

FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL

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A meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES), a California non-profit corporation was held on Wed. October 21, 2009 at 1:00 at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon Ave.

Directors present: Mary Lee Becwar, Jim Brownell, Ken Dunn, Brandt Kehoe, George Larson, Megg McNamee, Michele Roest and recording secretary Judy Burley. Guests present: Leander Tamoria, P.J. Webb, FES Advisor.

The minutes from the FES board meeting held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 are approved as read.

Mary Lee Becwar gave the board an update on the proposed boardwalk at VP3. She has received an email from Bruce Bonifas of CCC stating that the project is expected to start next spring. It will take 16 week to complete. She also spoke with him about the repairs that need to be taken care of at the viewing area. Photo's from FES demonstrating the problems have been sent to Bruce and Ca. State Parks. Nick Franco of Ca. State Parks is sending a crew out next week to check and see if anything can be done before the boardwalk project begins. Judy will call Mark Mueller from Caltrans to see if they can fix the apron area at the entrance. FES will continue with the Adopt-A-Hwy Caltrans program.

The annual Cambria Christmas tree auction will have an entry donated by Beezie Moore, Deborah Scarborough and Charlotte Goforth. Proceeds from the entry will benefit FES. Judy will mention this in an upcoming docent letter and encourage the docents to support and attend the event.

The FES annual dinner/dance fundraiser will be held on either Sat. March 20<sup>th</sup> or March 27<sup>th</sup>. The letter to the Hearst Corp. requesting the use of the warehouse in San Simeon has been mailed. The Fundraising Committee will meet this month and report to the board.

Brooke Gutierrez is the new Ca. State Parks interim FES liaison. She has been invited to attend a future FES board meeting.

Brandt Kehoe demonstrated the FES donation tube which will be placed at the viewing area. A discussion began on the procedures for docents taking the tube to and from the site. Judy will put together a protocol and email it to the board. The newsletters will be placed next to the tube.

Michele Roest discussed a future collaboration meeting which FES will host. The goals will include finding more information about each group and what they do. The meeting will be set late Nov. or early Dec. Judy will call the Cavalier to reserve a meeting room. Michele will send the initiations. P.J. Webb will assist Michele with the meeting. Information about the collaboration will be sent to Tim Duff from the Coastal Conservancy.

P.J. discussed FES being a presence at the upcoming Cambria public meeting of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary superintendent. It will be a town hall meeting which will be held at the Rabobank on Friday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Mary Lee and Brandt will attend. FES will send a letter of support for P.J. to continue to serve on the MBNMS Advisory Council.

Judy updated the board on the San Simeon Chamber tourism business improvement district. This may be a future source of funding for FES. Mike Hanchett from the Cavalier will speak to the board when more information is available. Treasurer, Megg McNamee, gave each director a profit and loss report. If future previous funding becomes limited next year, FES will need to explore more fundraising ideas. Each director was given a list of all past grants received. The application for the Siempre grant was not chosen. Michele will proceed with the Whale's Tail Grant. The docent appreciation dinner grant from SLO County will be received again, but in a much smaller amount.

The docent dinner has been set for Sat. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The board explored the idea of a pot luck similar to the docent meetings. Judy will review a revised menu and report to the board. The idea of a power point containing past docent events was also discussed.

Upcoming docent letters will occasionally include answered "questions from the bluff". Michele has agreed to look over any new questions. Judy will re-introduce the program to the docents. The binder with all previously answered questions is always placed near the equipment bin and is available to all docents.

Judy gave each director a copy of the insert for the FES membership Holiday mailing. The mailing will go out in November.

The board agreed to the amount of \$600 to \$700 for an elephant seal pin. Some of the order will be gifts to the docents at the docent appreciation dinner and the rest will be on sale to the public.

The next FES board meeting will be held on Wed. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cavalier lower conference room at 1:00. There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

A closed session followed.

