

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
A California Non-Profit Corporation

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Elephant Seal, a California non-profit Corporation, was held on October 17, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon, California.

The following Directors were present: Barbara Hernandez, Jutta Jacobs, Kathryn Karako, Susan McDonald, Steve Franz, Ray Easton and Kerri Caserio. Also present Judy Burley and Jim Neil.

President Mike Levy called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved as read, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Mike began his report with an acknowledgement to Kathryn Karako that the training of the new docents went well. The selection process was also successful. Next years training might possibly include more applicants referred by our current docents.

Old business regarding the training included the need for docents to realize the session is for the trainees. The day should be completed successfully and on schedule.

Mike suggested monies from the Coastal Resource Grant be used to compensate Kathryn for her time. The amount should take in to consideration time spent for the training session, travel expenses, etc. \$ 1440.00 was built in for docent consultants and lecturers. Susan McDonald felt the amount should also include both docent training and census training. The amount would be a training coordinator reimbursement. Future speakers will not be compensated. Kerri Caserio questioned that the non-profit status might be affected. Steve Franz will speak with Karen Tipple of Accurate Accounts.

Steve has completed installing the Quick Books program in the FES computer. All accounts payable will be done at the office. Any check written over the amount of \$ 350.00 will need two signatures. A Treasurers report was presented to the Board Members, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Susan notified the Board of the two county grants. The first for \$ 400.00 was used for the new packs, photos and binoculars for use by the docents on the bluff. The second grant for \$ 1500.00 will cover the cost of the brochures. The Board approved them and a contract will be sent.

Mike Levy received a donation in the amount of \$ 1,00.00 for FES from the

William and Charlene Glikbarg Foundation. Michael Glikbarg of Los Osos was instrumental in arranging for FES to receive the grant. This may become an annual donation. Susan will respond with a thank you letter.

Greenspace is sponsoring a workshop on Sat. Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in San Luis Obispo. Protecting your community will be the subject. Professionals in environmental law will be conducting the group discussion. The La Jolla Friends of the Seals have recently contacted Susan. They will be in our area in the future. During their visit they would like to speak to a few of our docents. Susan will apprise the Board when more information is available.

Barbara Hernandez provided a copy of an article and picture from the Washington Post Magazine. Her concern was a possible harassment of the elephant seals on the beach. The photo appeared to have been taken at close range. Kerri Caserio stated some telephoto lenses could be used with no disturbance to the animals. Barbara will draft a letter to the magazine and present it to Susan for consideration.

Michelle Roest recently forwarded information regarding the Whales Tail Program. This source of funds could be applied to the continuing cost of the census. Susan should also compile a list of needs for the office. Some of the office equipment may need replacement in the future. Funding for the census is more costly than the outreach program. Linking the two may benefit possible grants or funding. Also on the list of future needs would be a more professional pamphlet for FES. It would be an asset in our association with Cal Poly. Steve felt Kathryn Karako should also compile a list of equipment needs for the general training and census. Included in this list was a discussion of scanners, overheads, etc. Susan could utilize all of the above information in future grant requests. A motion was made and unanimously approved.

A discussion of press releases in the Tribune and Cambrian to announce the return of the elephant seals began. Steve suggested broadening our exposure in the area. Any news reports can be approached with information on safe viewing and other educational information. Approaching the business community for funding may be successful if our program is viewed in a positive way in an expanding area.

Kathryn's Training Committee Report confirmed that the expenses are in line with the amount projected. The current trainees are a capable group. Ray suggested investigating further ways to increase our recruitment of new docents. The Training Committee will research further sources such as The Audubon, local museums and other organizations. Any future suggestions will be presented to the Board.

Future training should be preceded by an announcement from Kathryn that this a lecture, not an open forum. Questions can be held until a later time. The Census training was completed last Sunday. There are currently 14 people with 3 substitutes in the program. The group includes 4 students from Cal Poly, 5 current FES docents and the remainder is Cuesta students. The Students are aware the program is affiliated with FES.

Guest Jim Neil discussed the Docent Guidelines review. Jim has been involved with the guidelines in the past. He requested input in regards to any specific additions or deletions in mind. The current guidelines were written in Oct. of 1999. Any suggestions from Board Members will be presented at a future meeting. Jim will present the Board with continued input from the docents in regards to this matter.

Jutta Jacobs asked for more information on what would be discussed at the windsurfer's session at the training being held on Oct. 27th. The purpose is to open up dialogue between the windsurfers and the docents. The windsurfers are also stewards of the elephant seals.

The reports from The Fund Raising Committee and the Five-Year Plan were tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Ray will represent FES at the Achieving the Dream Forum in San Luis Obispo. The subject of this meeting will be the challenges faced by non-profit organizations. Ray provided the Directors with an information sheet. Barbara will also attend.

Ray suggested appointing a docent president to become a voting member of the Board. The general membership will vote on their own representative. The Board agreed upon involving the docents suggestions or concerns in the Board agenda. Jutta Jabobs suggested a docent liaison position to represent the docents at quarterly Board meetings. The Board will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28th at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned 5:20 p.m.

JUDY BURLEY, Recording Secretary

MIKE LEVY, President

