

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Marcella Boteilho, Bill Johnson, Jim Devine, Lisa Remington, Michelle Roest, Carolyn Skinder, Ellen Stoner.

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the October 15 Meeting minutes

GUESTS:

Michelle Roest:

The fence project now has the necessary permits, and we have received the \$8,700 grant from the Parks Enrichment Grant to cover the labor portion of the project. Bill Goodger, Carolyn Skinder, and Lisa Remington will get together with someone from the California Conservation Corps to determine how much noise the installation will create and if we need a harassment permit from NOAA. If the CCC can install the fence before the winter birthing season starts then it will be done this year; otherwise, it will be done in the summer of 2015. The grant requires that this project be complete by the end of 2015.

We will not hear about the "whale tale" grant until the end of February. If we receive this grant it will pay the schools directly after they come to the bluff, until the amount of the grant has been paid out. This can continue over a period of years.

Other grant possibilities were discussed. Michelle asked if the board wants her to look for grants that might be available to us and try to match them to projects, or if the board wants to indicate projects they would like funded and have her look for grants that would match those needs. Donovan will attend meetings of area organizations involved in tourism to request support for the National Monument status.

Lisa Remington:

State Parks personnel have been looking at short-term and long-term goals for signage for the rookery; current road signs are inadequate. Lisa showed a sample of a very simple and very effective directional sign that could be put on state park's property in strategic places. Marcella has a e-seal silhouette graphic that would be preferable to the one on the mockup. A local sign company that is a 'friend' of FES might make the signs, possibly at cost. The signs need to be in place by January. **A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve up to \$2,000 for directional signs.**

Lisa is recruiting state parks interns and volunteers to go to Arroyo Laguna and the old motel to redirect visitors to VP3 and VP4 during the pupping and breeding season.

Nick Franco should be consulted about the continuing request that there be a car counter at the entrance to the parking lot. Brandt mentioned that we have not had the ability to control the webcam for several months now. Lisa suggested that he talk to Brooke Guttierrez.

Carolyn Skinder:

Take a look at the "Don't be that guy" poster that is in the office window; it will be put up in local chambers of commerce as a conversation starter. It was created as a Cal Poly project. The rule on "do not get close enough to alter its behavior" when defining harassment of marine mammals does not specify a distance; Nick Franco established that distance for our purposes as 100 feet.

Carolyn requested that we coordinate school group visits between the rookery and the Discovery center. Frequently the school groups go to the San Simeon park for lunch before or after the visit to the bluff; if she knows they are coming she can have the Discovery center open for them.

FES will need to start evaluating what the students learned as part of our reporting if we receive whale tale funding. When the students come to the Discovery Center after the visit to the bluff, the DC docents ask "what did you learn there?" Marcella will get Carolyn in touch with our school group coordinator.

Bill Johnson, Finance Committee report:

There are two proposed budgets for 2015: one for the restricted funds pledged by the givers for specific projects, and one for the normal operation of FES. Several line items from each budget were discussed.

Both budgets show a shortfall at the end of 2015. The shortfall for the restricted (or project) budget shows to what degree the projects have already been funded and what will be needed to complete them. Current savings can cover the shortfall for the operating budget, but that only works for a few years before savings are exhausted.

There is an increase in the line item for the accountant. This is because the books have become much more complex than in the past. The accountant will be working with Marcella on a regular basis over the next year. The finance committee will meet quarterly during the next year. The accountant is willing to come to a board meeting if requested.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Goodger

There is support from several quarters for reinstallation of the shark monitor in a different location that will not interfere with observation of the whale migration, and having it remain in place all year. There is also talk of tagging sharks in this area, since they do not know if the lack of pings from the monitor was because there are few sharks here or because the sharks that are tagged elsewhere do not come here.

Aubrey St Marie is now manager at TMMC. Craig Brown and Bill are doing a paper on the male census count done this summer.

Bill met with Aubrey St Marie about the protocol on the bluff for when we see something unusual. Bill will put together a listing of what the docents should document when we see something unusual. Aubrey will take it to TMMC for approval and then Bill will present it to the docents. Brandt suggested putting numbers along the railings on the bluff to help identify where the seals are. TMMC will only help animals here that are entangled; we could still be doing a better job of documenting abnormalities that we observe.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dave Bauer

Sand has drifted over the fence in the dunes area; we will contact Cal Trans, as it could be a pathway for seals to access the road in the future. In executive session the board will discuss the applicants for the Docent Coordinator position, the need for four new board members, and the need for a committee for the table docents and a committee for the school visits.

OFFICE REPORT: Marcella Boteilho

Marcella met with the new accountant, and will be working closely with her.

TRAINING REPORT: Polly Tatton

The current plan is to have spring training this year; we will advertise for it but not to the degree that is done for fall training. Dates for next year are March 14, Sept 12, Oct 10, 17, 24.

We still need training for docents on how to turn on the wifi, and to not tell visitors where it is.

SCHOOL GROUP REPORT: Ellen Stoner for Judy Thompson and Gwen Watkins

Four small sharks were purchased for about \$200, and went over well with the school children. The photo books approved at the last meeting are complete and cost \$645. There still are not enough docents for the school groups.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Donovan Marley

We are 6 members away from matching last year's total. Mailing for the year-end donation solicitation went out. Donations are currently \$4,879 above last year-end because the upper end donations are up from last year. Year-end donations will start coming in; Marcella's reports will show them for this year, and Donovan's reports will show some of them in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

Ray Hopkins will stop doing trash pick-up at the end of the year. We need to plan a "Ray Hopkins" day in January.

NEW BUSINESS

The December board meeting will be the 17th. Ellen requested that the board support her decision not to post videos of people on the beach interacting with elephant seals with a "bad idea" notation.

Open session ended at 3 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen Stoner, FES Docent Coordinator

Friends of the Elephant Seal, Board of Directors Term Chart, November 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
Goodger, Bill	608-770-1448	wgoodger@wisc.edu	1291 Alder Ct, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	Treasurer	2nd term ends 12/2015
Hurre, Kathy	927-2271	khurre@charter.net	5101 Oakhurst, Cambria, CA 93428	Secretary	2st term ends 6/2016
Bardeen, Bette	995-2869	bbardeen@charter.net	850 S. Ocean Av, Cayucos, CA 93430	Director	2nd term ends 12/2015
Kehoe, Brandt	927-2850	brandtk@mail.fresnostate.edu	680 Canterbury Ln, Cambria, CA 93428	Director	3rd term ends 12/2014
Marley, Donovan	239-1865	donovanmarley@yahoo.com	2985 Warm Springs Lane, Templeton 93465	Director	2nd term ends 12/2014
Postiff, Tim	927-3954	tpostiff@sbcglobal.net	521 Casa Del Mar, San Simeon, 93452	Director	2nd term ends 12/2014
Tatton, Polly	225-1888	pollytatton@gmail.com	2776 Indigo Circle, Morro Bay, CA 93442	Director	1st term ends 6/2016
open				Director	