



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7 p.m.
By Teleconference and Videoconference Only

Fairfax Open Space Members:

Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary	Brad Handel
Geoffrey Bolt	Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary
Chris Borjian	Jack Judkins, Vice Chair
Heather Duplaisir	Susan Pascal Beran, Chair
Diego Gonzalez, Treasurer	Dylann Cullinane, Youth Member (ex officio)

Virtual Meeting Advisory Notice

Due to the declared State of Emergency and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, and pursuant to AB 361 and Fairfax Town Council Resolution, this meeting will be held via teleconference only. There will be no in-person meeting location. The public can participate in the meeting in real time as follows:

Members of the public may watch, listen, and participate in the meeting as follows:

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Passcode: 603014

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Passcode: 603014

To speak during the public comment period, select the **Raise Hand icon** and you will be added to the speaker queue, and unmuted when it is your turn.

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Agenda Preamble / Land Acknowledgement: *The Fairfax Open Space Committee acknowledges that we are located on the un-ceded ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok people of present-day Marin County. We honor with gratitude the land itself and all of its ancestors: past, present and emerging.*

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA (Starts at 7 p.m.)

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Susan Pascal Beran called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
Members Present: Michael Ardito, Geoffrey Bolt, Heather Duplaisir, Diego Gonzalez, Ruth Horn, Jack Judkins, Susan Pascal Beran, Dylann Cullinane (youth member)
Members Absent: Chris Borjian, Brad Handel
Guests: Councilmember Chance Cutrano (liaison from Fairfax Town Council); former FOSC member Pamela Miegs, and Laurie Berliner
2. **Approval of Agenda and affidavit of posting.** Approved.
3. **Open Time for Public Expressions** (*The public is welcome to address the Committee at this time on matters not on the agenda. Please be advised that pursuant to Government Code 54954.2, the Committee is not permitted to take action on any matter not on the agenda, unless it determines that an emergency exists, or that the need to take action arose following posting of the agenda. Each speaker is limited to three minutes and a spokesperson for an organization is limited to five minutes.*) None.
4. **Hillside Pipeline Trail Public Access** (discussion and possible recommendation to Town Officials). Resident Laurie Berliner has reported no success in resolving this issue with the Town's Planning Department. She has requested that FOSC reach out to Town officials for help determining the public access for this Hillside Pipeline trail near Crest Road that reaches both Fairfax and San Anselmo town limits. Ms. Berliner is also planning to engineer a "street party" to meet new neighbors so the residents are aware of this issue. Jack Judkins indicated the trail may have been mapped by Fairfax volunteers. Jonathan Braun of San Anselmo Open Space reportedly indicated Pipeline Trail is a "paper road." Diego Gonzalez mentioned that the street should show on the parcel map. Jack Judkins volunteered to investigate and look at the trail. Diego Gonzalez volunteered to help Judkins with this matter.
5. **Town-owned open space property still mistakenly zoned as residential zoning:** Chance Cutrano, FOSC liaison from Town Council (discussion and possible future action). Cutrano said there is finally some traction on this issue. Linda Neal, town planner, is working with the EMC Consultants on the housing element. There may be some suggestions on how to create open space zones.
6. **Measure A renewal update** (discussion). Based upon news reports regarding the Measure A renewal to be on the June 7, 2022 ballot, the 15 percent funding allotted to towns for open space maintenance and acquisitions was being maintained. Some FOSC members and the public asked for greater transparency and more attention regarding the maintenance of county open spaces such as the Elliott Nature Preserve located within Fairfax Town limits. There are no patrols after 7 p.m. when mountain bikers, including e-bikes, with bright lights are using the trails at night which are disturbing the **Federally Protected Endangered Northern Spotted Owl** and also the **Dusky-Footed Wood Rat** -- the owls' main source of food.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Diego Gonzalez has reached out to meet with Town Finance Director Michael Vivrette. Susan Pascal Beran said she needs to provide the Town with the PayPal report for the sales of the Wonderfully Wild Marin calendars for 2022.
8. **Fairfax Library Garden / Patio Project and FOSC Donation:** Michael Ardito (status discussion) reported that there is still time for members of the public to help match the \$250 financing challenge for FOSC contributions to this project. Pamela Miegs requested that there be a pitch during the next open time of the Fairfax Town Council meeting.
9. **FOSC / SAOSC Wonderfully Wild Marin Fundraiser** (update/discussion): Susan Pascal Beran reported that the 2022 calendar fundraiser was even more successful than the 2021 sale of calendars.
10. **Update on FOSC Social Media Accounts** (discussion and possible action): Jack Judkins said we need a stronger presence on social media.
11. **FOSC Outreach, Merchandise, Storage of Materials, Photo Survey Project, and Nature Walks** (discussion and possible actions). There was interest in re-ordering FOSC T-shirts for future outreach / fundraising events. The FOSC items (such as T-shirts, banners) stored at the Fairfax Pavilion need to be moved out prior to March 1 for renovation of the historic building. Ardito has

