

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL  
October 19, 2011**

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

Absent: Megg McNamee

Also present: Charmaine Coimbra, Marcella Boteilho, and Lisa Remington (State Parks CAL)

Meeting was called to order at 2:00. Minutes from September Board meeting were approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Brandt Kehoe**

**WEBCAM:** Brandt described his challenges at getting a response from Tom Edick (who is out on sick leave), and from Brooke Gutierrez (who recently moved into a new role at State Parks). Brandt called Tom Kidder (Tom Edick's boss), but has not received a call back. Donovan is quite concerned as he launched a successful fundraising campaign to raise funds for the webcam, with the promised start date of November 24. Michele suggested "kicking it up" to Nick Franco and requesting action from other IT support in State Parks. The webcam project was pitched to State Parks in February 2011, and the design was approved by State Parks, who offered to assist with recommendations on equipment purchases and installation. Since the proposed project involved placing the equipment on State Parks property, it prompted a conversation with FES to consider becoming a Cooperating Association. Since then, FES has moved through the process to become a cooperating association and the process is nearly complete. It is understood that State Parks is dealing with internal cuts, personnel changes, as well as a sick employee and that these factors have affected the forward motion of the webcam process. However, FES is now facing the possibility of being unable to fulfill its commitment to its membership fundraising campaign. *Also see comments with Lisa Remington (State Parks CAL, below).*

**STATE PARKS COOPERATING ASSOCIATION STATUS:** The final paperwork has been signed by FES and is about to be delivered to State Parks. Brooke has received all the paperwork from FES, including the revised Articles of Agreement, Duty Statement, and all necessary signed documents. Brandt and Lisa Remington will be meeting Friday at 1:30 to review the final paperwork. Once finalized, FES has agreed to organize the process of having docents sign the required paperwork (see below).

**STATE PARKS CAL (Cooperating Association Liaison):** Lisa Remington attended the meeting as the State Parks representative for FES in its cooperating association status. Lisa and Brandt have a meeting to finalize the paperwork on Friday, October 21. FES also brought Lisa up to speed on the concerns about the webcam (she was unaware of this situation), a question about when FES will be able to post a membership flyer box at the site, and questions about when FES can begin to sell items at the bluff area. She said she will look into these questions and have an update for the meeting with Brandt on Friday. FES reiterated its position on the webcam: the money is there, FES is waiting on State Parks to tell FES what equipment to buy and provide the installation plan. Lisa also provided insight as to how the docent paperwork will be handled once the Cooperating Agreement has been signed. Ellen Dewsnup (State Parks personnel department) will prepare the multi-page agreement with pertinent information for each docent. FES offered to have docents come to the FES office to sign the paperwork, then deliver the completed forms to Lisa or Ellen.

**MBNMS 2012 LECTURE SERIES:** Brandt provided an outline of the lecture series that Carolyn Skinder has planned for 2012. The lectures are every Friday in April and May, 2012, from 6-7 pm at Rabobank. There was a discussion about making one of those Fridays part of an FES docent appreciation weekend and Member event. Nothing was finalized.

**CAMBRIA NURSERY FUNDRAISER:** A fundraiser for FES will be held at the Cambria Nursery on Saturday, October 22, from 4 - 6 pm. The event is \$10 and includes an FES wine glass. Harmony Winery is providing the wine for the event.

**SOUPABRATION REPORT:** Charmaine Coimbra presented her summary report from the Soupabration fundraiser on September 10. Overall, everyone agreed the event was a success, even if it did not quite meet its net financial goal. The entire Board supports Charmaine in doing it again, with the minor tweaking she suggests in her summary. The greatest expense was the venue (Cayucos Barn). Charmaine presented other options for venues including Camp Ocean Pines and perhaps a State Parks facility. Both seemed feasible. She is willing to organize the event again, provided she can finalize a venue by January 2012 and start the planning for the event. Charmaine's summary was entered into the FES files and is available for review (see Marcella).

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Donovan Marley submitted figures for the membership drive he is coordinating. The campaign has so far netted \$27,283.00, with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter yet to be completed. This year has also seen an increase in the number of business memberships and donors making greater than \$50 donations. Donovan requested approval for expenditures for a year-end tax deduction promotional mailer. Funds were unanimously approved.

**TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Tim Postiff reported that a total of 16 docents are currently in the FES annual training. Things are going well and there are two more training days to go. Tim also brought up the "Journal Project" in which docents would record natural history observations of the seals and weather conditions. Questions were raised about whether Kathryn Karako is still collecting data on the bluff and if so, could she forward it to FES. Michele said she'd give Kathryn a call. Also, Tim may be able to talk with her at Kathryn's October 29 FES training presentation.

**STAFF REPORT:** Marcella provided a summary of the bluff table committee. The next meeting of this committee will be November 4. For more information, check with Marcella. She also reminded everyone to sign up for the docent graduation event on November 5 and the docent appreciation event on January 21, 2012 at the Cambria Vet's Hall from 5-9.