

**FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2014**

PRESENT: Dave Bauer, Bill Goodger, Kathy Hurre, Brandt Kehoe, Donovan Marley, Tim Postiff, Polly Tatton.

ABSENT: Bette Bardeen, Peter Frith.

ALSO PRESENT: Marcella Boteilho, Office Manager; Ellen Stoner, Docent Coordinator; Michelle Roest, Advisory Board.

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the August 20 Meeting minutes.

GUESTS

Michele Roest discussed with Nick Franco the possibility of having FES pay the bill for State Parks to hire someone to clean up the litter when Ray Hopkins decides to retire, as requested at the last board meeting. State Parks is not in a position to be able to do this and suggested that FES hire a contractor. He requested that State Parks be 'kept in the loop' of the decisions on this issue. Nick suggested that we contact The Options Family of Services who do cleanup at Hearst Visitor's center and San Simeon Campground. Rookery property cleanup and road cleanup, which is on Cal Trans property in the "Adopt a Highway" program, are two separate issues and will have to be considered separately.

Michelle sent in the Parks Enrichment grant, requesting \$8,700 for labor (CCC), and FES would be responsible for materials (fencing).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave suggested that FES purchase several pair of binoculars for use by docents during their bluff shifts. There was discussion of who to ask for recommendations on what types to purchase.

OFFICE REPORT

Marcella mentioned the visit from the Hearst Foundation VIPs next week. She also indicated that the new printer and the new laptop are here.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill indicated that the shortfall projection is lower than last report.

There are some funds that have been committed for particular purposes, such as matching funds for the coastal trail and donations for a memorial for Shannon Lopez. These funds need to be put aside so that they will not be spent on something else.

Dave will attend a meeting of San Luis Obispo County Business Improvement District (CBID), who gave the money for the web streaming, to say thank you and to report on how the money was spent. This funding should be acknowledged on the website.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to appoint Brandt Kehoe Assistant Treasurer (which will continue after he retires from the Board), and to authorize Dave Bauer, President, Bill Goodger, Treasurer, Brandt Kehoe, Assistant Treasurer, and Megg McNamee to sign on all financial accounts.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to open a money market account with check writing privileges at Heritage Oaks Bank for deposit of money that has been committed for particular purposes, with signature authorization for Dave Bauer, Bill Goodger, and Brandt Kehoe.

The application to Vanguard is almost complete; Bill and Dave will get together to complete it and report back to the Board.

TRAINING REPORT

At BASICS training last Saturday there were 13 new docents. Polly brought the new handbook to show for those who had not yet seen it and acknowledged Barbara Sellers work in putting it together. The 2014 Docent Handbook is already on our "docents only" website. The trainees are currently doing their mentoring sessions.

The current audio system is adequate for training but not in the Vet's hall for the docent lectures. Motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to authorize a maximum of \$2,500 for a new portable public address system. It will be purchased before the November docent event.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Donovan distributed the membership report. The budget for this year was set low because he did not know what the result of combining the e-seal news with the acquisitions brochure would be. The memorials for Shannon Lopez have increased the number of acquisitions.

Last month the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association passed a resolution supporting establishment of the Piedras Blancas State and National Monument. This requires public support. Donovan distributed a pamphlet for getting the word out about this. As more people / organizations support the designation there is space on the back to list them. This will be a multi-year process. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to accept the resolution that is attached to these minutes.

The start of the coastal trail is waiting on completion of one more permit from State Parks.

DOCENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Ellen indicated that she has not had enough people volunteer for "adopt a poll" activity and she will let the Elections Committee know that we will not be able to participate this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Brandt indicated that State Parks has replaced the webcam bridge, and for a while deactivated our ability to control the camera. At the moment we have camera control. Brandt is looking into the possibility that we can use wifi to broadcast sound.

NEW BUSINESS

Polly indicated that we have had a request for a donation tube and information display on the kiosk. Brandt will make one with a redwood backing to make it look like it belongs with the kiosk. It would be one more item for the docents to take out and bring back. It would not have a wifi unit in it.

There has also been a request for instructions for docents on how to use the wifi and the QR code. Brandt will provide it for the newsletter.

There was discussion about the lack of adequate coverage on the bluff for B shift. We will include a request in the next docent newsletter that docents consider doing at least one B shift every month.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Ellen Stoner, Docent Coordinator

**A Resolution of Support for
Designation of *The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* as
*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument***

Approved by Friends of the Elephant Seal on September 17, 2014.

WHEREAS the principal purpose of Friends of the Elephant Seal is preservation of the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Colony for ecological, educational, scientific, historic, or scenic opportunities; and

WHEREAS the rookery for this colony is located wholly inside *The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area*; and

WHEREAS interested citizens have proposed that the *Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* be designated as a state and national monument; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" will elevate the *Outstanding Natural Area* to a prestigious status recognizable by everyone; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" will unify the response of federal, state and volunteer organizations to current management deficiencies that are resulting in irreparable damage to cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" will assist with the attraction of additional resources for construction of new trail systems, informational centers and scenic view points for the dissemination of ecological, educational, scientific, and historic information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective immediately, Friends of the Elephant Seal endorses elevating the current designation of "*The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area*" to "*The Piedras Blancas State and National Monument*" and publically endorses citizen efforts to petition the governments of the United States of America and the State of California to attain the new designation.