

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board Meeting
September 16, 2015**

Board Members Present: Polly Tatton, Kathy Hurrle, Bette Bardeen, Bob Grosse, Lynette Harrison, Mary Forbes, Abby Adams

Also Present: Donovan Marley, Kathy Dowding, Marcella Boteilho, Dawn Fiegel, Michelle Roest

In Dave Bauer's absence, Bette Bardeen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Following one addition to the August, 19 Board Minutes, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the Minutes.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING GROUPS/LIAISSON REPRESENTATIVES

Grants: Michelle Roest

1. Michelle is writing an application for a Parks Enrichment Grant to the State Parks Foundation that would include trash cans and about sixteen weeks of trash collection. She has coordinated this with Brooke Gutierrez, Acting District Superintendent.
2. Michelle is investigating a Cal Trans grant that would cover some other needs. She suggested that once the needs are listed that we send the list to State Parks requesting that they prioritize the list. She is willing to draft this letter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Monument Initiative: Donovan Marley

1. Donovan reported on a conference call with Senator Boxer's staff and provided copies of e-mails on the legislative history and other matters.
2. He is now awaiting Representative Lois Capps introduction of a parallel initiative bill.
3. If the National Monument is designated, the Board of Supervisors of each county would establish an advisory council and we would work to see that FES would be represented.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Bill Goodger submitted a written report that suggested a possible need to cover a \$7500 shortfall with funds from some of our investment accounts. Marcella Boteilho noted that other assets (such as set-asides for the coastal trail that are not presently needed) would cover the current cash flow needs. She noted that our budget-balancing in the future should be fine unless, due to El Nino, bad weather prevented expected table sales and contributions from our donation tubes this winter.
2. Marcella also shared that the shark monitor (shown as "paid") should be installed very soon.
3. Bette advised that we continue to be careful with spending and not take on any new ongoing expenses.

Publications: Kathy Hurrle

The committee is currently working on the next Among Friends publication.

Table Committee: Bob Grosse

1. We talked about suggesting to the Table Crew that if the weather is a problem, complete the shift in the visitor center.
2. Bob and Dave are planning a Table Docent Appreciation lunch for later in the fall.

Training Committee Report: Polly Tatton

1. There are 14 new trainees, plus 2 spring trainees, thus a total of 16 (eight men and eight women).
2. Four of the trainees live in Morro Bay; three each in San Luis Obispo and Los Osos; two in Arroyo Grande; and one each from Atascadero, Cambria, Grover Beach, and Pismo Beach.
3. The new pages to the 2015 Handbook are now on the docents-only website thanks to Brandt Kehoe who has coded each page for the website!!
4. For five years Barbara Sellers has given many hours to professionally prepare the Handbooks. She is now training Stephen Beck to take over this task in the future.

Membership Report: Dawn Fiegel

The membership numbers and donations are on par with last year. For future meetings Dawn will share more specific data.

Marketing

1. This is not yet an acting committee since there is not a chairperson or members yet.
2. Lynette shared that while on the bluff she met a professional videographer who has offered to donate his services for a promotional video. Lynette will continue to follow-up about his offer.

Continuing Education

1. In discussion the Board members wondered if this was a necessary new committee. Bette shared that in the past, the Board had decided to focus on the 80/20 principal. Knowing that 80% of our docent group are committed and lifelong learners, continue the emphasis on them with posting research articles and updates in the newsletters, Diving Deep, and website, as well as inviting speakers to our docent dinners.
2. We discussed the idea proposed in the docent feedback interviews of creating a bulletin board in the office for posting frequently asked questions that are a challenge to answer. Bette agreed to help Kathy Dowding with this project.

STAFF REPORTS

- 1. School Groups:** Bette shared that the School Group Committee continues to work on the presentations for the October University class and November Docent Dinner. Polly was concerned that a school group has been scheduled at the end of September. With many members of the School Group Committee also being used for mentoring, scheduling may be a problem. She suggested that in the future school groups should not be scheduled during the time of mentoring. Kathy Hurre explained different ways to award the school trip scholarships. For this year the Board decided to follow the plan adopted at the last meeting. Bette will share the discussion highlights with Gwen and the School Group Committee.
2. Dawn will place the extra WiFi unit in the office so that the docents that are mentoring can show the trainees how the unit works. At this time we will only take the north WiFi unit and donation tube to the bluff. Bette reminded us of the need to remove some of the donation bills from the tube when it becomes full. A docent will remove the tube discreetly, take the tube to a car, remove the extra bills, then return the tube discreetly to the bluff position.
3. Dawn reported that the increase of trash collection to 3X a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings) is making a positive impact on the litter problems, as is the help of docents picking up trash. There are now disposable gloves for this purpose in the office.
4. Kathy Dowding shared that Ellen Lynch, 2014 docent, will be resigning, but hopes in the future to one day return. Board members signed a thank you card. Kathy has been investigating the use of halls

in Morro Bay for future Docent Dinners, as was suggested in the Docent Interview feedback. The upcoming dinner in November will be at our usual Cambria hall.

6. Kathy Dowding asked whether the Docent Newsletter might be every two months instead of monthly. The Board recommended this change starting in 2016.

PROJECT AND ISSUES REVIEW

Web Page Design: Lynette Harrison: The Web Page Design Committee (Marcella—lead, Nancy McKarney—designer, Michele Roest—auditor of content, Brandt Kehoe—current webmaster, and Lynette—Board rep) continues to work hard on the new web page. She hopes to share the website with the Board at the October Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Redesign/Update of FES Visitor's Center/Gift Shop

1. At the August retreat, the Board talked about the need to spif-up our office to make it more inviting to visitors, docents and our staff who might do shifts there. Ideas included new carpeting, restroom upgrades, display and work areas, etc.
2. Abby asked if there was any new information about the possibility of State Parks building a new Parks Visitor Center at the old Piedras Blancas Motel site. We await Dave Bauer's update on this.

The next FES Board Meeting will be, October 21 at 1:00. (We suggest always publishing the next Board meeting date at the end of the current meeting agenda.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Abby Adams, FES Board Secretary