now consolidated the remaining FOSC water bottles into the original boxes at his home. Ruth Horn offered some space at her place for some items. Regarding nature walks, Ardito said he saw and talked briefly with Nick Nutu at Good Earth. Nutu indicated he would reach out to FOSC Chair Susan Pascal Beran about some possible hiking days. It was also suggested we reach out to former Councilmember John Reed to also lead some hikes in Fairfax.

- 12. Update on Bio-Blitz events:** Heather Duplaisir (discussion and possible action) proposed that FOSC be involved this year in the City Nature Challenge the weekend of April 29 thru May 2. The website is <https://citynaturechallenge.org>. FOSC will sponsor a bio-blitz event possibly followed by a group lunch somewhere such as Split Rock.
- 13. Future 2022 Plans for FOSC Participation in Earth Day, Fairfax Festival** (discussion and possible actions). Susan Pascal Beran reported there are several Earth Day celebrations this year for which FOSC can participate for an art show as well as sale of our calendar photos as postcards. The theme this year is “Invest in Our Planet.” The Fairfax Festival / Ecofest is scheduled for the weekend of June 11 and 12, 2022.
- 14. High School Environmental Science Projects** (student status reports). Youth member Dylann Cullinane is coordinating with the Marin County Parks and Open Space for an environmental project to remove invasive species. Archie Williams High School teacher Alan Nealley has asked his students to address real-life problems. The project presentations will be held on Thursday, May 19.
- 15. Assignments and Reports from FOSC Committees / Subcommittees** (discussion and possible actions): Acquisitions; Governance; Stewardship; Community Outreach & Fundraising. Jack Judkins asked for updated progress reports from all FOSC Subcommittees on completing the adopted Annual Goals from the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. All the Subcommittees were encouraged to meet via Zoom before the next regular FOSC meeting. Jack Judkins of the Acquisitions Subcommittee reported that two items he has been working on are now awaiting Town actions to complete. One is the acceptance by the Town of the donation of open space property on lower Cypress Road from the Pellolio Family Trust, which simply requires the Town Attorney to complete and obtain signatures on the Donation Agreement and close on the acquisition. The other is the purchase of two tax-defaulted properties on Upper Ridgeway, which requires that the Town Attorney prepare a staff report and place the item on the Town Council agenda based on FOSC’s recommendation to acquire these properties adopted at its August 2021 meeting.
- 16. Reports of activities from partner agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Marin Conservation League’s Parks and Open Space Committee; Together Bay Area; One Tam: FOSC representatives (discussion). Heather Duplaisir has volunteered to represent FOSC at the next annual Together Bay Area conference (formerly known as Bay Area Open Space Council). It will be held virtually on May 17 followed by an in-person meeting May 18 at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond.
- 17. Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes** from previous meetings (discussion and possible approval action): Michael Ardito had presented the draft minutes from the November 30, 2021 and January 25, 2022 FOSC meetings. With some minor edits from FOSC members, those minutes were approved.
- 18. Next Regular FOSC Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022:** Quorum Check, Future Agenda Items (discussion and possible actions): It appears we will have a quorum. Chair Susan Pascal Beran reported she will be away and not available for the March 22 meeting. Jack Judkins, Vice Chair, agreed to run the next meeting. Heather Duplaisir volunteered to Zoom host the meeting. Regarding future meetings, Chance Cutrano reported that starting in April, the Town meetings (including FOSC) may be held hybrid at the Fairfax Women’s Club
- 19. FOSC Member Reports on Non-Agenda Items** (no discussions or actions). None.
- 20. Adjournment** was at 8:50 p.m.