

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

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

**Also Present:** Donovan Marley, Dawn Fiegel and Tim Postiff

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

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the November 18 Board Minutes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Dave Bauer announced that Roy Chambers will be the new State Parks liaison with FES; and that Dan Falat is the new Superintendent of State Parks for the San Luis Obispo Coast District.
2. Dave Bauer thanked Bette Bardeen for her Board leadership, this being her last meeting as Board member.
3. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have Bill Goodger continue for another term on the Board.
4. Dave Bauer announced that Docent Tim Bridwell would like to join the Finance Committee.
5. Bette Bardeen shared that Saturday, January 16 is Underwater Parks Day. She will set-up a table at the bluff to share information about our underwater parks.

**REPORTS**

**National Monument Initiative: Donovan Marley**

Donovan recently spent two days in meetings in Washington, DC with conservation organization leaders and staff members from California Congressional offices, as well as the Department of Interior and President Obama's Council of Environmental Quality. Donovan will continue his efforts to gain further support for the initiative with hopes for National Monument designation in 2016 from a presidential proclamation.

**Website Redesign: Lynette Harrison**

1. Lynette shared a written summary of the comments and suggested changes.
2. Brandt Kehoe is now working on incorporating the changes and updating the factual information as well as listing training and exploratory dates for 2016. We discussed the need for the information in the newest Docent Handbook to be consistent with information on the website.
3. Bette is re-writing the website introduction and will send it to Brandt by year's end.
4. It was agreed that the business sponsors should only appear once vs. three times while the "Donate" button on the left is OK to remain.
5. We discussed whether the Research Committee should be the vetting group for factual updates to the Docent Handbook and website.
6. The new website will go live some time in January.

**Treasurer/Finance: Bill Goodger**

1. In reviewing the year-to-date budget balance, Bill noted that merchandise sales and donations are down about \$9000 from last year.
2. Bill will work with the Finance Committee on possible format changes on the 2016 budget, particularly how the restricted funds are shown.
3. Income is the challenge next year. Some expenses will need to be reduced. Bill noted that with Michelle Roest's grant writing there is a good chance of maintaining our current programs and beginning possible new projects.

**Training**

Dave Bauer, in Polly's absence, announced that the new docent recruitment cards are now on the office table by the log books for all docents to add to their packs.

**Membership: Dawn Fiegel and Bill Goodger**

1. A Membership Task Force meeting is set for December 17, with the hope of adding new docents to help with the many membership tasks needing completion for 2016.
2. Donovan Marley has agreed to continue to present some of the upcoming Exploratories.

**Research**

Bill reported that Stanford's shark monitor recently recorded two sharks, both that had originally been tagged in Tomales Bay.

**Staff: Dawn Fiegel**

1. Dawn has submitted an order for more E-Seal News flyers.
2. The new password for the wi-fi units is 12341234.
3. The Docent Appreciation Dinner will be on February 6 at the Cambria Vet Hall with a catered dinner. Kathy Dowding will choose the catering company and menu for this dinner.

**President: Dave Bauer**

The live-cam is now operating again.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Dave reported that a new Board member will be selected soon.
2. Lynette Harrison reported that the videographer, Mark Chiolis, met with Brandt Kehoe and Lynette to plan the filming that will focus on the birthing/mating season. He will film in the early morning and late afternoon at the end of December and then later in the winter season. State Parks has given him permission to go over the fence, but not onto the beach. When filming he will have a docent with him. The completed footage will be turned-over to Brandt Kehoe.
3. Bill Goodger reported that concerns were raised by some members of the Research Committee about information on ES mortality shared at the November Docent Dinner. Bill contacted researchers, Burney LeBoeuf, Patrick Robinson, Daniel Crocker, and Richard Condit, who concurred that little is known about the causes of adult ES mortality. In January the Research Committee will review the research and prepare a concept paper on various hypotheses; sched-

ule a round table discussion with the researchers; then share the findings with our community.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 followed by an executive session.

Respectively Submitted,  
Abby Adams, FES Board Secretary

**The next FES Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20, at 1:00.**