

Friends of the Dunes Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2008, Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 7-9pm

Board Members: Bill Weaver, John St. Marie, Larry Oetker, Rose Patenaude, Michelle Forsys, Nancy Ihara, Matt Johnson, Mike Seeber

Staff: Carol Vander Meer, Emily Walter, Cathy Larripa

Public: Tony LaBanca

August Agenda

- I. Introduction of guests present
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Public input
- IV. Board Retreat Follow-up
- V. Audubon Collaboration Update
- VI. Staff Updates
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Dune Escape Update
- IX. Financial Report
- X. Questions regarding committee reports/announcements
- XI. Upcoming events
- XII. Upcoming agenda items

I. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Tony LaBanca, board retreat facilitator and HR Committee chair

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John St. Marie motioned for approval of Sept. minutes, 2nd from Mike Seeber all present were in favor. Minutes from Sept. were approved.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

- Michelle requests adding the Dune Escape Follow-up the agenda.
- Matt requests adding Audubon update to the agenda

IV. BOARD RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

The board reviewed the vision summary from the board retreat along with an outlined master plan for the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center (HCNC) created by Carol, all in the board packet.

ACTION: Michelle will collect public access plans by CA State Parks and send to Carol as examples.

ACTION: Michelle and Rose will meet with Carol to work on an outline for a public access plan for HCNC.

- Bill suggests developing a Scope of Work from the separate sections of the vision statement.
- Matt followed Bill saying that FOD should organize implementation of the vision as a guide for management of HCNC.
- Tony points out that within the vision there is a lack of a plan for facilities.

- There was an overall agreement that the HCNC management plan does not need to be as complex as a government governed plan, but simply needs to meet the needs of our goals and visions.

ACTION: All committees must submit a 2009 budget including where money is coming from prior to the November board meeting.

V. AUDUBON COLLABORATION UPDATE

- Matt and Mike Seeber met with Ken Burton of the Redwood Chapter of the Audubon Society. At this time the group does not have a concise idea of how they want to collaborate with FOD. They seem to be interested in possible office space and exhibit space.
- Matt proposed that the Audubon group visit HCNC and hold their next board meeting at HCNC, where Carol could meet with them and explain what FOD's vision of HCNC is.
- John mentioned that the Audubon group may be interested in the purchase of wetland property that is for sale in Manila to the south of HCNC.

ACTION: Carol & John will meet the Audubon group at HCNC on Oct. 23rd.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

Coastal Conservancy Grant

FOD was granted \$750,000 from the CA Coastal Conservancy to go towards the capital campaign

Capital Campaign Update

- There has been a good response to the Wildberries Challenge thus far, including good response from ads run in the Times Standard.
- The board reviewed outreach materials. John noted there could be more emphasis on biological values being conserved.

Building/construction Progress

Construction meetings are being held at Kash's office every other Thursday, with the next meeting on Oct. 9th at 4pm. Carol is attending these meetings.

Land acquisition update

Purchase of Bachofer and Watson is complete.

New education assistant

Susie Portner, a previous intern and part time staff for Ocean Day has been hired for the new Education Assistant position.

Highlights of restoration conference

Emily and Michelle attended the California Invasive Plant Council (CAL-IPC) conference in Chico the first weekend of October. They said the conference presented good and useful information pertaining to control of invasive plants, restoration methods and presentation of needs of further research.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There is talk of giving/annexing the MCS D dunes property to FOD. The board decided this idea should be given consideration but needs exploring.

ACTION: The land trust committee will look into what steps need to be taken to explore this possibility.

VIII. DUNE ESCAPE

The dune escape event was a great success. After costs FOD netted \$8740. This is less than previous years and the question has arisen whether or not FOD should continue with this format for its big fundraiser or try something different.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

ACTION: The board would like Pamela to provide an expanded budget quarterly and a condensed report at all other board meetings.

Larry suggest having line items where large sums or money are entering or leaving the budget, so that they can be easily explained.

X. QUESTIONS REGARDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
NONE

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 11th special “pizza party” restoration
- December Holiday Party December 7th

XI. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Action item follow-up
- Committee Budgets
- Draft table of contents for HCNC management plan
- Audubon update by Carol
- Board role in capital campaign house parties and mailing

Adjourn 9pm