

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 March 19, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

Directors present: Bill Johnson, Barbara Rice, Jim Devine and recording secretary, Judy Burley. Guests present: Michele Roest and Ann Grossman.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The minutes from the February 19, 2003 Board meeting are approved.

Ann Grossman reported on the progress of the April 12th fundraiser " Sunset at San Simeon". The committee has received a total of 53 items for the silent auction and raffle to be held. The items include wine, dinners, hotel rooms, etc. The catering will be done by Testa. The Hearst Corporation has used them in the past. They will have a carving station serving turkey and sirloin steak. A band will provide music for the entire event. The money received from ticket sales should cover the cost of the food and rentals. The raffle and silent auction will be profitable. The committee is working hard on the decorations, donations, etc.

Michele Roest suggested FES send a written request to the MBNMS to fund the costs of training volunteers, volunteer appreciation, equipment and supplies. Bay Net has received funding from the MBNMS after losing some of their previous allocations. Michele would set a meeting with Dawn Hayes from the sanctuary for FES. She will contact Bill Johnson about a future meeting.

A post season wrap up meeting has been held in the past. Michele offered to take this task over. This year it is important because of the range expansion. State Parks needs to become more involved. Possible attendees: FES Board Members, NOAA, NMF, State Parks, law enforcement. Bill will be contacted about the meeting.

Robert Yerena from NOAA is the replacement for Gary Hughey. He will be in uniform and available for the busy weekends. Brooke Grennan, from State Parks is in uniform and will be on the site at VP3. Michele suggested Brooke would be available to speak to the Directors at a future meeting.

Bill has delivered the final package for the boardwalk. The process may take several months. The minor use permit should be here by August so construction on the boardwalk can begin. Bruce Bonifas from CCC will be ready to begin at that time.

Kathryn Karako has the census comments from the Board and is putting together a final report. There is an increase of 200 animals over last year's season. The final count will come from Brian Hatfield. The census numbers will be stated in an article in the Cambrian.

Bill was at VP3 with a film crew recently. It is a pilot for a show. Cheryl Ladd was at the site for the show which features points of local interest. It will be shown in May on KEYT.

The exhibit of elephant seals done by Carole Adams which is being shown at the Hearst Castle Theater has received a positive response. The time it will run has been extended through April.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Treasurers Report is accepted.

The membership database is currently being prepared by Bill's son, Tom Johnson. It will transfer to the access format and be ready for use soon.

The board discussed discounts on items sold in the office. The membership does not receive a discount. Currently, the only discounts given are to docents and educators who purchase items.

The grant request submitted to Toyota by Gail Green has been sent. Gail noticed an article in an Audubon Society magazine about Toyotas generous donations. Gail is a past employee of Toyota and contacted them about the possibility of a donation. It was suggested that FES submit a grant or endowment request. Susan McDonald completed a package to send.

Judy requested an increase in the amount of a single person's signature that can be used on checks issued by FES. The current amount doesn't cover the rent check. It is difficult to get the needed signatures. The amount was raised to \$ 400.00 by the Directors. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the amount of \$400.00 or less for a check written on the FES account does not require more than 1 signature.

Guest Joan Glassey suggested the bluff newsletter should list the office as a gift shop, educational display center. This would create more traffic to the office. The board will mention the additions to Jutta Jacobs, who is chairing the newsletter committee.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Wed. April 16th at 3:00 in the Cavalier Meeting Room.

Judy Burley, Recording Secretary

Bill Johnson, President