

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board of Directors Meeting
May 20, 2015**

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, Bill Goodger, Kathy Hurrle, Bob Grosse, Abby Adams

Also Present: Kathy Dowding, Marcella Boteilho, Dawn Fiegel, Gwen Watkins, Michele Roest, Bill Johnson

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the April 15 Board Minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Goodger

1. In reviewing the Balance Sheet, there were no surprises.
2. The Profit and Loss comparisons with the previous year are quite different because of such factors as membership timing, new office positions, the fence project, trail development, and other approved spending decisions plus offsets from new grants from community groups. We're still going in the right direction and, based on last year, are doing well.
3. **The Finance Committee** meets quarterly to manage our long term investments. Now that FES has more expenses, we need to make decisions soon on where to draw funds (e.g. the \$20,000 from CD accrual in August)

Office Report: Marcella Boteilho and Kathy Dowding

1. The contracted **trash pick-up** crew has not been doing a satisfactory job. Phil Adams has voluntarily picked-up huge amounts of trash on Sundays and is willing to continue doing so. Marcella has contacted the supervisors of the crew about the problems and need for better supervision.
2. Kathy shared that the **upcoming docent dinners** will be on Saturday, August 15 with Lisa Needles as speaker; and Saturday, November 14.
3. Kathy has now completed **38 docent interviews**, with 4 more scheduled. The interviews have taken about an hour each and continue to be very informative and personal.
4. Kathy shared her current data on **docent numbers** and shift schedules and finds we need 5—15 more active docents to cover the needs.

New Business

Proposal for Services of Michele Roest (prior FES Board member and a biologist when FES was formed)--Michele shared with us two project proposals previously identified to benefit FES:

1. Grant seeking, development, and follow-up at \$45/hour.
2. Compilation of history of FES, estimate of 30 hours, \$1350.

Training Committee Report: Abby Adams due to Polly's absence

1. **May 11 Meeting Highlights**—The Committee members now include Abby Adams, Diana Barnhart, Dave Bauer, Stephen Beck, Van Dees, Ginny Drew, Peter Frith, Lynette Harrison, Rusty Moore, and Polly Tatton (Chair). With a goal of having 20 new fall docent trainees, media advertising will begin in June. Two docents will screen each

docent applicant.

The training agenda will include a presentation by the school groups team.

2. **FES Volunteer Hours Recording Guidelines**—At the last Training Committee meeting, many committee members shared that there is confusion on how to record volunteer hours on the form in the black notebook in the office. Polly drafted a written explanation for review by docents and office staff. Please submit any proposed changes to her. These guidelines will be included in the docent training notebook.

Membership Report--Bob Grosse shared that some of Donovan's proposals on membership promotion are now being included at the sales table on the bluff. He will report back to us after a trial period.

School Groups Report: Gwen Watkins

1. In April/May there were 9 schools and 360 students scheduled, bringing our 2015 five-month totals to 32 schools and 1913 students.
2. The special program for the Children's Alopecia Project (children visiting from as far away as Pennsylvania) on May 9 was splendid. Prior to going to the bluff, the group met in the conference room at Cavalier Center for a slide show and to experience the exhibit stations which with other groups had been set-up on the bluff. Student attention was focused and they were well prepared for what they observed on the bluff.
3. We discussed sending the video, Life of a Seal, to school groups prior to their visit to the bluff. The video helps prepare the students for the visit.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed for next school year to send the Life of a Seal video to all school groups that schedule to come to the rookery.

President's Report: Dave Bauer

1. **Restrooms**--State Parks is working on soon providing porta potties on the bluff and continues to work on a plan to build permanent rest room facilities in a year.
2. **New Trail**—State Parks will soon complete the required ground survey, as part of the permitting necessary for completion of the trail in the next few years.
3. **Webcam**—Dave has been in touch with a company, Offshore Cams, about fixing and maintaining our webcam.
4. **Cal Poly Pier Open House**—Dave attended the Open House along with many visitors. Docents, Diana Barnhart and Tim Postiff, chaired the FES table next to our three CalPoly interns: Craig Brown, Shawn Hannah, and Kayla Wolfer who shared their FES experiences.
5. **Requests for Letters of Support**--Dave will e-mail our mission and guidelines to Board members to review as we determine our proper course when asked to support various initiatives.

Old Business

1. **Fence Report: Bill Goodger**—The project is now 92% complete. Bill continues to share with Lisa Remington, State Parks on the needs and possible safety issues. Once the CCC has completed the project, Bill will arrange a final inspection with State Parks in June.
2. **Poster Presentation at Monterey Sanctuary Currents Symposium: Bill Goodger**—The well-attended symposium was a nice mix of university-level research reporting, including posters by our current interns, and citizen science, including some worthy presentations by high school students. Bill recommends our continued

involvement and encouragement of FES docent attendance next year. A few FES docents attended this year.

3. **Interns Update: Bill Goodger**—When reflecting on the presentations of the winter seal count done by the three interns at the April 18 FES Docent Dinner, Bill was pleased with the high number of questions asked and the knowledgeable answers given by the interns. Board members praised the interns on the professional presentation. Bill will have one intern, still to be announced, working with him this summer.
4. **Population Numbers Reanalysis: Bill Goodger**—The histogram in the office is the corrected one. Bill conferred with Brian Hatfield and Phil Adams on the reanalysis and reached agreement on this year's birth analysis. The graph reflects the estimated 5200 births and 5% mortality rate. Kathy will send an e-mail to all docents with the updated numbers.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm, followed by an executive session.

Respectively submitted,
Abby Adams, FES, Board Secretary