

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

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES), a California non-profit corporation, was held on Wed. Dec. 15 , 2010 at 1 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon Ave.

Directors present: Tim Postiff, Brandt Kehoe, Sandra Kehoe, Michele Roest, Ken Dunn, Megg McNamee , Jim Brownell, George Larson, and Donovan Marley and recording secretary Joan Crowder and office manager Marcella Boteilho. Guest, Leander Tamoria.

The minutes of the Nov. 17, 2010 board meeting were approved.

DISCUSSION OF COOPERATING ASSOCIATION WITH STATE PARKS

Michele Roest introduced the subject of FES entering into a Cooperating Association with California State Parks. She spoke in terms of long term planning, pointing out that in the past Leander Tamoria was a valuable liaison with State Parks, but since his retirement, FES does not have a similar relationship with State Parks. She will print out the manual explaining benefits and limitations of becoming a cooperating association.

Leander Tamoria explained that other cooperating organizations were often formed to generate funds from State Parks, but FES is different in that it is an independent grassroots organization and has a sense of independence that could possibly be compromised by a formal association with State Parks whereby State Parks would have the final say in such matters as fundraising. He pointed out that Nick Franco appreciates the value of FES docents at the viewing site, and that State Parks really needs FES, so would be reasonable in any negotiations with FES.

The board members discussed the "CYA language" in the State Parks contract with the Central Coast Natural History Association and suggested pursuing such questions as what percentage of FES funds could go to administration and how much to education and interpretation, as well as how financial reporting would be required.

Leander said there were difficulties at Ano Nuevo regarding the number of tours, etc. (this would not be relevant to this viewing site which does not have scheduled tours) He also said FES training is sufficient, but that could be a question that could come up, depending upon the individuals involved in decision making. Concern was expressed by board members that in the future, FES could be "under the thumb of a particular personality."

Michele stressed that this is an information gathering period rather than a decision making period, and suggested bringing other State Parks people to board meetings. She will also find cooperating associations and get feedback and opinions on the arrangements.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON WEBCAM

Brandt Kehoe reported on his meeting with State Parks spokesmen regarding the Webcam. He was told that to hasten the permitting process, no dirt should be moved, and that the equipment should be mounted on existing structures. Otherwise it could be 8 months to a year to be permitted. Brandt will go out with Tom and Doug Barker to sketch out details. He has received the go ahead on the project overall, but with new details. The estimated cost is

\$12,500, with assistance from State Parks in permitting and installing. A question would be, who owns it? And who maintains it? Insurance would be required for vandalism or theft.

It was suggested that an interpretive panel be placed over the box.

Michele will explore possible grants, possibly from San Simeon Chamber of Commerce, or from private sources.

#### BYLAWS AND OFFICERS

Brandt Kehoe handed out copies of the FES bylaws, which pointed out that the Secretary should be a member of the board of directors. Megg McNamee, treasurer, offered to serve as Secretary as well. Joan Crowder would be assistant to the secretary.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Megg McNamee presented the treasurer's report, and it was suggested that money be put in a CD. She will research that.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Donovan Marley handed out a revised list of FES membership categories and recommended that newsletter be emailed to members. A motion was made and seconded to modify the membership categories as amended.

#### DISCUSSION OF FES PROTOCOL

Donovan Marley suggested that a protocol be established for materials that go out from FES, and Michele Roest suggested formalizing such things with a guide, and it was decided to collect topics that could go into a handbook of procedures. It was suggested that a date be set for a retreat for the board of directors.

#### DOCENT DINNER

Marcella announced that Supervisor Bruce Gibson's office has granted \$400 toward the Docent Appreciation Dinner on Jan. 22

Brandt Kehoe suggested that a representative from the RSV P volunteer association speak briefly about the program at the appreciation dinner.

#### TRAINEE REPORT

Tim Postiff reported that feedback on the new trainees has been positive. A meeting of the new docents will be held at the Cavalier on March 5 to review training and mentoring experiences.

Spring training will be offered March 19 and 20, and fall training will be Oct. 1, 15, 29. The next meeting of the board of directors will be held on January 19, 2011.

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Brandt Kehoe, president

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Joan Crowder, recording secretary

