

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
May 15, 2013**

PRESENT: Bette Bardeen, Dave Bauer, Christel Chesney, Bill Goodger, Kathy Hurrle, Brandt Kehoe, Donovan Marley, Tim Postiff, Sharkey Warrick.

Also present: Marcella Boteilho, Ellen Stoner, Lisa Remington.

MINUTES FROM APRIL MEETING

Several Board members indicated the need to correct some of the text in the minutes from the April Board meeting. It was recommended that the changes be sent to the secretary and the minutes be reviewed again at the next meeting. A motion was made and carried to refer the minutes to the Secretary and defer acceptance to the June meeting.

Lisa Remington will be here about 2:30. To avoid having her arrive during the executive session the agenda was adjusted to hold the closed session first. The suggestion was made that a California Parks line item be a permanent agenda item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The President reopened the meeting. A motion was made and passed to execute the proposed endowment with SLO Community Foundation.

OFFICE REPORT

Marcella indicated that the income tax form 990 is complete and was mailed today; there is a copy in office.

The copy machine in the office is no longer dependable, and the fax machine also does not always work. Marcella requested approval to purchase an all-in-one printer/scanner/fax. Space in the office is limited, so this unit should have color copy capability for backup to the current computer printer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Webcam update: California State Parks purchased the upgraded equipment that is needed to improve the function of the webcam. Brandt will look into getting a refund for the unit that he purchased if the state parks system does not have a use for it elsewhere.

The website is being redesigned so that it may be used for different size units: smart phones, tablets, etc. Foreign language translation will be part of the new system.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill stated that, with one-third of the year behind us, major income items are at or ahead of 1/3 of budget. Savings account balance is \$64,309; checking account balance is \$14,470; CD balance is \$50,000. There was discussion about whether income is linear during the year. The table income tends to increase in the summer, and when the webcam has been working well the website hits have been increasing which helps bring in memberships.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Donovan indicated that membership figures are on track to meet or exceed the budget. Most (but not all) of the expenses that go with membership drives have been paid, so the membership expenses by year end should be about 25% of the membership income.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Bette indicated that the committee is working on planning the fall training sessions. Active recruiting has not begun yet. The committee has been discussing the applicant interview process.

MPA interpretive walk

Bette is working on an interpretive template that can be used and customized by all MPAs on the central coast.

NEW BUSINESS

Renewing Cal Poly internships

The Cal Poly interns' reports were well received by the docents and by Cal Poly faculty. This is a good partnership for both organizations and Bill hopes that it can continue. There was discussion of the stipend, the number of interns, and whether there should be internships in the fall as well as the spring. A motion was made and carried to increase the stipend to \$2,000 for each of two interns in the spring quarter next year.

Report on open house at Avila Pier

Judy Thompson did most of the work getting the displays together and down to the pier. Tim and Judy were very busy for the entire time of the open house. It was a very positive experience and they could have used more docents.

LISA REMINGTON

There was discussion of creating new e-seal length displays that will be more visible to people standing on the boardwalks. The critical items were that no more holes will be dug and that the display will not impair the view from the road. Brandt and Donovan will send Lisa drawings and pictures of what we have in mind.

The Discovery Center at San Simeon Park is not open yet.

The previous discussion about the part for the webcam was reviewed.

There will be a report and letter in the near future from FES to state parks about the endowment fund.

The complementary Hearst Castle tour process that Lisa set up will be tried out for a few months to see how it works out, and then adjusted if necessary.

The broken fence at VP4 was discussed. Lisa indicated that it should be fixed within the next week..

Arroyo Laguna: the problem this spring was a 'perfect storm' combination of spring break, e-seals staying longer than normal, excellent weather, timing. The closure may be extended a few more weeks

next year, and Lisa suggests that we partner with the park system to have both a docent and a parks representative there on a regular basis. The sign telling visitors that there is safe seal viewing a little further north should help.

Sharkey mentioned that he used to do outreach programs at the campgrounds. Lisa is planning the programs for the summer now, and Bette will attend the parks meeting on the 30th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Subsidizing selected school groups

Kathy reported that letters have been sent to five schools offering to pay transportation costs for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students to visit the bluff. The schools are Oceano, Lillian Larsen, Nipomo, Grover Beach and Shandon.

We also are offering to pay for K thru 6 grades, about 30 students, at Carrisa Plains. These schools all have very significant numbers of students in poverty. Schools were asked to respond by June 7. Thus, by mid June, we should have a ball park figure of our costs most of which will be covered under the 2014 budget.

Shark monitoring fundraising

The board discussed a draft letter to Brooke Gutierrez addressing state park concerns about fundraising for the shark monitoring project. Bette will send a copy of the final letter to the board.

Pinedorado Parade update

Christel indicated that the FES entry is #12, which is considerably better than in past years. John Taylor will loan us his 18 ft trailer, and Christel will order the float package for it. Sharkey has a framework that was created in the past for that trailer; it is in John's barn. The trailer will be taken to Van Dees' house for decorating. FESS will be in the truck and docents will either walk or ride on the trailer. The sound track will be elephant seal sounds.

Items for docent letter

The draft for the June newsletter is on the internet, the board members were sent a link. Corrections that have been submitted have been done, the draft updates automatically. Ellen will resend the link; please review the draft and indicate any changes desired.

Brandt asked if anyone knows of another animal/insect/bird that migrates round-trip twice a year.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoner, Docent Coordinator

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 19, 2013 AT 1:00 PM