

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Annual Meeting Board of Directors
March 15, 2017**

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, President, Bill Goodger, Treasurer, Bob Grosse, Secretary, Tim Bridwell, Vice President, Mary Forbes, Christel Chesney Polly Tatton Board Members, **Also Present:** Dawn Fiegel, Lisa Harper Henderson, Stephen Beck.

Board Members Absent: Lynette Harrison, Vice President

Open: Dave Bauer called the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1:12 pm.

Election of Board member: A motion was made, seconded and passed to elect Stephen Beck a member of the Board of Directors with Stephen accepting the position immediately.

Modification of Bylaws: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Bylaws as modified and agreed to by e-mail response of all of the Board Members prior to the Annual Meeting. . The motion was passed to accept the Bylaws as of 3/15/2017.

Election of Officers: A motion was made, seconded and passed to elect unanimously the following Board Officers:

President – David Bauer
Vice President – Lynette Harrison
Vice President – Tim Bridwell
Treasurer – William Goodger
Secretary – Robert Grosse

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Annual Meeting, it was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 pm.

Submitted,

Bob Grosse, Secretary

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Board Meeting
March 15, 2017**

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, President, Bill Goodger, Treasurer, Bob Grosse, Secretary, Tim Bridwell, Vice President, Mary Forbes, Christel Chesney Polly Tatton, Stephen Beck, Board Members **Also Present:** Dawn Fiegel, Lisa Harper Henderson
Board Members Absent: Lynette Harrison, Vice President

Open: Dave Bauer called the Board Meeting to order at 1:26 pm.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the February 15 Board Meeting minutes.

Reports:

Finance Committee: Tim Bridwell advised that there had been no meeting of the Finance Committee the past month, subsequently there was no report. Tim explained that the Financial Reports we would see are *True Valuation Reports*, meaning that they use an estimated current value of the investments, designed as '*unrealized value*' so that there is a more accurate representation of the true worth of FES assets; the alternative is to use *Generally Accepted Practice (GAP)* values which would use the face value of the investments disregarding any changes in market value..

Treasurer's Report: Bill Goodger presented the financial reports as of March 12, 2017. The total assets as of March 12, was \$124,895 which is balanced by total liabilities and equity. Net Income for the year to date is \$7222.47. A brief discussion ensued over income from table sales and donations and tube donations to date being significantly below previous years; it was noted that the frequent rains during January and February and the closure of Highway One were major contributors to the decline.

Publications: Mary Forbes advised that the publication committee had completed drafts for an "Among Friends" newsletter to be released April 3rd and would be editing and formatting them in time for the April 3rd date.

Research: Bill Goodger reported that two counts of male elephant seals had been done in February. The total count of adult male elephant seals on February 14 on the 11 beaches in the Piedras Blancas rookery was 231 and on February 28th was 232. During the period between February 14 and the 28th approximately 80% of the females had left. These data support the premise that the adult males do not leave the rookery until the last female has left the rookery.

School Tours: Lisa Harper Henderson reported that the plan for scheduling school tours is to shift back to the original program used by Gwen Watkins since the new program implemented by Peter Firth did not seem to be working satisfactorily. She reported that she will be meeting

with Peter this week to discuss procedures for planning and scheduling the school tour docents. Tim Bridwell requested that she prepare an action plan for the Board with dates, software changes, etc., to include a calendar of school tours for the year, lead persons for the individual tours, and instructions for manual signups for people who found the programs difficult or inconvenient to use. The report is due within two weeks. A general discussion about the school tours and problems that had been encountered ensued. It was recommended that Stephen Beck be assigned Board School Tour Liaison. Stephen agreed to this assignment.

Training: Polly Tatton reported that eight trainees attended the spring training class on March 11 and that they would be undergoing mentoring starting immediately. Graduation ceremony is planned on the bluffs Sunday, April 2.. She requested that the new docents be introduced at the next FES Dinner on Saturday, April 29. She reported ads in New Times and Bay News were where many trainees learned the docent information as well as when they talked to a docent on the bluffs and from a presentation to the Newcomer's Club. She plans to eliminate the Tribune ad as it is not identified as a source and has a significant cost. Christel recommended that the payment for FES jackets be increased to \$50 from \$25 since the cost of the jackets has increased significantly since the \$25 payment was implemented many years ago. It was agreed to increase the payment to \$50 effective with the next fall training class.

Table: Christel Chesney observed that as previously mentioned table sales were rained out during many of the days in January and February and closure of Highway One was a major deterrent to visiting the bluff area.

Membership: Dawn Fiegel discussed several problems in processing memberships and member e-mail orders. The website processing times are very slow and delay order processing severely. A general discussion ensued and it was noted that the San Simeon area is served by quite old and limited communications cables. Other organizations in the area report similar problems,

Staff Reports:

a. Dawn reported that "No Drone" signs have been posted at the bluffs and the parking lot has been resurfaced by CalTrans. A 20th Anniversary pin has been designed and is in process to be here by the anniversary celebration.

b. Lisa reported that she is updating the Substitutes list to confirm that docents listed are still available. She pointed out that it is always the responsibility of the docent requesting a substitute to make sure that the shift is covered. She will send out an e-mail blast on this to remind everyone. A general discussion arose as to whether sending out schedule requests for the next month by the 10th of the preceding month was realistic and necessary. The consensus was that the 10th is a reasonable request date.

Specific Discussions: Old Business/New Business:

1. Drone Reporting: Mary Forbes noted that there is a report form in the docent backpacks on disturbances of wildlife by low flying aircraft that also applies to drone flights and she requested that docents fill out this report in order to collect information on drone incidents. Lisa agreed to send out an e-mail to all docents about the report.

2. History Project: Dave Bauer reported on the status of the history project. Interviews are currently underway and a draft of the pamphlet planned for the 20th Anniversary is being prepared. He noted that Carol Adams had obtained a number of news media articles collected by Brian Hatfield over the years since 1990 and that it would be a good addition to the history resources. Carol has made the information available to Michele Roest in digital format so it can be archived by FES.

3. President's Report: Dave Bauer reported that action is underway by State Parks to improve the parking lot and to move the rocks near the South End to allow better access. He discussed progress in several other projects affecting FES that are under State Parks jurisdiction.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:42.

Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, April 19, at 1:00 PM.**

Submitted,

Bob Grosse, Secretary