



**Point Lobos Foundation
Annual Member Meeting
Merrill Hall – Asilomar Conference Center
January 9, 2016
Minutes**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Augie Louis at 9:40 a.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Louis welcomed the members, then called for approval of the Minutes of the January 10, 2015 Annual Point Lobos Foundation Member Meeting. Upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Minutes of that meeting were approved.

C. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Louis welcome members to the meeting. He then listed accomplishments of the Foundation during 2015:

- Acquisition of artifacts on permanent loan from the Monterey History and Art Association. He thanked Tim Thomas, Jerry Loomis, Vicki Odello, Kevin Shabram and Tom Clifton for their invaluable assistance.
- The new Lace Lichen Trail is succeeding in its goal of moving pedestrian traffic off the main road.
- The trail map has been reworked into a beautiful new trail brochure. Special thanks to Jeff Johnson and Ed Clifton for their work on the Brochure.
- A new cell phone tour in place at the Reserve. The Foundation helped with the messaging for the tour, which was underwritten by State Parks.
- The General Plan process continues to make progress. State Parks held the public meeting to present alternatives with the new consultant, Ascent. Very soon, State Parks will begin to work toward a single preferred alternative. Louis showed how annual visitation numbers have been increasing: 170,000 in 1969, 270,000 in 1979, 350,000 in 2010, and 550,000 in 2014, with even higher numbers expected for 2015 and the future.

The General Plan will establish a carrying capacity of the Reserve, which in turn should lead to policies and infrastructure to help avoid habitat damage coming from those high numbers. A key part of that should be educating visitors how to act in the Reserve.

He then showed a conceptual plan for the property east of the Reserve, with parking lots, a visitor orientation center and youth education science camp. Wise use of neighboring properties may relieve some of the pressure on the Reserve, allowing hiking to the Gowen cypress area, San Jose Creek, interconnected trails to Palo Corona, Carmel River Beach and the Odello Fields lagoon, and parking at Marathon Flats.

Louis thanked Patty Parker for her work as Treasurer, Anna Patterson as Director of Development and Communications, the Foundation's two other employees Tracy Gillette Ricci and Melissa Gobell, and Jim Bilz, the Foundation's Cooperating Association Liaison with State Parks.

Finally, Louis apologized for an omission at the last Annual Member Meeting, at which he failed to acknowledge the passing of Ken Gray, husband of Pat Clark Gray, both with State Parks. Ken was a friend of the Foundation and Point Lobos, and had spoken at Foundation meetings. Louis also gave tribute to Judd Perry, who had a huge impact on the Foundation, the Docent program and all who knew him. He also noted the passing of David Appling, donor and friend of the Reserve.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

The President called upon Patty Parker, Treasurer of the Foundation, who provided the Treasurer's Report. She reported that the state of the Foundation is very strong. Final numbers for 2015 are not ready yet, but the 2015 financial audit and tax return will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Fundraising has been strong, but the need for spending on programs has been great as well. Using preliminary numbers, she stated that cash and investments dropped about \$150K to approximately \$1.05M, due primarily due to funds committed in previous years which were disbursed in 2015. Those reserves include \$70K in the Sister Anna Voss Fund, whose funds are restricted to use by the Docent Program and programs for youth. Target revenue for 2015 was \$450K. Actual revenue is expected to exceed that by about \$40K, due in part to a \$100K grant for the Intern Program.

Spending during 2015 included approximately \$110K for the Docent Organization, \$180K for trails and the General Plan, and \$20K for member programs.

E. DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS' REPORT

Anna Patterson reported that fundraising for gifts and memberships brought in \$413K, which represents a 130% increase over three years ago. The average gift increased from \$89 in 2009 to \$361 in 2015. Donations to the Sister Anna Voss Fund surpassed \$20K for the first time this year. Docents and Board Members gave almost \$50K to the Foundation.

This is also the first year that donations from memberships exceeded \$100K, thanks in part to incentives offered by State Parks. We continue to build relationships with grantors, helping to fund an updated Foundation website, add low-impact guide wire fencing to help protect natural resources, provide funding for busses to bring students to the Reserve for school walks, and implement a significant natural resources research program with CSUMB and State Parks.

The Foundation now maintains an office at State Parks, which has beneficially increased communication between the Foundation and State Parks.

2015 has seen the Foundation increase its ability to work with State Parks towards a common vision. Patterson concluded by thanking everyone present for the role they play as members of the Foundation.

F. MONTEREY DISTRICT SUPERINTENDANT MAT FUZIE

Fuzie said that the state of State Parks is trending strong, with the proposed state budget allocating additional funds to State Parks and specifically noting \$60M for deferred maintenance and infrastructure costs.

He shared that the Foundation does not currently have a contract with State Parks, in part because State Parks is going through a transformation process that offers us the opportunity to define our relationship in new ways. Early in 2016, State Parks and the Foundation will be working to agree on a shared vision and to find an appropriate relationship agreement to implement it.

Fuzie confirmed the benefit of having a Foundation presence in the State Parks offices.

Regarding the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan, he said that the internal process to select and document the Preferred Alternative will begin on January 14. He said that the priority is trending toward conservation and preservation of the Reserve's natural resources.

Expanding on that, he stated that with increased visitation has come more rule breaking such as visitors off trail, dogs in the Reserve, and smoking. State Parks intends to do more to enforce existing rules and to treat Point Lobos as a Reserve.

He closed by thanking the Foundation and Docents for the wonderful work they do on behalf of the Reserve.

G. GUEST SPEAKER

Louis introduced Steve Palumbi, Director of Hopkins Marine Station and coauthor of The Death and Life of Monterey Bay: A Story of Revival and The Extreme Life of the Sea.

Palumbi shared stories of the history of Monterey Bay as its bounty was plundered and then allowed to recover due to natural processes and the efforts of individuals, giving us the restored, beautiful, productive bay we have today. He also described several of the more extreme examples of sea life in the Monterey Bay and elsewhere.

H. FAREWELL TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Louis thanked two directors who are leaving the board after 6 years due to term limits. He thanked Jeff Johnson, a docent very active with school walks, publications, the General Plan, and the annual Operating Plans. He then thanked Jay Sinclair, an at-large director leading Organizational Development and Budget and Finance, acting as Treasurer and helping us through our first financial audits. Each was presented a framed photograph taken by former Ranger Chuck Bancroft, as tokens of the Foundation's gratitude.

I. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Louis said that the following persons have been nominated for election to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for two-year terms expiring January, 2018:

Nominees for Third Term Directors

John Drum – At-large

Fred Brown – Docent

Nominees for Second Term Directors

Kit Armstrong – Docent

Cynthia Vernon – At-large

Nominee for First Term Directors

Sue Addleman – Docent

Cynthia Garfield – At-large

Jacolyn Harmer – Docent

Jim Rurka – Docent

Joe Vargo – At-large

Jim Westbrook – 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.

J. CHANGE TO BYLAWS

Louis advised the membership that the Board of Directors had voted changes to the Bylaws of the Foundation. Those changed were available for review during the meeting at the back of the hall.

K. PRESENTATION OF THE JUD VANDEREVERE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Former Ranger Glen McGowan presented to Ed Clifton the Jud Vandervere Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing outstanding devotion and contribution to the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Clifton spoke briefly, thanking the Foundation and the Docent Community.

Following this presentation, there being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Eckert", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bill Eckert, Secretary

Provisionally approved by the Board of Directors on January 20, 2016 subject to final approval at the next Annual Member Meeting