

**FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 16, 2014**

Present: Donovan Marley, Bill Goodger, Kathy Hurrle, Tim Postiff, Sharkey Warrick, Bette Bardeen, Dave Bauer and Brandt Kehoe

Also present: Marcella Boteilho, Ellen Stoner, Meg McNamee and Bill Johnson

Minutes from the June meeting approved

OFFICE: Marcella reported that catering bids were in for the next docent dinner of appetizers. Linn's bid was approximately \$730 (\$13-15 per person) and was unanimously approved by the board. Ellen said that during the most recent individual docent interviews, a majority of docents expressing an opinion wanted to try having a brunch instead of a dinner. It was agreed to change the November 15th docent dinner to a brunch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 (ish). She will contact the speaker to confirm his availability. It was also reported that two docents have volunteered for the table.

Marcella and Bill concurred that they would like to find a new accountant. She will ask Bill Johnson and Sharkey for suggestions. She will also need to purchase the newer version of Quickbooks. The board agreed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Brandt reported that the new donation box is ready to be used. He will install it on the north end of the bluff. He also stated that the web cam will be "down" later this year for some of the State Parks equipment maintenance. He also said that the *Member Newsletter* has been renamed to "Among Friends" and has gone to the printer.

Brandt resigned from the **presidency** effective at the conclusion of this meeting.

Brandt resigned from the Board effective at the conclusion of this meeting. There was a unanimous vote to elect Dave Bauer as the new president of the Board of Directors for Friends of the Elephant Seal.

TRAINING: Bette reported that there are 7 people scheduled for the Fall Training program. There is one other person that has not yet been interviewed. Bette also said that the committee has decided to do additional (not budgeted) advertising in the hopes of getting more recruits. Bette also said that the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary had just released a statement at the end of last month stating why it is important not to fly drones over marine protected areas. Drones are prohibited/illegal over any sanctuary and national parks. Ellen has included this information in the next docent newsletter.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Tim reported that the continuing education committee has discussed various topics such as intelligence, heat exchange, how much they eat, seasonal water temperature at the bluff, El Nino, how many pups actually return to the same beach for the Fall haul-out, etc. This sub-committee hopes to have these and many other topics answered for the newsletters.

TREASURER: Bill reported that the Profit & Loss statement indicates that there will be an approximate deficit of \$6,000 at the end of this year. There is \$59,000 in the savings account which can easily absorb that shortfall and if necessary, but would lower the balance down to approx. \$53,000 in savings. Bill feels that \$19,000 should remain in the savings account (15% of annual expenses) as a contingency. Subtracting that from savings leaves a balance of approximately \$33,000 which could be used for the fence, the kiosk and the coastal trail 2 projects if the grants applied for don't happen.

Intern Report: Bill and Craig Brown have been doing a weekly survey count (June through August) of male subadult and adult elephant seals at all the beaches from Cappuccino Cove (including north of the motel) to VP1. He hopes to be able to continue counts through the next breeding season as this would

provide comparative data to both the molting season here and to other rookery breeding season counts such as Ano Nuevo. They are surveying either from the boardwalk or from public sites using binoculars or a quester scope thus staying off of the beaches avoiding disturbing any of the seals. Richard Condit has helped to develop the methodology to categorize sub adults from adults. He also mentioned his surprise at how many harbor seals there were at VP2 (39) and sea lions that “porpoise” between the two rocks numbered close to 75. Tim mentioned he has seen more sea lions than ever at the light station and that they are displacing many of the harbor seals.

Encroachment Permit: Bill said that Lisa Remington has been “unbelievably” helpful with the permitting process. She has gotten all of the necessary groups together and is doing a terrific job. Deadline is August 15th for the encroachment permit application.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Bill Johnson reported that the committee met last week and that the committee had *determined that significant surplus finds, currently in excess of \$59,000, are earning infinitesimal amounts in a Bank Savings Account. Investment options are available wherein these funds can earn moderate returns with modest risk and still maintain the liquidity necessary to make funds available when needs are identified.* Bill further explained that the committee would like to invest up to \$40,000 this year into index funds, stock index funds, bond index funds or other reliable low risk funds. Sharkey mentioned that liquidity was important and that the arrangement should include the ability to write checks against the investment funds if needed. It was resolved: *that the Finance Committee be directed to investigate appropriate investments which offer moderate earnings without significant risk to the funds and be empowered to make such investments subject to regular reporting via email to the Board on recommendations for investment up to \$40,000.* A motion was made and carried to accept the resolution. It was also discussed that it might be time to start taking the principal and interest dollar proceeds of the CDs at maturity and investing those dollars in low risk equity funds. Bill will report back to the Board regarding the status of the current CDs.

ENDOWMENT FUND: Sharkey will be meeting with the CEO of the Foundation next week. Sharkey’s term on the Board ends at the end of today’s meeting. He will continue to serve on the Finance Committee and will continue to be the contact with the endowment group. There is no June report yet but he is encouraged that the market is up and that the endowment fund is earning between 16-17%.

