

**FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2014**

PRESENT: Bette Bardeen, Dave Bauer, Tim Postiff, Donovan Marley, Polly Tatton, Bill Goodger, Kathy Hurrle.

ABSENT: Brandt Kehoe

ALSO PRESENT: Ellen Stoner, Docent Coordinator; Judy Thompson, School Group Leader; Gwen Watkins, School Group Coordinator.

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the September 17 Meeting minutes.

GUESTS:

Gwen handed out the list of schools showing who came in past years. There was a discussion of the schools, the numbers, and the grades of students who came during the last two calendar years. Also discussed were the differences in how we deal with grade school students versus high school students. Gwen indicated that she sends the Jacques Cousteau seal book, the photo CD, the seal length cords, and a postcard to the teachers who are bringing classes that FES is funding. Total cost per teacher is under \$10. Kathy indicated that the most expensive of the visits that FES funded was \$850 and some never billed for their expenses. Gwen indicated that she sent a note about school visits to the Paso Robles school district requesting that they send the information to their individual schools. Two schools have responded but have not scheduled visits yet.

Judy indicated that there are four large school docent picture books; three of the four are professionally laminated. We need to get six more made to have nine good ones. They are in the sequence that works for children, and are teacher friendly. The books are about \$100 each to make; they are too much to do in the office.

Judy would like to know if anyone knows where to get great white shark jaws and krill.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to have a 2015 budget item for the education committee of \$500 miscellaneous materials, up to \$1,000 for a shark jaw, and \$600 for picture books.

Sue King will be the backup for the school groups, but there is currently a vacancy on the committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave discussed purchase of binoculars for use on the bluff. More research will be done.

Action items from the earlier planning session:

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to authorize Marcella to sign the contract with OPTIONS Family of Services-CIS for trash pickup on the bluff. We need to have a big celebration for Ray on his last trash day. Ray will be asked when he wants the changeover to occur.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to allocate \$3,000 for the shark monitor in 2015.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to hold four docent functions in 2015, three catered, with a budget of \$5,000.

Docent nametags were discussed. It was decided to have a sign-up sheet in the office for docents to order new tags, their choice of pin back or magnetic. Because of the logo and the amount of lettering, the tags cost \$8-12, and the docents will be charged cost for them.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to have a docent trip to the Monterey Aquarium, with an expected cost to FES of \$1,000. The expected cost is so docents who cannot afford the trip can be partially subsidized.

A discussion about having a display at Hearst Castle was tabled until next year because it requires some research.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to allocate \$6,000 in 2015 for interns, plus \$2,000 additional expenses for travel.

The \$12,500 matching funds for phase 1 of the Coastal trail in 2014 will probably be spent next year. These restricted funds are to be held over for 2015. The persons who gave money specifically for this purpose have been notified that the donations are being held until next year.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to allocate \$2,000 for research for 2015.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to hold the funds for the new fencing over to 2015 if the project is not completed by the end of 2014. The projected (and approved) cost was \$18,000. The \$10,000 Parks Enrichment Grant from the California State Parks Foundation is for labor only, so FES will pay \$8,000 for materials. Lisa Remington has done a great job of getting this in place. Connection of the fence to the new entry to the coastal trail was discussed.

There will be advertising for the employee positions and the funding will be addressed in the finance committee.

The training committee budget should be this year's expenses plus some for advertising.

OFFICE REPORT

During the finance part of the meeting the sick leave document was reviewed. Dave is authorized by the board to discuss vacation time with office staff.

DOCENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Ellen requested that the board members read the newsletter item about fence sitting and the one about great white shark bites and decide if they want those articles in the newsletter. Modifications were suggested to the shark item. The members will email Ellen after reading the fence-sitting article.

Ellen will email the current roster to the board. It will also be emailed (including email addresses) to the docents.

TRAINING REPORT

The first University session was last Saturday and went well. There is an issue of too many organizations on our emergency list and too many potential phone numbers for some of them. After discussion, the decision is that when a docent sees something that should be reported he/she calls the office to report it. If that is the first time it is called in, the office person will help the docent decide what organization to call and what number to use. The docent will call, since the responders need to talk to the person seeing the situation. The office person will post the sighting so other docents know it has been reported. Bill and Craig Brown will put together a checklist for the "emergency envelope" of what to be looking for and what to report in animal injury situations.

The new audio system cost \$1,821, and it will be here in time for the November docent event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Table income has increased the last 2 months and may reach the budgeted target for the year. Membership will reach the budgeted target. Overall projections for 2014 were pretty much on target.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership numbers and income as of mid-October have exceeded the total for 2013.

A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to allocate \$1,000 for 2014 expenses for the "State and National Monument" project, and include \$1,000 in the budget for 2015. These funds should be transferred to the restricted fund account since it is projected that there will be donations earmarked for this project.

OLD BUSINESS – discussed above.

NEW BUSINESS

Tripping hazards on the north boardwalk entry and path were discussed and will be forwarded to Lisa Remington. Lisa was going to call in to address the Board but was unable to do so; one item she was going to mention was that this year State Parks will provide people to monitor visitors on the beach at Arroyo Laguna during the birthing, breeding, and weaner seasons.

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Stoner
FES Docent Coordinator