

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL  
March 16, 2011**

Directors present: Jim Brownell, Donovan Marley, George Larson, Sandra Kehoe, Ken Dunn, Brandt Kehoe, Megg McNamee, Michele Roest and Tim Postiff

Also present: Marcella Boteilho

**Topic: FES Bylaws**

**Discussion:** Brandt suggested that the current Bylaws need to be updated. As an example, he pointed out that there are newer ways to communicate (email vs fax) and that these methods should be included.

**Action:** Ken Dunn offered to help Brandt go through the Bylaws to make updates. They will present their findings and/or corrections to the Board at the next meeting.

**Topic: April 16<sup>th</sup> Docent Dinner/meeting**

**Discussion/Action:** Brandt announced that Dan Costas has been confirmed as our next guest speaker for the April 16<sup>th</sup> docent get-together and that FES will pay him a fee of \$1,000. The pot luck style meeting will be held at the Vets Hall. Mr. Costas will also give a talk at the Robobank earlier that day (1:00 pm – 3:00) for the general public. We will probably charge a \$5 per person “suggested donation” at the door.

**Topic: State Park Cooperative Association status:**

**Discussion:** The Board members that attended the March 9<sup>th</sup> docent meeting at the Vets Hall agreed that even though there were some heated discussions/comments and several questions asked, there were no real objections raised. Concerns that were made included monetary control of FES cash and/or assets, the loss of our current independence, potential personality issues with State Parks leadership (after the current leadership retire), exactly what role State Parks would have in our management, scheduling, etc. and the desire to keep our anonymity.

The Board is very concerned that there is still much doubt and unanswered questions regarding these and other issues to make a decision.

There was discussion regarding the need for legal counsel to help with the drafting of a potential contract between FES and State Parks.

**Action:** We agreed that there is a need for an additional forum where questions and answers can be handled and made available to the docents. Brandt is going to draft a series of known issues and responses that will be emailed to all docents. He will also ask for any and all opinions and leave plenty of room for questions. Anyone not having email will be mailed the same form via regular mail.

**Topic: Current terms of Board members**

**Action:** President Brandt Kehoe to accept and extend his term until December 2012, Vice President Ken Dunn to extend his term one additional year until January 2011, Treasurer/Secretary Megg McNamee to extend her term until June 2012,

Director Sandra Kehoe to extend her position until June 2012,  
Director Jim Brownell to extend his position until January 2012  
Director George Larsen to extend his position until June 2013  
Director Michele Roest to extend her position until June 2011  
Donovan Marley to extend his position until December 2012  
Tim Postiff to extend his position until December 2012

All motions regarding continuance of the above Officers and Directors terms were seconded and unanimously carried.

### **Topic: Training Committee Report**

**Discussion:** Tim Postiff reported a small turnout (5 attended) at the last Docent Training Recap meeting that was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was aimed at the November 2010 graduating class. Most of the docents that attended suggested that they were anxious for more education beyond the standard training. They also suggested development of a new “buddy” system that would enable the new docents to stay connected to more experienced docents/mentors. Other questions arose regarding how many shifts docents were supposed to be on the bluff per month. Apparently there was confusion between 3 and 4. We discussed driving distance would be the deciding factor; i.e. greater distances would only require 3 shifts per month. Tim notified the Board that he will step down as Chair of the Training Committee in mid-November 2011 after the next Fall Training session. Betty Bardeen will take over as Chair of that committee.

Megg reported that Shirley and Richard Lee will be retiring their position as Chairs of the School Group Committee in June 2011. Tim also reported that Judy Thompson will step in as temporary Chair in order to handle getting the School Group Committee realigned and populated. Judy’s main thrust will be to develop new materials for the packets that are directed to the different curriculum levels of the school groups that visit the bluff. There is also a need to refine the mechanics of the actual bookings that come through the office.

**Action:** Tim will try to design a message that encourages docents and mentors to continue to be in touch with the newer docents.

Tim notified the Board that he will start to include the “C” shift for the spring/summer schedules. Marcella has already started to update parts of those packets and will work with Judy and Tim to continue the updating efforts. Marcella, Diana and Joan have already made changes to the way bus and school bookings are handled in the office. Marcella is confident that the problems that existed before are no longer an issue.

### **Topic: Membership Drive**

**Discussion:** Donovan Marley announced that the program is exceeding expectations. He expressed that the **business community** and **Friends for Life category** appear to be the “soft” parts of his plan.

### **Topic: Treasurer’s Report**

**Discussion:** Megg reported that finances are secure and that there hasn’t been much change, except to the positive. The tubes and table continue to be major supporters of FES.