



**Point Lobos Foundation
Annual Member Meeting
Merrill Hall – Asilomar Conference Center
January 11, 2014
Minutes**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Hale at 9:40 a.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hale welcomed the members, then called for the approval of the Minutes of the January 5, 2013 Annual Point Lobos Foundation Member Meeting. Upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried the Minutes of that meeting were approved.

C. RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hale welcomed the new class of Docents and then recognized current Board Member and Board Committee Members and past Board Member and Board Committee Members. He thanked everyone for their support of the Foundation.

Hale then remembered Docents and Board Members who passed away in 2013: Kurt Loesch, Elaine Fox, Diane Dawson, Ruth Zurker, and most recently Jim McCammon.

D. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hale listed the Foundation's accomplishments and disappointments in 2013...

- The General Plan for the Reserve, the property east of Highway 1, Carmel River State Beach and Hatton Canyon is 18 months behind schedule due to problems with the Contractor selected by State Parks, with additional delays occurring in replacing that Contractor. He noted that this is impacting many of the larger goals of the Foundation, including solving safety issues on Highway 1, opening up recreational opportunities across from the Reserve, and a possible science camp.
- The new trail meant to move pedestrian traffic off the entrance road is still in the planning stage, possibly to be an extension to the Lace Lichen Trail or possibly a new trail.
- Improving infrastructure in the Reserve. Progress is being made, including restrooms, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removal. Whalers Cabin re-roofing is complete and under budget, allowing the installation of new heaters and efficient LED lighting.
- Expansion of school outreach and summer programs, which has been very successful thanks to the Docents. Well over 1000 Title 1 students experienced the Reserve through the program last fall and we have begun extending the program into the summer months, beginning with the Cesar Chavez Library in Salinas. The Summer Adventures and Junior Lifeguard programs have become some of the most sought after summer programs in the area.
- We supported the Docents in developing their Strategic Plan.

Hale shared that some of the most successful programs came from the Docents as grass roots efforts. The Easy Access program, started in mid-2012, really got going in 2013, in which 10 or more Docents set up at various locations on the ADA trails, providing interpretation to visitors, which might include iPad-enabled spotting scopes. The MINT (Mobile INterpretive) van now provides interactive interpretive services, for example after school walks.

The Foundation provided funding through the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation to restart the Pacific Grove hyperbaric chamber, benefiting divers around Monterey Bay and at Point Lobos.

It provided funding to Bay Area Underwater Explorers for the development of a 3D map of Whalers Cove, to be installed in Whalers parking lot, allowing all to see the underwater terrain. The Foundation also participated in Underwater Parks Day, educating the public about Marine Protected Areas, tide pools and underwater experiences available in the Reserve.

The Foundation held more member events in 2013. In addition to the Moonlight Walk, there were events focusing on wildflowers along San Jose Creek, tide pooling, geology, and others.

Long term, we have been building the infrastructure to raise money for the significant projects we expect to be included in the General Plan. We have also started a significant collaboration effort with State Parks, the Big Sur Land Trust, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to discuss how to build a seamless set of hiking trails, recreation activities, and wildlife corridors in the area from the Carmel River to Big Sur.

Hale noted that Docents have contributed 24,000 volunteer hours to the Reserve.

Hale shared the goals of the Foundation for 2014:

- Work closely with Docents and State Parks to provide the best visitor experience possible, while sustaining the integrity of the natural experience.
- Expand and improve school outreach and summer youth programs, increasing them both by 50%
- Continue to improve infrastructure.
- Make significant progress on building the trail from the Entry Kiosk to the Info Station in order to get pedestrians off the main road.
- Encourage State Parks to improve the financial sustainability of the Reserve, for example by developing ways to monetize walk-ins.
- Support State Parks to get the General Plan back on track and continue to pursue collaboration with other organizations.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT

The President called upon John Drum, Treasurer of the Foundation, who provided the Treasurer's Report. A pamphlet showing the Balance Sheet at October 31, 2013, the Income Statement for the 10-month period ending October 31, 2013, and the 2013 Budget was available to all members at the meeting. He encouraged the membership to review the full 2013 financial statements on the Foundation's website when posted in April.

Drum stated that the Foundation's financial situation is sound. He also noted that the Foundation has done a good job of controlling expenses, though we would have been happy to have spent more money on certain projects.

He noted successes, including providing funding for naturalist training for 5 Docents, investment income of approximately \$65,000, and completion of the Bird Island Trail.

He listed challenges as well, including the mid-year change in the entrance fee structure, causing the Foundation to lose map income, which was a significant source of funding for the 2013 budget. And he noted the Foundation was unable to spend all funds budgeted for the General Plan and for invasive plant removal.

D. DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS' REPORT

Patterson spoke briefly, sharing how she spent 2013 building relationships with various stakeholders – Board Members, Docents, Foundation Members, Donors, State Parks staff, others in the community, and with Point Lobos itself. She particularly noted the strengthened relationship between the Foundation and the Docents.

She then noted that many of the Foundation's internal fundraising processes had been improved, and reported that giving to the Foundation was up 16% in 2013.

E. FAREWELL TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBER

Hale thanked Skip Flohr for his six years of dedicated service on the Board, including two years as President. He then called upon former Ranger Chuck Bancroft to present a framed photograph as a token of the Foundation's gratitude.

F. PRESENTATION OF THE JUD VANDERVERE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hale announced the creation of the Jud Vandervere Lifetime Achievement award to recognize outstanding devotion and contribution to the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Bancroft then presented the Award to Reid Woodward, who gave heartfelt thanks to the Foundation and the Docent Community and shared a number of stories with the meeting attendees.

F. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Hale recognized guests attending the Meeting from other organizations, including:

- Bill Leahy – Big Sur Land Trust
- Kelly Sorenson – Ventana Wildlife Society and Monterey Peninsula Region Park District
- Gabrielle Robinson – State Senator Bill Monning's office
- John O'Neil – Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers
- John Klein – Monterey State Historic Park Association
- Stephanie Lee – Big Sur Natural History Association
- Gerry Low-Sabado – Featured speaker at a previous Foundation Member Meeting

G. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Hale then said that the following persons have been nominated for election to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for two-year terms expiring January, 2016:

Nominees for Third Term Directors

Sharon Hoffman – Docent

Jeff Johnson – Docent

Jay Sinclair – At-large

Nominees for Second Term Directors

Fred Brown – Docent
John Drum – At-large
Elizabeth Martinez – At-large
Stella Rabaut – Docent
Cindy Walter – At-large

Nominees for First Term Directors

Kit Armstrong – Docent
Cynthia Vernon – At-large

Upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, each of the foregoing nominees for Director of the Point Lobos Foundation was elected to the term stated.

H. GUEST SPEAKERS

Hale introduced Ernest Chung, Chair, California State Parks and Recreation Commission and Aaron Robertson, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks.

Chung and Robertson delivered a joint presentation describing the many challenges and opportunities facing State Parks, including:

- The current proposed budget from Governor Brown is a big improvement over previous years, but State Parks is still significantly underfunded.
- State Parks must be relevant to changing demographics.
- State Parks cannot run without the help of its Cooperating Associations. It must work in partnership with those Associations and more will be asked and expected of these Associations in the future.

Chung and Robertson fielded a number of questions from the members present, and got an understanding for some of the unique challenges facing the Reserve, including over-visitation and fire concerns during this very dry year.

Following this presentation, there being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Eckert, Secretary
Approved: January 15, 2014