

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES) a California non-profit corporation was held on Wed. July 8th, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

Directors present: Mary Lee Becwar, Ken Dunn, Brandt Kehoe, Jim Brownell, Kathy Hurrle and recording secretary Judy Burley. Guests: Carolyn Skinder MBNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Carolyn Skinder has recently taken the position of Education and Outreach Coordinator for the MBNMS in our area. Her office is located at the Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon State Park. She would like to continue a partnership with FES and enhance the school group program. There are currently 30 volunteers with the Discovery Center program. Funding is limited for their program and the current days of operation; Friday, Saturday and Sunday, will remain the same. She is currently preparing for the upcoming Oceans Fair Day which FES will attend.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The minutes from the June 17th, 2009 FES Board meeting are approved.

The Directors discussed the previous proposal of Terry Damerel of the Burton Inn for a January "Seal Festival" to promote local tourism. The Board decided not to become a co-sponsor, but to support the event by attending. Mary Lee will contact Terry to let her know of the decision. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: Friends of the Elephant Seal decline the invitation to co sponsor the Elephant Seal Festival to be held in Jan. of 2010 by Terri Damerel.

Mary Lee has been in contact with Mary Golden of the Central Coast Natural History Museum regarding support of the resolution to keep the State Parks open by using a vehicle license fee tax. Mary will keep FES informed of any further information or decisions.

The recent FES Strategic Planning session included a discussion about better defining the roles and duties of a FES member and an FES officer. Mary Lee asked each Director to think about their job description and think of how they see their role on the Board. A further discussion will continue at the next Board meeting. Kathy Hurrle will also explore ideas for criteria for future Board members. Each Director should have a general job description. It was decided that each Director that takes on a task will be placed on the next Board meeting agenda to discuss their progress.

The Board would like Tim Duff of the State Coastal Conservancy to attend the next FES Board meeting. Ken Dunn will contact Tim about attending.

The next Docent Pot Luck will be held on Aug. 22, 2009. Mary Lee will continue to try and reach Kathryn Karako to ask if she is available to speak to the docents. Mary Lee will speak to the docents regarding their support of FES by becoming members.

A further discussion of an information/donation box at VP3 will be held at the next meeting. Brandt Kehoe will report to the Directors on a system for placement and maintaining the box.

Kathy Hurrle spoke to the Board about the Training Committee's upcoming project to offer evaluations to all the FES docents. Currently a follow up mentoring session is completed for the newly trained docents. The committee will offer a Post Mentoring program to all docents. The committee will report back to the Board next summer on the project. Jim Brownell reported on the press releases and ads for docents that will be placed. The number of ads will decrease from last year, with the least effective ads deleted. The Board agreed to minimize the recruitment ads.

The Budget & Finance Committee will meet in August and report to the Board at the August FES Board meeting.

Michele Roest was nominated and has agreed to become a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Elephant Seal. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: Michele Roest become a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Elephant Seal.

The Directors decided to continue staffing the viewing area on a limited basis in the fall. Schedule requests will go out to the docents. Because the staffing will be light, 1 docent per shift, the docents can limit their bluff duty. Joan Crowder will include this information in the next docent letter. This is an "it's up to you" volunteer request.

Judy gave each Director a copy of the Coastal Conservancy grant work budget report. A copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. FES has met its obligated amount of expenditures in most of the work program categories. The remaining balances in the Strategic Planning and Board Development & Operations total \$ 6,125.00. Some of the other categories have had exceeded their commitments. The billing for Jan. 2008 through June of 2009 has been sent. A balance of \$ 114.50 is remaining in the SCC part of the program.

Diana Teetzel has requested her days working in the FES office be reduced to 1 day per week. Judy will try and staff the office with volunteers the remaining day. The Directors chose not to replace the paid staff on this day.

The next FES Board meeting will be held on Wed. August 19th at 1:00 at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

A closed session followed.

Mary Lee Becwar, President

Judy Burley, Recording secretary