

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 (FES), a California non-profit corporation was held on May 21st, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

Directors present: Mary Lee Becwar, Joan Crowder, Dave Dabritz, Kathy Hurrle, Richard Lee, Jerome Passman, recording secretary, Judy Burley. FES Advisor P.J. Webb was a guest.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The minutes from the April 16th, 2008 FES board meeting are approved.

Roy Torres the NOAA Wildlife Biologist who is heading the investigation of the recent elephant seal shooting and Kathy Tanner from the Tribune have contacted Mary Lee Becwar asking if FES would receive donations from the public to increase the reward for the capture and conviction of the criminals. Dennis Long the head of the MBNMS Foundation might be a possible avenue for the funding/donations to funnel through. Mary Lee will contact Dennis to inquire about the process and to see if there is a % of the monies kept for handling fees. The board discussed the possibility of FES establishing a fund to hold the donations sent to increase the reward. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: A fund will be established and managed by FES to increase the amount of reward offered for the conviction of the persons responsible for the shooting of the three elephant seals at Piedras Blancas viewing area.

Kathy Hurrle and Ken Dunn have agreed to serve a second term on the FES Board of Directors. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: Kathy Hurrle and Ken Dunn continue as members of the Friends of the Elephant Seal Board of Directors for a second term. Jerome Passman will not continue for a second term. He agreed to continue as Board member and FES Treasurer until a replacement is found.

The Tribune newspaper recently printed a front page article concerning the challenges faced with the increasing seal population. Joan Crowder would like a letter written to the editor pointing out the incorrect emphasis on the burgeoning population. The content of the letter did state that the population has stabilized. The Directors felt the inflammatory headline would give a reader the opposite impression. A draft of a letter written by Joan will be sent to the directors prior to mailing it to the Tribune.

Diana Teetzel has agreed to join the FES office staff. Jackie Johnston will be retiring at the end of June. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: Diana Teetzel will hold an office position with FES with a maximum of 16 hours per week.

Dave Dabritz presented the Directors with options for a future docent advanced training seminar. A trip to the Seymour Discovery Center, the Long Marine Research Lab, the TOPP facility and the Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care & Research Center was discussed. After hearing Dave's discussion of the facilities and the amount of time needed to tour them, the Board decided to begin with a 1 day trip to the Seymour Center and the Long Marine Research Lab. FES would provide transportation by bus for the docents who attend. Mary Lee will announce the trip at the docent meeting. The bus will accommodate 43 people. The first 43 to sign up will be contacted. The Directors felt August would be the earliest a trip could be arranged. October was also a choice of the Board.

Jerome Passman gave each Director a copy of the balance sheet and a profit & loss statement; a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. As noted in past meetings the fundraising amount raised this year is down. The first billing and payment for the State Coastal Conservancy grant has been received by FES. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The Treasurers Report is approved.

Docent Ken Cumings designed and fabricated a sign which has the universal symbol for information. It is large and attached to a pole. Because of the height of the pole it is easily visible for the visitors at the viewing area. The Directors felt another should be constructed for use. Judy will contact Ken about having a second sign made.

The docent meeting which will be held on Wed. June 11th at the Cambria Vet's Hall will be a potluck. The docents have received an invitation. The office will monitor the response. The Directors will meet at the Hall at 4:00 p.m. to set up. A speaker has been arranged. The Board will acknowledge Jackie's retirement at that time.

Board member Joan Crowder dismissed herself from the meeting. The Board began a discussion about adding additional office staff. Jerome stated that with the current grant FES is receiving a 5th day of staff would be feasible. Mary Lee will contact Joan Crowder to inquire if she is available to work in the FES office 1 day a week.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday June 18th at 1:00 p.m. at the Cavalier lower conference room. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Mary Lee Becwar, President

Judy Burley, recording secretary

