

**Friends of the Elephant Seal
Meeting Board of Directors
April 19, 2017**

Final

Board Members Present: Dave Bauer, Bill Goodger, Lynette Harrison, Bob Grosse, Mary Forbes, Christel Chesney Polly Tatton, Tim Bridwell, Stephen Beck **Also Present:** Dawn Fiegel-Staff, Guest-Ryan Cooper, Manager of Piedras Blancas Light Station. **Absent:** Lisa Harper Henderson-Staff, Marcella Boteilho-Staff

Open: Dave Bauer called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1:00 pm.

Introduction: Dave Bauer introduced Ryan Cooper of the Piedras Blancas Light Station.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 15 and the minutes of the FES Board Meeting of March 15 were moved/seconded/approved.

Letter to Explore the Coast Grant Selection Committee: Dave Bauer presented a draft letter to the Explore the Coast Grant Selection Committee expressing support by FES for a campaign to support bringing California underserved youth to the coast for educational purposes. The Board approved sending the letter.

Committee/Staff Reports:

Finance: Tim Bridwell - The Finance Committee did not meet, hence there is no formal report.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Goodger presented the Treasurer's Report of April 17, 2017. On Hand Checking Account balance is \$41,926.07. Total Assets are \$123,447.46. Bill noted a few items: Trash is somewhat over budget but should not be a major problem for the year. Payroll is also somewhat over budget but should balance by the end of the year. Table receipts are down nearly \$5,000 over the same periods in the past two years. A general discussion ensued about the table operation. It was noted that the number of Table docents has decreased from 11 to 5 so far this year. It was agreed that Board members would take one shift each month on the Table to help out. It was agreed to advise the FES docents that immediate need for Table shifts exists and to promote sign ups for the table as much as possible.

Publications: Mary Forbes advised that the publication committee had mailed the "Among Friends Newsletter earlier this month. She reported a number of clerical problems were involved with the mailing and processing requiring expense and volunteer labor. Tim Bridwell introduced a worksheet listing the costs involved in mailing the Newsletter and made several recommendations. For the current issue the mailing and handling cost was equivalent to \$1,199.02 with postage at \$.49 each. . Use of the ASAP printing company mail indicia, fees and labor would be \$829.02 per issue with postage at about \$.26 each.. Apparently, FES at one time had its own mailing indicia; if the indicia were available postage would be \$13.9 each. The Board agreed to authorized use of ASAP indicia and labor in the future and research to see if the FES indicia was still available.

Research: Bill Goodger presented a flyer for the Saturday, April 29th dinner promoting the concept of “Citizen Science” to FES docents. The flyer listed the three speakers scheduled for the dinner program plus the report by our three FES-sponsored interns on the results of the 34 male Northern elephant seals that have been conducted over the past three years. The surveys will present an opportunity to consider our roles in Citizen Science where scientists and professionals collaborate with volunteers on research projects, surveys and rescues. Our knowledge about elephant seals in our rookery will play an important part. It was agreed to send the flyer out to all of the FES docents.

School Tours: Stephen Beck reported that the list of postings for school tours scheduled thru May was nearly complete. He noted that Peter Firth was resigning as school tours coordinator and that a coordinator will be needed for next year. He suggested that Lisa Harper Henderson do the scheduling of school tours. A general discussion ensued as to what Lisa should be expected to do, It was agreed that Stephen should continue to monitor the school tours. Dawn agreed to check with Brandt to be sure that scheduling information is being sent to Stephen. Stephen presented a spreadsheet on expenses for bus reimbursement for the past three years for the schools being sponsored by FES. This prompted a general discussion about reimbursement that FES should pay since there was considerable variation between the schools over the three year period. Stephen agreed to review the information and make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

Training: Polly Tatton reported that seven trainees had completed the spring training and graduated Sunday, April 2nd. She requested that the new docents be introduced at the next FES Dinner on Saturday, April 29. Two prospective trainees are signed up to date for the Fall Training. She turned her report over to Ryan Cooper who invited the FES docents to attend a program called “Meet The Scientists” with scientists and researchers involved with whales, California condors and use of the research drones to be held at the Light Station on Sunday, April 30, 8:30-11:00 am.. Ryan Cooper will work with the Training Committee to have a light station tour for FES Docents. This is due to changes this year and the desire to keep the Light Station Tour in our Advanced Training session- either as part of the training or on a separate date.

Membership: Dawn Fiegel reported that renewal letters for April have been sent out. She noted that while the number of memberships is steady, individual giving appears to be decreasing. She plans to send out the business membership renewal letters by the end of May.

Staff Reports:

Dawn Fiegel reported the History Project is being planned to cooperate with the 20th Anniversary program. She noted that the decision has been made not to purchase any “20th Anniversary” materials other than the 20th Anniversary pin.

President’s Report:

a. SSTA: Lynette Harrison reported on her attendance at the San Simeon Tourism Association this month. Michelle Roest of SSTA reported that visitors to the Chamber of Commerce office had increased significantly in 2017. She noted that 53% of the visitors were from USA and 47% from other countries including Canada, China, Germany, Australia, and Israel. The Central Coast Art & Music Festival has requested SSTA participation along with Avila Beach and Cayucos in a planned Central Coast Art & Music Festival to be held in August. Part of the celebration will include a sculpture of an elephant seal made out of 10,000 plastic bottles.

b. E-Seal Advisory Group: Tim Bridwell attended the E-Seal Advisory Group meeting organized by State Parks. He noted that signs on the bluffs have been resurfaced. Kiosk sign needs rework. The EIR for toilets at the bluffs is being delayed.

c. Dave Bauer: Dave Bauer reported that the rocks at the south end have been moved. He reported that the History Project interviews are being done and Carol Adams had Brian Hatfield's media file loaded in digital format so that it will be available when needed. Dave then discussed his 2 ½ years as FES Board President and listed accomplishments and needs not yet satisfied. He recommended that the Board accept Lynette Harrison and Tim Bridwell as co-presidents. He then announced his retirement from office of president.

Co-President Remarks: Lynette Harrison and Tim Bridwell made some general remarks as to plans to work together as co-presidents if elected.

a. Focus Areas: Tim noted that he intends to communicate fully with Lynette and the Board. He suggested that he would be able to focus best on finance, legal and insurance, membership, research and publication areas. Lynette suggested that she could focus best on office affairs, training, and school groups. They agreed to jointly respond to outside organizations, table sales, the 20th Anniversary and History programs and contact with Dave Bauer as past-President.

Election: It was moved by Lynette Harrison and seconded by Polly Tatton that Lynette Harrison and Tim Bridwell be elected as Co-Presidents. A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that the ByLaws support the concept of co-presidency. The motion was then approved unanimously.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Submitted:

Bob Grosse, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 17 at 1:00 pm.