SCHOOL GROUP: Kathy said that of the 5 schools that FES offered to subsidize, only 3 sent billing statements for payment. She also said that there is a docent who may be interested in coordinating school group visits for next season. A meeting has been set up with the office staff to outline the job and determine her “comfort level” with the tasks. The job would not involve actual involvement with the school groups but would be the contact person with the schools and teachers prior to their visit. She would be responsible to make sure the applications are properly filled in and submitted. She would be given a pre-paid cell phone for the work. The office will send her the completed applications so that she can follow up with getting enough docents.

Kathy suggested implementing a new policy for schools wanting to visit during the months of January and February that would require them to apply at least 3 weeks in advance of their intended visit. Everyone agreed that “last minute” visits were an organizational problem for all concerned. Marcella suggested it would be a good idea to notify the schools that visit regularly of the new policy. Kathy also suggested that the office say “no” to anyone wanting them to verbally fill out the application over the phone and re-direct them to the web site. She also suggested that during peak season, that information could become part of the answering machine message.

Last year the schools that FES subsidized sent 3rd, 4th and 5th graders which equated to very large groups of 100 or more. In order to get the group sizes to a more manageable size, Kathy suggested that next year only 4th and 5th graders should be invited. She also suggested rotating schools.

It was agreed that docents who sign up for school bus tours should be allowed to count those as regular shifts and therefore included or substitute them for the required shifts per month.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Donovan noted he is very optimistic regarding membership. Last year's total membership for 52 weeks was 585 and the first 27 weeks of 2014 there are already 413. He thinks we will do considerably better than he had originally thought. Only 19% of the income is from acquisitions and 81% is from renewals. He remains concerned about the drop in acquisitions. Budgeted membership income for 2014 is \$40,000 and so far \$35,584 has come in which is 88.96% of the budgeted goal. He is confident that we will reach the membership income budget by the end of the third quarter. He is also confident that year end donations will achieve budget targets. Docent renewals are behind expectations at the present time but most of Docent renewal dates are in the 4th Quarter. Expenses are expected to come in between \$4,000-5,000 below budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

GRANTS: Donovan reported that Michele and Marcella have written and applied for a grant that would cover everything for the bluff "upgrades" (kiosk, fencing, etc.). Bill Goodger is working with Lisa regarding the encroachment permit for the fence. Two other grants we will be eligible for (approx. \$5,000) will be available next year that he hopes will come through. The Russo Foundation has also indicated a willingness to continue its support of FES. Donovan hopes the Foundation will designate their annual donation for the extension of the Coastal Trail through the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area. Donovan also made a motion to authorize and hire Michele to write the Whale Tail and the Community Foundation Grants for next year. Motion was unanimously carried.

COASTAL TRAIL: Donovan is working with Jim Boucher on the coastal trail phase 1 and 2 and has informed Jim that FES will match other grants up to \$12,500 for the next phase of trail development.

Trash at the bluff has become a big problem. If attendance continues to increase the problem will only get worse. Ray has been leaving a large plastic bag which gets filled to overflowing. Discussion was tabled until a later meeting.

The kiosk has already been painted and State Parks has approved the plans for the kiosk upgrade. Carol Adams has proposed moving the large rocks (between the parking lot and the south boardwalk) to from the "suggestion of a wall" on the uphill side of that area to help keep people from walking on the new native plantings. In order to move them it would require heavy equipment.

New Board members: There are currently two openings and there will be more in December. The Board was presented with a list of possible candidates. A motion was made for **Polly Tatton** and **Peter Frith** to fill the two empty seats on the Board. The motion was unanimously carried. Brandt will be away for October and most of November (but in order to keep nine members), will stay on the Board until December when his term ends.

There was confusion about terms of current board members. Marcella and Bette will get together to create a current up to date chart on Board members and their terms and will be included with these minutes on a separate page.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Megg McNamee, recording secretary

Friends of the Elephant Seal, Board of Directors Term Chart, August 2014

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	ADDRESS	POSITION	DIRECTOR TERM
Bauer, Dave	593-0431	annpan2@att.net	6475 Mira Cielo, SLO, CA 93402	President	1st term ends 12/2014
Tatton, Polly	225-1888	pollytatton@gmail.com	2776 Indigo Circle, Morro Bay, CA 93442	Director	1 st term ends 6/2016
Frith, Peter	927-1626	peterfrith3@gmail.com	1899 Cardiff Dr., Cambria, CA 93428	Director	1 st term ends 6/2016
Marley, Donovan	239-1865	donovanmarley@yahoo.com	2985 Warm Springs Lane, Templeton 93465	Director	2 nd term ends 12/2014
Postiff, Tim	927-3954	tpostiff@sbcglobal.net	901 Suffolk, Cambria, CA 93428	Director	2 nd term ends 12/2014
Goodger, Bill	608- 770-1448	wgoodger@wisc.edu	1291 Alder Ct, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	Treasurer	2 nd term ends 12/2015
Bardeen, Bette	995-2869	bbardeen@charter.net	850 S. Ocean Av, Cayucos, CA 93430	Director	2 nd term ends 12/2015
Hurrle, Kathy	927-2271	khurrle@charter.net	5101 Oakhurst, Cambria, CA 93428	Secretary	1 st term ends 6/2014
Kehoe, Brandt	927-2850	brandtk@mail.fresnostate.edu	680 Canterbury Ln, Cambria, CA 93428	Director	3 rd term ends 12/2014