

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**

Board members present:

Donovan Marley, Tim Postiff, Jim Brownell, George Larsen, Sandra Kehoe,
Ken Dunn, Brandt Kehoe, and Megg McNamee

Also present Lisa: Remington, Supervising State Park Ranger, Marcella Botheilho and Carolyn Skinder of the Discovery Center.

Topic: FES and Morro Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Carolyn Skinder informed the Board that MBNMS would like to partner with FES on a 2012 spring lecture series during the months of April and May, Friday evenings at Rabobank. The Board decided to meet with Carolyn to follow up and decide on next year's theme and dates. Carolyn will email with available meeting dates.

She also told us that the Coastal Discovery Center will be hosting weekly group talks beginning Jan 2012 and that they would like to include FES in the talks at the Center on occasional Saturday mornings. The Board agreed that some of our docents would probably volunteer to give talks about the eSeals.

Topic: Webcam Progress Report

Brandt reported that when Tom returns, Brooke will set up a meeting with him and his supervisor to (hopefully) get the webcam project on the priority list.

Topic: Cooperative Association Status:

Brandt presented the *Restated Articles of Incorporation*. The Board unanimously approved the changes to Paragraph B and the addition of Paragraph D as follows;

B: The specific purposes for which this corporation is organized include, but are not limited to: provide support for educational and interpretive programs of the State Park System; the preservation of the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Colony for ecological, educational, scientific, historic or scenic opportunities; **to assist the State Park System in the creation and administration** of volunteer docent programs which will provide environmental education for the public and promote safe viewing of elephant seals and other marine life along the Central Coast of California.

D. This Corporation is not organized nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. The property, assets, profits and net income of this Corporation are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, educational and interpretive park purposes and no part of the profits or net income of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of this Corporation, shall be distributed to the State Department of Parks and Recreation for maintenance and/or development of San Luis Obispo Coast Area Parks if they are then units of the State Park system. If they are not then units of the State Park System, the Department of Parks and Recreation shall use the assets for the general purposes of the State Park System. In the event that the

State of California refuses to accept said distribution or any part thereof, said assets shall be distributed to the county or municipal corporation or district or other public agency within whose jurisdiction the assets are located to be used for charitable, educational and interpretive park purposes or *cy pres* by decree of the Superior Court of the County in which this Corporation's principal office is located, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by any person concerned in the liquidation.

These *Restated Articles of Incorporation* will be sent to the Secretary of State along with the other required documentation. A complete copy of the *Restated Articles of Incorporation* are included at the end of these minutes.

We still need a duty statement. We looked over the Museum of Natural History's Duty Statement. Tim pointed out that we already have a mission statement that pretty much follows the same lines. Tim and Donovan volunteered to work to combine our current docent mission statement with the MBNHM's duty statement and incorporate the two documents to produce a current and relevant document for our use. The purpose of this new document will be to clearly define the docent/volunteer job description. It will also provide necessary parameters in case any "issues" involving FES docents/volunteers arises in the future.

Topic: Nursery Fundraiser

The date has been set for October 22nd from 4-6 p.m. Admission will be \$10 and will be open to the public. Marcella reported that Becky (coordinator from the nursery) has not yet contacted Harmony Cellars. In the meantime, Richard Lee has volunteered to contact the Hearst Winery to see if they would be interested in pouring on that date. If not, Brandt will contact Harmony Cellars directly. Richard Lee has also volunteered to bring additional raffle items to this fundraiser. Several of those items are left over from our Soupabration. Raffle tickets will be sold at the table that day. If the pouring winery agrees, we will use our FES wine glasses.

Action: Joan Crowder will be asked to prepare a free ad to the Cambrian to announce the fundraiser at the nursery. Becky will find appetizers. Megg to call Tom Tatton to see if he would be willing to do a free viola concert.

Topic: Financial report:

Marcella presented a financial report for the Soupabration. It indicates that the approximate Net Income from the Soupabration was \$5,794.00.

