

Friends of the Elephant Seal
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Minutes: Board Meeting, December 18, 2002

Present:

Board Members: Bill Johnson, Jutta Jacobs, Barbara Rice, Jim Devine, Steve Franz, and Judy Burley.

Advisory Board: Michele Roest and Susan McDonald.

Guests: Kara Blakeslee and Beth Van Valkenburgh from The American Land Conservancy.

President, Bill Johnson at 3:00 p.m, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were changed to correct grammatical errors. The minutes were then approved as read, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

Before the meeting being called to order, Kara Blakeslee and Beth Van Valkenburgh spoke to the Directors about the Conservation Framework for the Hearst Ranch. The purpose of the project is to protect the resources on the Hearst Ranch. The goal is for the Ranch to look the same in 200 years. The plan will limit future human structures and human impact. It will also increase public access west of Highway 1. They provided the Directors with a copy of the Hearst Ranch Conservation Framework. A copy of which is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

The easement allows for a small inn in the Old San Simeon Village. The design will be inspired by a recently rediscovered vision of Julia Morgans. No new homesites would be located west of Highway 1. The additional 27 homesites allowed would be on the interior of the 82,000-acre Ranch.

An agreement should be reached by the end of the year. The American Land Conservancy will have 1 year to raise the funds. Public process needs to be followed. Public meetings and task forces will be held to discuss accommodation of public access. Steve Franz asked if any structures would be removed from San Simeon Village. It is unsure if the storage structures will remain. The Schoolhouse may be the only structure that may be removed. The maximum number of rooms in the proposed inn will be 100.

During the year it takes to purchase the Ranch, FES will continue to work with the Hearst Corporation. The Hearst Corporation desires no changes to the FES organization. Kara and Beth encouraged FES to become involved with the process. Jutta Jacobs inquired about the possibility of the VP3 coming under the jurisdiction of California State Parks or The Bureau of Land Management. The BLM wants the land surrounding the Point Piedras Lighthouse. Susan McDonald felt it might be possible for multiple agencies to own different areas.

Steve inquired about the ways FES could help in the short run. Kara stated the ALC is competing against other projects for funding. She suggested FES could write a letter to the appropriate government agencies endorsing the Conservation Framework. In the future FES could also aide in the effort to raise funds. Jutta also asked that ALC update FES, she provided Kara with the FES e-mail address. The Directors thanked Kara and Beth for attending the meeting.

Jutta was excused while the Board discussed the letter received by FES regarding Jutta's ad in the Cambrian, which included information about FES and the elephant seals. A copy of the letter is attached hereto and made a part thereof. It was noted that if Jutta had applied the 800 hours donated to FES to her profession she would have profited greatly. After a discussion the Directors decided to issue a letter, stating FES does not find it unethical or detrimental to the organization. The motion was seconded and approved. Steve will write the letter.

Steve stated the source found on the Internet would supply the baseball caps with the FES logo for a cost of \$ 2.50. A sample will be sent to Steve before any ordering. Michele Roest asked if the caps would have a color designation for docents and for sell to the public. It was decided to continue with the blue color for the docent's caps. The caps for sale in the FES office will be of another color. No cost for the vests to be worn over rain gear by the docents was available.

The Docent Appreciation Night was a success. Some of the Board members have received a positive response from docents attending. Ann Grossman sent the Directors a note thanking them for their recognition. The drinks and supplies left will be stored for future use.

Bill has submitted the application for a minor use permit for the Boardwalk. He met with Bruce Bonifas of California Conservation Core and Martha Neder of the County Planning Department at the Vista Point. Bruce will continue with the site plan. The permit fees have been waived. Caltrans has checked the erosion on the bluff. No report has been received yet.

FES will attempt to have all the permits together by the end of January 2003. At that time the funding can be started. The permit will include the north end of VP3 also. Susan felt the estimate had increased since inception. She felt the total cost of the project was \$ 140,000.00. The grant was for \$ 100,000.00; the additional \$ 40,000.00 was to be raised by FES. In kind, donations may be applied to FES's share of cost.

Michele mentioned the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is working on signage. They might be able to donate the signage allowing the amount to be applied toward the donations in kind for the Boardwalk. Jutta suggested replacing the sign on HWY 1 and replacing the wildlife viewing with the description elephant seal viewing. Michele stated the MBNMS would need their logo displayed somewhere. It was noted that past signs of elephant seals viewing have been stolen along HWY 1.

FES has not received information from Donna Meyers regarding possible grants. Susan felt Donna was a better resource for applying for future grants. Jutta was concerned that FES might lose previous grants. She questioned who was doing the follow up. Susan felt any State grants are questionable at this time. The State may want FES to come with new projects for funding. FES needs funding for ongoing not new projects. Donna is seeking operating monies. Susan felt there might be sources to explore in grants for the Boardwalk. The Boardwalk could be used as a project.

The color brochure to be distributed to the hotels and Chambers has been designed by a Cal Poly student. The project has been done at no cost to FES. The only cost will be incurred in the printing. Bill is waiting to receive the completed design so estimates for printing can be researched. He will present it to the Board for approval before it goes to print.

Phil Adams has checked with State Parks about materials FES can use for a new fence. The fence needs to be placed along the North Bluff. It will be a low fence with a sign asking for help in controlling the erosion. Caltrans has stated they do not object to the fence, however they questioned liability to FES. Steve has sent a letter to the FES insurance agent, Neal Truesdale. He has been asked if our policy covers this issue. Michele felt the above-mentioned sign might take care of the liability to FES. Susan suggested notifying the docents on whatever decision is made about constructing the fence.

Bill will be attending a Non-Profit Collaboration Forum on Wed. January 16th. FES was invited to participate. The topic is "Volunteers Run Amok". Bill will be the speaker representing FES. Susan congratulated Bill and FES on this positive publicity.

A copy of the Treasurers Report was supplied to each Director. FES received a check for \$ 1,500.00 from Susie and Geoff West to fund the Docent Appreciation Dinner. Bill has sent a letter of thanks to them. Jim Devine has met with Steve to go over the Quickbooks program and the duties of the treasurer. A motion was made and seconded that the Treasures Report be approved.

The membership newsletters will be done in January. They will be mailed when they are received from Achievement House.

Gail and Shirley Green may need to spend the money in the Outreach Grant by the end of February. They are researching the cost of the proposed new equipment.

The membership database is in need of someone to enter the information. FES also needs a volunteer to monitor and enhance this source of funding. A new program should be installed before updating the process. Steve and Jutta will research the possibilities and report at the next board meeting.

Camp Keep is set to start up in the middle of January. Michele volunteered to go out with them. She will put her name on the list of volunteers in the office.

FES will continue to participate with MBNMS in diverting traffic at Arroyo Laguna. Michele will have a training meeting on January 4th from 9am to noon. Previous FES docent letters have requested volunteers for the program. January 5th will be the first day of duty. Michele will be coordinating the docents. Judy will direct any interested docents to Michele. There is a sign up sheet in the FES office.

This is Steve's last Board Meeting as a Director. A motion was made and seconded that Steve become an Advisor to FES. Steve accepted the Advisory Position.

Susan asked the Board to place the endorsement of the Hearst Framework by a letter to the ALC on the next agenda. The draft of the letter could include the increase of public access west of HWY 1 and the certainty of no development of San Simeon Point.

A discussion of the Census Program was tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at the Cavalier meeting room at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Burley, Docent Coordinator

Bill Johnson, President