

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 (FES), a California non-profit corporation was held on Wed. Sept. 17th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

Directors present: Mary Lee Becwar, Sue Boudreau, Ken Dunn, Kathy Hurrell, Richard Lee, Dave Dabritz, Jim Brownell, Brandt Kehoe, recording secretary, Judy Burley.

Guests: Ann Grossman, Barbara Jo Carlson, Michele Roest and P.J. Webb.

Michele Roest the Education and Outreach Specialist for the MBNMS announced to the Directors that she will be retiring on Oct. 24th of this year. Ca. State Parks Rangers Mike Conley and Dave Berry will operate the Coastal Discovery Center in the interim. She suggested the FES Board write Paul Michel, MBNMS Superintendent, to suggest the Sanctuary fill her position as soon as possible. FES will be receiving an invitation to attend the Oct. 16th Night of Appreciation for volunteers held at the National Geographic Theater. Oct. 17th will be the MBNMS SAC public meeting which will be held in Cambria. Michele suggested FES attend to thank the Sanctuary for their past support and to ask that they continue a full time staffer in the area.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: the minutes from the August 2008 board meeting are approved.

Mary Lee was unable to attend the PBLSA recently held in Morro Bay.

Judy presented a profit and loss statement to the Board. Megg McNamee was unable to attend this meeting.

The MBNMS will hold a MLPA education and outreach workshop. FES has been invited to send a representative. Brandt Kehoe will attend. PJ will ask if Ken Dunn may also attend. She will contact both Brandt and Ken with more information.

Judy recently sent the Directors information on the protocol for a non profit to take a stand on Public Policy. Non profits are prohibited from supporting or opposing candidates for election. The article suggests the worst time to decide on how to take a policy position is when an issue suddenly erupts. Mary Lee, Diana and Judy will draft a policy and present it to the board at a later date. P.J. will provide FES with a boiler plate sample.

The Directors agreed some of the docents need jacket replacements. Judy will include a note in the next docent letter asking any docents who have worn jackets to let the office know so a new can be ordered.

Kathy Hurtle reported that the Training Committee Mentor Training meeting went well. Bob Grosse suggests that 2 issues be considered. The squirrel problem at the Vista Point needs a better solution. Leander Tamoria of State Parks should be contacted about the problem. The recording on the Hearst Castle bus has information about the seals which is incorrect. Mary Lee will contact Dan Eller about revising the message. There are currently 11 possible trainees for the fall session.

November 15th is the date of the next docent potluck. It will be held in the Cambria Vet's Hall. Mary Lee will put together a list of possible speakers. Barbara Jo Carlson suggested the Audubon as a possible source.

A letter was sent to the MBNMS and they help fund the training with a \$ 250.00 donation. The State Coastal Conservancy grant billing has been sent and received for the quarter. The Board will need to request some of the money to be moved from one of the categories to another. A 10% change can be requested.

Ann and Barbara Jo informed the board of the need to begin planning of the next SASS. Some of the contacts need to be made by Oct. 1. The Board chose three possible dates for the event: March 21, March 28 and April 4th of 2009. Ann will email Courtney Warner with the dates and a request to use the Hearst Warehouse. The Board discussed dividing the duties for the event into smaller and manageable size. Barbara Jo will consider heading up the raffle and silent auction. The board will further this discussion at the next board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be held on Oct. 15th, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Judy Burley, Recording Secretary _____

Mary Lee Becwar, President _____