

FRIENDS OF THE ELPHANT SEAL

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A meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Elephant Seal, a California non-profit corporation was held on Wed. Aug. 19th, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

A conference call between the FES Board of Directors and Tim Duff, of the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), took place at the beginning of the meeting. Tim had suggested in a recent e-mail that FES begin collaboration with other local non-profits to ensure consistent messaging among the groups and consistent interaction with the public. The Board discussed this expanding collaboration which would co-ordinate the message about elephant seals and their habitat. The groups would process information about who they are and what they do. This information could be included in the training manuals of each group. Tim mentioned the non-profits might be able to jointly apply for grant funding. Michele Roest will co-ordinate a get together meeting.

Ken Dunn began a discussion about the 10% amount that has been withheld from the FES grant received from SCC. Tim thought these funds could be designated for a specific purpose. The SCC will release these funds when the work program items are completed. There are 2 work program items: Strategic Planning and Board Development which will have balances still owing when the grant is final. Tim felt that the SCC may forgive these commitments.

FES asked about future funding. Tim discussed the possibility of augmenting the existing grant. 15% of the original amount could be requested. Tim suggested FES e-mail his office with a proposal. FES will continue training docents; looking toward the renovation of the Piedras Blancas motel which is slated for public use. Coast Walk may have funding to assist the enhancement of the motel/visitor center.

Tim also mentioned the Sempra Energy Environmental Grant. Michele will explore submitting the grant for FES.

Charmaine Coimbra and Diana Teetzel met with the Directors to discuss the upcoming SASS fundraiser. The tentative date of the fundraiser is Sat. March 27th, 2010. The Board was asked to submit names for the celebrity and head tables. The Board is in favor of the concept as long as education is emphasized rather than "environmental".

The next docent potluck will be August 29th. The docents are to arrive at 4:00 p.m. The Board will begin set up between 2:30 to 3:00.

Roles of the FES Board members: FES will use Kathy Hurrle's guidelines regarding the criteria for board membership. They will be used as a guideline only and will not be shared with potential new board members.

Kathy Hurrle will be leaving the FES Board in June of 2010. The Board would like her to continue as chair of the Training Committee after her term has expired.

Brandt Kehoe and Megg McNamee presented ideas about a contribution box placed at the bluff. The working model will be available sometime next week. Brandt will show the education/contribution box to State Parks Supervisor, Leander Tamoria for pre-approval.

Kathy Hurrle informed the Directors that the Training Committee has received 1 docent application thus far.

Mary Lee will explore placing a trash receptacle at VP3 with Cal Trans. The trash is currently cleaned up by FES docents through the Cal Trans Adopt A Highway program.

The next FES Board meeting will be held on Wed. Sept. 16th at 1:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Lee Becwar, President

Judy Burley, Recording Secretary

Megg McNamee, FES Director

