

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board Meeting
November 18, 2015**

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, Kathy Hurrele, Polly Tatton, Bette Bardeen, Bill Goodger, Bob Grosse, Lynette Harrison, Mary Forbes, and Abby Adams

Also Present: Donovan Marley, Marcella Boteilho, Michelle Roest, Brandt Kehoe, and Gwen Watkins

Dave Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Following two corrections to the October 21 Board Minutes, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the Minutes.

REPORTS

National Monument Initiative: Donovan Marley

1. Donovan distributed a requested report on his and other committee members' time spent on the Initiative, that showed 317.5 volunteer hours to date.
2. From November 30--December 3, he will be attending a meeting in Washington, DC with legislative and executive staff to prepare the final documents for possible Presidential designation of the National Monument.

Website: Lynette Harrison

1. The comment period on the new website ends on November 30.
2. We discussed the factual information and overall focus of the new website compared to the original website. Brandt Kehoe is ready to take over management of the site.
3. At the December Board meeting, Michelle Roest will present a summary report on the comments about the site and the Board will make final recommendations on the next steps in the launching process.

Wi-Fi: Brandt Kehoe

1. After a trial of using just one transmitter at the bluff, Brandt has learned that two are needed, so two transmitters need to be taken out in the future.
2. Due to the large amount of data flow from our transmitters, much of which is not for learning about elephant seals, a password will be required in the future. The password will be written on signs at the transmitter stations.

Live Cam: Brandt Kehoe

1. The camera is not functioning currently.
2. Dave shared that State Parks has agreed to have FES (Brandt) take over the maintenance of the camera starting on December 2.

Treasurer/Finance: Bill Goodger

1. Bill met with the Finance Committee to review this year's budget and plan for 2016. There continues to be a concern about the budget shortfalls for this year and next. Grants may possibly make up the difference. Table sales will continue to be an important revenue expectation.
2. Bill and the Finance Committee recommend that next year:
 - a. All new projects will have to be funded plus a 20% contingency before projects will be approved by the Board.

- b. If ongoing annual projects (example: internship program) are not funded for the next year (2016), they will be reviewed by the Finance Committee with an opinion to the Board for continuance.
- c. Budget items will be reviewed monthly by the Treasurer and if it appears that an item is going to be overspent, it will be reviewed by the Finance Committee with an opinion to the Board.

School Groups: Gwen Watkins

- 1. The School Groups docents enjoyed the special outing and lunch provided by Carolyn Skinder and the Discovery Center.
- 2. The School Groups presentation (hagfish and table displays) at the November 14 Docent Dinner was well received.
- 3. The numbers of schools and students that visited in 2015 will exceed the numbers in 2014:

| | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| Number of Students | 2296 | 2546 |
| Number of Schools | 35 | 38 |

- 4. School Groups docents have noted that the groups that have viewed the DVD, The Life of a Seal, prior to visiting the bluff, come very well prepared for the experience.

Publications: Kathy Hurre

The newest addition of Among Friends has recently been sent to members and docents.

Table Sales: Bob Grosse

- 1. Bob and Dawn Fiegel have been researching devices and plans for credit card sales on the bluff and shared a written report with us.
- 2. Once credit card systems are implemented, Bob recommends that two people handle the table.
- 3. Dave mentioned that in the redesign of the kiosk area south of the parking lot, there will be a space for the sales table and school groups tables.

Training Committee: Polly Tatton

- 1. At the November Training Committee meeting the following dates were set for 2016 training: Basics on March 19 and September 10
University Training on October 8, 15, and 22.
- 2. The docent recruitment cards are being printed to show the new dates.

Research Committee: Brandt Kehoe

The committee will recruit for new members.

Membership: Dave Bauer (in Dawn Fiegel's absence)

- 1. The membership renewal letters have been sent on time.
- 2. The income from memberships and gifts are meeting the budget projections.

Staff: Marcella Boteilho

- 1. Since the most sales from the Table is when it is located on the bluff in good weather, the income may not reach projections in 2016 if the El Nino brings many rainy days.
- 2. We need to have the visitor's center open on a regular, predictable schedule if we are to be successful with merchandise sales from the center.

History Project: Michelle Roest

Michele has 3--4 interviews scheduled as she compiles the history of FES. She suggests that she completes those interviews and then waits for grant funding to continue with the project.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dave reported that no current docents have expressed interest in the Docent Coordinator position. There have only been a few applications submitted from people not currently involved with FES. The search will continue.
2. Abby suggested publicizing volunteer needs in our docent newsletters (e.g. newsletter, office duties, etc.). There are many docents with exceptional skills and willingness to help FES.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58.

Respectively Submitted,
Abby Adams, FES Board Secretary

The next FES Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16, at 1:00.