

**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 the Friends of the Elephant Seal, a California Non-Profit Corporation was held on February 19, 2003 at 2:00p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon, California.

The following Directors were present: Bill Johnson, Jim Devine, Barbara Rice and Jutta Jacobs. Also present were recording secretary, Judy Burley and guests Advisory Board Members Michele Roest, Susan McDonald and guests.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 22 , 2003.

The Presidents Report began with a report by President Bill Johnson on the status of the Boardwalk. The package for the permit is with Marty Cepkauskas from the Hearst Corp. The permit will be ready to submit as soon as they sign off as land owner. Susan McDonald has spoken with John Hofschroer from the county about the availability of money. He stated that FES is at the top of the list. The grant money may be available as soon as April. At that point Bruce Bonifas of CCC may begin purchasing materials for summer construction.

Bill told the Directors the signs made by Phil Adams have been placed at VP3. Two have been placed at the north end and 1 at the south end. The signs statement is attached to the January 22, 2003 board minutes.

FES has received publicity from the attendance by Bill Johnson and Ann Grossman as guests on the Dave Congleton radio program. Dave asked questions the first half hour and calls were received the second half hour. It was a good program which Bill thought was topical because of the recent "bite" at VP3.

Each Director received a copy of a draft of Kathryn Karakos census report. Kathryn would like the Board to make comments. The Board will review the draft and report back to Kathryn. The final report will be available in the FES office. Michele Roest stated the report was done well and contained good information. The Directors discussed supplying a copy to MBNMS, BLM, Cuesta College and the Cambrian Library. A motion was made, seconded and passed that Kathryn Karako publishes the Census Report after any correction suggested by the Board.

The Hearst/ALC letter of support from FES has been sent. A thank you has already been received from Kara Blakeslee.

Bill has spoken with Lisa Anthony and Bill LaBrie about becoming Board Members. They do not have the time at present to devote to the organization. The new Board Member Search will continue.

Bill spoke to the Board about the past request by the Morro Bay Marine Museum. It is a non-profit private museum. It is not however associated with the Morro Bay National History Museum. Any future meetings to set up an association with the Morro Bay Marine Museum have been cancelled.

Jim Devine gave each Director a copy of the Treasurers Report. A copy of which is attached hereto and made a part thereof. He stated the Outreach Grant billing in March may be the last. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Treasurers Report be approved.

Barbara Rice attended the Fund-Raising meeting earlier today. A definite date of April 12th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm has been set for "Sunset at San Simeon". The catering will be done by Testa. The 150 tickets will be sold for \$ 50.00 each. An update will be given on the progress.

Jutta Jacobs has updated the FES website with 2 new links. A new birthing sequence and Genevieve Anderson's educational link are links that have been added. They are done very well and are informative for anyone visiting the site. Michele thought FES may be approached by Camy Dominquez from Camp Ocean Pines to help with a summer week long camp. It will be held this spring. Judy returned a call after receiving a message from Camy. However, Camy has not returned the call or responded to the message.

The program with Camp Keep has begun. The children are well behaved and the instructors do a good job. FES docents are there to open and close the gate at VP4. The docents may follow along with the group if they chose. Ken Eberle is the docent coordinator and stated the program is going well.

Michele presented each Director with a report of the 2002 season at Arroyo Laguna. The representation of the MBNMS and FES at Arroyo Laguna seems to be accepted by the local community. Brooke Grennan a NOAA Ranger will be a presence at the site this season. In the future, Michele will bring her to a FES Board meeting to address the Directors. A uniformed NOAA ranger will be in the area soon. Michele will be putting together a post season wrap up meeting for all interested parties. A discussion of the widening range of the elephant seals will be included.

The new Dell computer is in the office. The data will be transferred within the next few weeks. A scanner has been purchased to be used for the website. Jutta will post anything that needs to go out to the public. The Board can contact her if they feel an item should be posted. Bill will set up the FES membership database under the Access program.

Ron Massengil is researching an environmental grant available from SLO County. These small grants are helpful. FES needs money for operating expenses. John Hofschroer explained that there is no money in the pipeline for future funding. Shirley Bianchi and Richard Macedo may assist in finding funds tucked away in some State and Federal programs. John suggested locating a funder that would be able to help FES in an ongoing program. Susan stated past grants received by FES have been for specific uses. She suggested FES pursue grants from sponsoring group or groups to cover the operating expenses. Richard Macedo and Susan will set up a meeting and notify Bill.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 at the Cavalier meeting room at 3:00 p.m.

Judy Burley, Recording Secretary

Bill Johnson, President