for these type facilities being made available in larger numbers to tourists, let alone for residents who use the park system.

Another concern expressed by users of the Esplanade is the inconvenience and danger of having to share walking paths with cyclists, geese droppings, the traffic on Storrow Drive, and the ongoing maintenance and desire for more functional amenities.

Rick Sullivan, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) also addressed the association and told how his team looks forward to improving the Esplanade and working with TEA.

Again, we've hear these promises before.

Sandy Steele, president of TEA, said, "We are quite busy and have a very firm direction."

A number of projects completed during the past few years have contributed greatly to the quality of life for users of the Esplanade, this includes the new wooden docks by the Union Boat Club as well as raising a \$1,000,000 endowment for the maintenance of Ebersol Fields.

In addition, TEA is begin vigilant to make sure that DCR does not use any of the park for motor traffic during reconstruction of the Storrow Drive Tunnel, providing more seasonal

activities like sailing club, continued tree care for the more than 1,900 trees in the park, landscape restoration and park amenities like water fountains and solar trash compactors.

Board members Ellen Rooney and Roseann Colot will be leaving the Board and Fritz Casselman, Herb Nolan, David Solomon, Sandy Steele and James Whitters were re-elected.

The Marathon Team was also introduced during the meeting.