

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board Meeting
August 17, 2016**

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, Bill Goodger, Bob Grosse, Christel Chesney, Mary Forbes, Polly Tatton, and Abby Adams

Also Present: Lisa Harper Henderson, Christine Heinrichs, Kyle Brady, and Robyn Chase

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

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the July 20 Board Minutes.

NOMINATION OF BOARD MEMBER

Tim Bridwell was nominated and approved as Board Member. His term will begin in September, 2016 and expire in September 2019.

COOPERATING GROUPS LIASON REPRESENTATIVES

State Parks: Ranger Kyle Brady

1. Kyle commended the leadership and compassion of Docent Jami Todd following the sudden medical emergency and death of a Canadian male visitor on the bluff on Saturday morning. Jami immediately called 911. This call activated the need for medical assistance and also the support of State Park Rangers. Two visitors, who were physicians, assisted with CPR until the medical unit arrived. Unfortunately the man did not respond and was pronounced dead. The body could not be moved until the coroner had arrived (four hours later). Jami and her husband assisted the wife of the deceased, including taking her into their home until her relatives arrived the next day.
2. Kyle introduced Robin Chase, the newly selected "Interpreter 1" Ranger for our area.

Greenspace: Christine Heinrichs

Christine, who is on the Board for Greenspace, as well as being an FES docent, invited FES to co-sponsor a presentation by David Helvarg on Sunday, November 13 in the Morro Bay Vet Hall. He will be sharing his newest book, The Golden Shore (California's Love Affair With the Sea). We agreed and look forward to the presentation, including having an FES table set up there. Lisa will include more information in the upcoming newsletter.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Treasurer/Finance: Bill Goodger

Bill reviewed the budget documents and answered questions. He shared that over the last couple of years payroll and insurance costs have increased and contract labor is over budget; thus we have needed increased revenues. The table sales revenues are helping.

Training: Polly Tatton

1. Polly distributed the draft of the fall new docent training schedules. A few people, including any interested State Parks Rangers, have been invited for the September 10 e-seal introduction session from 9:30--11:30 with Phil Adams.
2. New candidates are still being interviewed with the hope that there will be 15 or more new trainees.
3. Polly shared a summary chart on the number of docents trained per year from 2008 to 2016, showing between 10--22 trained yearly with the median number at 16.

Table: Christel Chesney & Bob Grosse

1. Christel and Bob are so proud of the Table Team, but just wish they had more volunteers.
2. There will be a lunch for Table Sales docents on September 9 at Dave Bauer's home.

School Groups: Abby Adams

Abby shared a written report on Schools Groups planning activities, highlighting:

1. Guidelines for schools have been revised on the website as well as a more detailed list that will be sent to schools when the DVD is sent prior to the school visit.
2. The elementary schools (4th and 5th grades) that will be invited this year for bus sponsorships are:
 - Nipomo
 - Grover Beach
 - Shandon
 - Lillian Larsen
 - Carrisa Plains (since the K-6 enrollment is 28, all students will be invited)
3. Peter Frith is working on revising all the large picture books
4. The goals set last year will be continued with one additional goal added:
 - • seal interpretation is the most important activity
 - • incorporate ocean stewardship into our sharing
 - • address safety issues
 - • develop clearer guidelines for schools including follow-up procedures for FES if there are problems
5. An outing will be planned to The Marine Mammal Center.
6. Peter Frith and Diana Barnhart will present school groups info to new docents at the October 8 session from 12:30-1:20.
9. A luncheon is planned for School Groups docents at Dave's home.

Research: Bill Goodger

1. Bill reported that Dave's paper on seal's caloric needs has been vetted by the Research Committee. Next it will be sent to Pat Robinson for review, prior to Pat's November presentation at a docent dinner.
2. Jenni Rind, a Scottish university student, has completed her observational research study and has sent the data to Tim Postiff and Bill to review.
3. Docents are now using the new tag color reporting procedures. The recent blue tags noted are from a rookery in Mexico.
4. With the new marine science major at Cal Poly, there should be more interest in e-seals and internships.

Membership: Bill Goodger

We need to continue with efforts to expand membership.

Continuing Education: Dave Bauer

Dave reported that FES will apply for another SSTA grant in September that will include a new projector for presentations and expanding the foreign language wi-fi capabilities at the bluff.

Staff: Lisa Harper Henderson

1. Docents have volunteered to do more trash pick-up. We all agreed that the bluff was looking much cleaner in the last few weeks. She will remind docents that if a docent chooses to hang a trash bag on the fence, that docent needs to bring the bag back at the end of the shift.
2. Lisa is planning to invite docents to do a written survey in the fall (instead of a phone interview).

3. She asked for clarification on who is to be invited to docent dinners (yes, Carolyn Skinder is always to be invited).
4. There may be some problems with the new printer that Lisa will have checked-out.

President's: Dave Bauer

1. Dave noted that the trail stewards are reporting that some visitors are not staying on the trail. The trail stewards continue to remove non-native plants along the Bucher trail area.
2. Dave noted that his term will soon be over and that he also worries about his health. He announced that Lynette Harrison has agreed to accompany him to the many liaison meetings that Dave frequents so that there is a back-up plan. The Board members voiced strong endorsements of this plan.

Old Business

1. The Board re-visited the Operational Guidelines for School Group and Table docents. There are concerns about the high need for docents for both activities; and, if first year docents are restricted from serving by choice on these duties, there will be problems. Abby agreed to re-write the A 6 guidelines to address the discussion. She will share the language with the Board, prior to the Board taking final action.
2. Dave reminded Board members of the Board Retreat on Friday, August 19 at 10:00 am at Dave's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47, with an executive session to follow.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 21 at 1:00.

Respectively Submitted,
Abby Adams
Board Member and Secretary