



Town of Fairfax Open Space Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.
In-person at the Fairfax Women's Club
46 Park Road, Fairfax, CA 94930

MINUTES

Fairfax Open Space Members

Susan Pascal Beran, Chair
Vacant, Vice Chair
Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary
Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary
Christine Kelly, Treasurer

Ted Bright, Member Emeritus

Geoff Bolt
Joe Franaszek
Marc Lubomirski
John Reed
Maria Pastor, Youth Member (ex officio)
Felix Shuldiner, Youth Member (ex officio)

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 AGENDA at 7 p.m. (Earth Day 2025)

- 1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Agenda / Appointment of Timekeeper for this meeting** – Chair Susan Pascal Beran opened the meeting a few minutes after 7 p.m. with a quorum. As of 7:15 p.m. **all FOSC members were present** with the exception of youth member Felix Shuldiner (in class at College of Marin). Youth member Maria Pastor was assigned as timekeeper. Michael Ardito verbally read the FOSC preamble / land acknowledgement.
Guests included: FOSC member emeritus Ted Bright; and Wall property neighbor Myron Walters. FOSC liaison with the Fairfax Town Council -- Council Member Frank Egger arrived at 8:30 p.m. after another event.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Selection of Vice Chair to replace Jack Judkins** (discussion and possible action). John Reed was nominated and unanimously elected as the new FOSC Vice Chair.
- 4. Honoring Jack Judkins as FOSC Member Emeritus** (discussion and possible action). Jack Judkins will be honored at the upcoming Fairfax Town Council meeting on May 7. FOSC will use that public event to provide its traditional certificate of appreciation to Judkins for his 17 years of service as a member and vice chair of FOSC.
- 5. Receive Updates about Wall Property and Naming Process** (discussion and possible action). Susan Pascal Beran is drafting a letter to the Fairfax Town Council about involving FOSC in the naming process for the Wall Property. Susan Pascal Beran, Geoff Bolt, Joe Franaszek, and Marc Lubomirski will meet to discuss these options for presentation to Town Manager Heather Abrams. Joe Franaszek reported that Mr. Chris Legnitto filed at the Marin Municipal Court an amended complaint, in order to avoid the Court dismissing his Wall Property case for lack of standing. The court has scheduled a status conference in the case for May 5. It will have an actual hearing on May 14 whether Legnitto's amended complaint sufficiently showed that he had standing, so that the court would have jurisdiction in the case. The Town contended that Legnitto's amended complaint still fails to show any standing. If the court agrees with the Town at its hearing on May 14, this would typically result in dismissal of the case.
- 6. Receive Treasurer's Report** – Christine Kelly reported that the FOSC account has a balance of \$49,230.75.
- 7. Measure A and FOSC Request for 2025-26** (discussion and possible action). The Town will probably receive about \$75,000 from Marin County in Measure A funds. FOSC will probably need at least \$1100 to pay for a suggested split-rail fence for the Gloria Duncan Creekside Preserve. FOSC may also suggest using Measure A funds for steps in steep areas of the Wall property. The Town's annual Measure A Subcommittee meeting date is

still to be determined. Chair Susan Pascal Beran will represent FOSC at the Town's meeting.