Megg requested a \$100 gift certificate be given to Charmaine as a thank you for her efforts. The Board unanimously approved.

Topic: Membership Report

Donovan reported that the even though the total gross income was through today's date, the breakdown of how it was acquired was only through the 8th of September. That difference represents approximately \$1,200. He also reported that he fully expects the membership drive to attain \$40,000 by end of year. He expects that this quarter will probably bring in \$8-9,000 and that the 4th quarter, which has a larger number of renewals to be closer to \$10,000. He also showed us the new "acquisition brochure" which will be posted at the bluff once we become a Cooperating Associate member with State Parks. Donovan told the board that he has personally distributed 1,000 of these new acquisition brochures on the bluff. From that he has received 11 responses via mail (1.1%). He estimates that the

cost for printing those 10,000 brochures was approx. \$1, 850. If the 1.1% response percentage remains the same, then there should be 110 responses which would equate to \$7,000 or a net of \$5,000 in newly acquired memberships.

Topic: Training Committee Report

Tim reported that there are 14 currently approved new applicants with 2 more interviews yet to do. There are also 4 Spring Trainees who will attend this year's docent training.

He also reported that the training committee had established a "plan b" in the event one of the scheduled speakers couldn't participate at the last minute. The committee decided that one option might be to create a fill-in session using the FES photo pack to explain the basic cycle of the eSeals. Through this discussion it was decided to create an updated photo album for the docents to use in their packs.

Action: Brandt, Jim and Megg volunteered to re-work the photo album by looking through current pictures and gathering new ones. Megg will call Cathy Runge to see about using some of her shots. The photos will be arranged in a chronological order to better depict the life cycle the eSeals and help the docents with their narratives while on the bluff.

Miscellaneous:

We discussed the journals and what little information (besides the weather) that they provide. Docents should be encouraged to give more details about the seals that they see while on the bluff. Megg will ask Joan Crowder to mention it in the next newsletter. One such piece of information might be to count sub adult and adult males they see on the beach. Perhaps we can create a form or booklet for docents to fill in helping to provide more detailed seal information.

We also discussed whether docents should own their own packs. It was pretty well agreed that that might be a good idea or at least an option. Marcella will investigate various prices of packs, clickers, photo albums, etc. and report back. Another suggestion would be adding a whale schedule to the packs. Ricard Rowlett would be a good contact for whale and bird reports. Call Jim Brownell will provide his email.

The next Docent Appreciation Dinner: January 14, 21st or 28th. Marcella to check with vets hall. Boni's Taco to cater. Future Docent dinners to be every 4 months instead of quarterly.

Submitted by

Megg McNamee, Secretary

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL

The name of this corporation is FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL.

A. This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes.

B. The specific purposes for which this corporation is organized include, but are not limited to: provide support for educational and interpretive programs of the State Park System; the preservation of the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Colony for ecological, educational, scientific, historic or scenic opportunities; **to assist the State Park System in the creation and administration** of volunteer docent programs which will provide environmental education for the public and promote safe viewing of elephant seals and other marine life along the Central Coast of California.

C. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; nor shall the corporation participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

D. This Corporation is not organized nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. The property, assets, profits and net income of this Corporation are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, educational and interpretive park purposes and no part of the profits or net income of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of this Corporation, shall be distributed to the State Department of Parks and Recreation for maintenance and/or development of San Luis Obispo Coast Area Parks if they are then units of the State Park system. If they are not then units of the State Park System, the Department of Parks and Recreation shall use the assets for the general purposes of the State Park System. In the event that the State of California refuses to accept said distribution or any part thereof, said assets shall be distributed to the county or municipal corporation or district or other public agency within whose jurisdiction the assets are located to be used for charitable, educational and interpretive park purposes or *cy pres* by decree of the Superior Court of

the County in which this Corporation's principal office is located, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by any person concerned in the liquidation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being the president and secretary of FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL, have executed these Articles of Incorporation on September 21, 2011

Brandt Kehoe, President

Megg McNamee, Secretary