

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. Nov. 18, 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, George Larson, Megg McNamee, Michele Roest and recording secretary Judy Burley. Guests: Leander Tamoria and P.J. Webb, FES Advisor.

A motion was made seconded and passed that: The minutes from the Oct. 21, 2009 FES Board meeting are approved with corrections.

Michele Roest will mail a hard copy of the completed Whales Tail Annual Grant to the FES office. The proceeds of the grant are received from the sale of the whale tail license plate holders. P.J. Webb will proceed with the translation of signs if the grant is received. Judy Burley will help with a redesigning of the School Group Development Program multi lingual outreach and education. The kiosk at the viewing area will have a translation in languages to be chosen. The school group packets will be specific to 5 age groups. FES school group coordinators will be given a copy of the grant proposal.

Mary Lee Becwar has been working with Dan Eller of Ca. State Parks on the Hearst Castle Tour collaboration. The castle tour, movie and tour of the elephant seal viewing area will take place on 3 Sun. in Dec. Phil Adams has agreed to participate in the radio phone interview promoting the event. Mary Lee will email the board with updates.

Ken Dunn has agreed to extend his term as FES Director for a 3rd term. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: Ken Dunn serves a 3rd term as a member of the Friends of the Elephant Seal Board of Directors.

Brandt Kehoe was nominated and agreed to serve as President of the FES Board for Directors for a 1 year term beginning Jan. 2010. Ken Dunn was nominated and agreed to serve as Vice President of the FES Board of Directors for a 1 year term beginning Jan. 2010. Megg McNamee was nominated and agreed to serve as Treasurer for the FES Board of Directors. A motion was made and passed that: Brant Kehoe serve a 1 year term as President, Ken Dunn serve a 1 year term as Vice President and Megg McNamee serve a 1 year term as Treasurer for the FES Board of Directors.

State Parks Supervising Ranger Brooke Gutierrez will be contacted to remove the gate at the beginning of the boardwalk at the south end of viewing area. FES is concerned that is a public safety issue, eyesore and is in disrepair.

Michele is proceeding with the FES Collaboration meeting which will be held on Tues. Dec. 8th. The goal of the meeting is for the groups who do elephant seal education in the community

discuss their programs. Judy will email the directors with an agenda and participants. The board will preview the questionnaire given to the attendants.

11 docents completed the 2009 FES fall training. There were 2 new sections added to the training. One on sharks that prey on elephant seals presented by Tom Parsons and Tim Postiff and one on Marine Protected Area's (MPA's) presented by Bette Bardeen. There are currently a few names on the docent wait list. The Training Committee may consider a Spring Training in 2010.

George and Sandra Larson will be representing FES at the Cambria Hospitality Night on Dec. 3rd. They have been asked by the owners of the West End Bar and Grill to be a presence at the event. George will place a table with information on seals and items to sell.

The Directors will ask Charmaine Coimbra to attend the next FES board meeting to discuss the progress of the upcoming fundraising dinner/dance.

Megg McNamee gave each director a Profit & Loss Prev. Yr Comparison and an Income and Expense by month. The board agreed fundraising is a priority in the coming year. The docents have begun to place the donation tube at VP3. Brandt Kehoe's design is working well. Brandt will track the days and shifts and their amounts and will report at a future meeting. Training for the education/donation table was recently done by Megg and Judy. Several interested docents attended. The table has been placed 3 times at the south end and has netted approximately \$400.00.

P.J. reported to the board that the domoic acid incidences have diminished. There have been reports of a Northern Fur Seal in the area; she asks that the FES docents call the MMC if one is sighted.

The wine and tri tip for the Jan. 2010 docent appreciation dinner have been anonymously donated. Judy and Christel will decorate and Brandt will assemble a power point for the evening with pictures of past docent events. The guest list chosen by the board includes: Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Brian Hatfield, Carolyn Skinder, PJ Webb, Leander Tamoria, Geoff & Suzie West and Brooke Gutierrez.

The next FES board meeting will be held on Wed. Dec. 16th at 1:00 at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room. There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m.

A closed session followed.

Mary Lee Becwar, President

Judy Burley, recording secretary