8. **Installation and Dedication of Signs for Fairfax Public Open Space Properties** (discussion and possible action). John Reed talked with Dean at Madera Furniture at the Fairfax Lumber Company about possibly using recycled redwood benches for our desired additional signage. We may look at other options including to have smaller signs than those produced last year. Frank Egger indicated he may be able to source redwood slabs somewhere near the Russian River. Michael Ardito will try and talk with the wood carver typically at the annual Marin County Fair who does not have business cards and only produces signage during the fair.
9. **Installation of split-rail fence for Gloria Duncan Creekside Preserve** (discussion and possible action). Joe Franaszek reported that in El Cerrito he saw wood posts with string cables, less expensive than a split-rail fence.
10. **Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) in Fairfax update** (discussion and possible action)
Marc Lubomirski provided an update about the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) in Fairfax that are nominated by local governments with land use authority which need a director-level signature. For Fairfax that is the Town's Planning Director Jeff Beiswenger. The current Metropolitan Transportation Commission / Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ABAG) PCA maps show an incomplete delineation of the Central Marin Ridgeland / PCA from 2008. The ABAG's PCA lead is Michael Germaraad. He agreed to try the "amend" route rather than requiring Fairfax to provide all new PCA submittals. One issue is that the CMR PCA involved five jurisdictions so any changes needed to be approved by all. Some jurisdictions had already submitted new PCAs. That was another wrinkle to iron out. During April, it was largely sorted out with the other jurisdictions but as of this April 22, 2025 FOSC meeting, two Fairfax areas still needed to be approved by Beiswenger with a deadline date of May 2. The two areas were the ridgeland from Oak Manor Drive to Glen Drive (northern Fairfax) and the Cascades to Fairfax Ridge Road (western Fairfax). Former FOSC member Jack Judkins was working with Beiswenger to bring it to completion.
11. **Receive Reports from FOSC Subcommittees Spokespersons: Acquisitions; Governance; Stewardship; Community Outreach & Fundraising; Trails; Measure A;** (discussions, reassignments and next steps). In regards to Community Outreach, Marc Lubomirski and Kristi Dommen have volunteered to help Susan Pascal Beran organize the FOSC items in storage at the Fairfax Pavilion that need to be out by May 1. In preparation for the FOSC outreach at the Fairfax Festival / Ecofest, FOSC voted and decided to replenish its supply of FOSC ball caps. Michael Ardito will order 25 vintage ball caps from O'Neil Bags. Christine Kelly will order 50 more assorted FOSC ball caps from Tommy Breeze. Also, FOSC voted to re-order an assortment of 50 FOSC T-shirts with short sleeves. Susan Pascal Beran suggested contacting James Hoffman to talk for free about fire mitigation measures at a FOSC sponsored lecture night at the Fairfax Women's Club. Joe Franaszek presented photocopies of suggested mock-ups for potential styles of business cards for FOSC members. Christine Kelly showed us mock-ups on her laptop and we informally voted on the design.
12. **Planning and sign-ups of coming events for Fairfax Open Space: Bio-Blitz; Wall property stewardship project; Fairfax Festival / EcoFest** (discussions and possible action). FOSC participation in the International Bio-Blitz was cancelled for this year. The Wall property stewardship project for removal of invasive broom from the lower level of the Wall property closest to Marinda Drive is still scheduled for Saturday morning, April 26. Ardito has coordinated with the Fairfax Public Works Department to have them pick up the piles of removed broom from the top of Marinda Drive on Monday, April 28. Ardito encouraged FOSC members and others participating to check-out extractigators from the Fairfax or other Marin libraries as soon as possible for use at the stewardship project. The extractigators can be checked out for one week and returned to the library after being cleaned by the borrowers. Susan Pascal Beran requested that Ardito coordinate with Holly Bragman for FOSC participation in the Fairfax Festival / Ecofest.
13. **Receive Reports of Activities from FOSC Representatives for Partner Agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Marin County Parks and Open Space; Marin Municipal Water District; Marin Conservation League's Parks and Open Space Committee; Together Bay Area; One Tam; Friends of Corte Madera Creek (discussions and next steps). Michael Ardito will reach out to SAOSC Co-Chair Jonathan Braun about FOSC hosting this year's traditional combined meeting and potluck dinner at the Fairfax Women's Club on Tuesday evening, August 26. Michael Ardito will attend the 90th anniversary dinner and program for the Marin Conservation League this Friday, April 25. The lifetime achievement award will be presented to retired Manor School teacher and environmentalist Laura Honda. Regarding MMWD, Joe Franaszek noted that it is now simply known as Marin Water.
14. **Receive FOSC Minutes from Several Previous Meetings for Approval:** FOSC requested to postpone approval of the draft minutes from the February 25 and March 25, 2025 meetings until our May 27, 2025 meeting.

15. **Agenda Items and Quorum Check for Next FOSC Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025:** There appeared to be a quorum of members available for the next scheduled FOSC meeting on May 27.
16. **FOSC Member Reports on Non-Agenda Items** (no discussions). There was a report that Marin Wildfire Prevention may provide funds to have about 1200 goats from Star Creek to eat / remove invasive broom on the Wall property this summer. There were indications that the owner of the 615 Oak Manor Drive property may be open to give a conservation easement to some of the open space. Frank Egger reported that a sale was pending for 23 acres above the Frank Egger Redwood Preserve access from Bolinas Road. Geoff Bolt suggested coordinating with a Sausalito man who sells seeds for native plants. Also, last week's Town Planning Commission had mention of the Tamarancho Trail upgrade from Iron Springs Road in Fairfax and implications of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) laws.
17. **Appreciations and Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. in loving memory of those Archie Williams High School girls in the tragic car crash on Friday, April 18, 2025: Sienna Katz, Ada Kepley, Olive Koren, and Josalynn "Josie" Osborn. It was mentioned that Marley Barclay and Elsa Laremont Stranczek in that vehicle were severely injured and hospitalized.