



Town of Fairfax Open Space Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 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
John Reed, Vice Chair
Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary
Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary
Christine Kelly, Treasurer

Ted Bright, Member Emeritus
Jack Judkins, Member Emeritus

Geoff Bolt, Member
Joe Franaszek, Member
Marc Lubomirski, Member

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. (It was read aloud by Michael Ardito.)

REGULAR AGENDA at 7 p.m.

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Agenda / Appointment of Timekeeper for this meeting** – Chair Susan Pascal Beran **opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.**

Members Present: Susan Pascal Beran, Michael Ardito, Ruth Horn, Christine Kelly, Geoff Bolt, Joe Franaszek,

Members Absent: John Reed, Marc Lubomirski; Ex-officio youth member Maria Pastor; Ex-officio youth member Felix Shuldiner

Guests included: Town Council Member Frank Egger (liaison from Fairfax Town Council to FOSC); Kristen Wilson and Gehry Oatey (neighbors from 69 and 73 Piper Lane / above Manor School.)

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. **Receive Updates about Wall Property and Naming Process** (discussion and possible action). Pascal Beran met today with Mayor Lisel Blash and Town Manager Heather Abrams and determined that FOSC will be involved in the Wall property naming process. The Town's newsletter will be one avenue of outreach for requesting name suggestions. FOSC will have a suggestion box at its information table during the EcoFest. The Town will avoid a town-wide vote as part of the naming process. Frank Egger reported he learned the late Jessica Green, who passed about a year ago during the Wall property acquisition campaign, had made a \$40,000 donation for Wall Property acquisition. However, her donation was mistakenly transferred to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) for this purpose. Egger hopes to follow-up and track the donation until properly received by the Town of Fairfax. FOSC will reach out to the Fairfax Public Works Department and the Parks & Recreation Commission about consistent rules for all Fairfax parks and open space. There should be Wall Property signs at the Marinda Drive and Willow Avenue entrances. FOSC members indicated that there are plenty of needs for the Wall Property signage and perhaps some benches. Joe Franaszek reported that earlier this month Marin County Superior Court in the case of Legnitto v. Fairfax determined that the plaintiff (Legnitto) can not contest the Town's Wall Property open space acquisition as he lacked standing. Christine Kelly and Michael Ardito will meet May 28 with Sterling Mentor for a tour of the Wall Property to hear his property maintenance suggestions. Kelly met him at the recent Together Bay Area conference.
4. **Receive Treasurer's Report** – Christine Kelly reported that FOSC has between \$46,000 and \$47,000 in its discretionary operating fund.

5. **Piper Lane open space property consideration for acquisition** (Susan Pascal Beran discussion and possible action). (At this meeting, this agenda item had been moved up to before the Wall Property updates in order to allow the guests to express their concerns about Piper Lane.) Gehry Oatey and Kristen Wilson (neighbors from 69 and 73 Piper Lane) reported that an open space parcel of 1.1 acres above Manor School is up for sale and listed at \$110,000. This is steep forested property with deer trails at the end of a cul de sac on Piper Lane. The speakers wished to keep the parcel as open space to allow access to the Wall property from Piper Lane. Goeff Bolt cited the need for an evaluation under Resolution 11-4 and FOSC Criteria for Property Purchase in order to consider recommending any action. The matter was assigned to the Acquisitions Subcommittee members for further study.
6. **FOSC Measure A Allotment for 2025-26** (discussion and possible action). Pascal Beran reported that FOSC will receive about \$45,000 this year from the Town's Measure A funds, helping to replenish our open space acquisitions and stewardship account that had been largely depleted from the Wall Property acquisition last year. FOSC will also receive \$4,000 from the Town for operating funds.
7. **Installation and Dedication of Signs for Fairfax Public Open Space Properties** (discussion and possible action). Pascal Beran will talk with Rudy Contratti about installing the Jolly Hill open space sign at the path near Bennett House. Once that is done, a dedication can be scheduled. Frank Egger thinks he may locate redwood slabs that can be purchased for about \$1,000.00 per sign. (There may be need for additional signs at Gloria Duncan Creekside Preserve and Egger Redwood Preserve.)
8. **Installation of split-rail fence for Gloria Duncan Creekside Preserve** (discussion and possible action). This suggestion, which had been proposed in a February 19 2025 memo and email ("Estimate for 330 feet of split rail fence" by the town manager and staff), had been put on hold as not yet ripe for discussion
9. **Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) in Fairfax update** (discussion and possible action). With input from former FOSC member Jack Judkins, Fairfax Town Planning Director Jeff Beiswenger signed a May 2, 2025 amendment to the PCAs for Fairfax, adding back two areas to the original Central Marin Ridgeland PCA which had been inadvertently omitted by MTC/ABAG (Metropolitan Transportation Commission / Association of Bay Area Governments). Those areas were: 1) Cascade Open Space to Fairfax Ridge Road on the west side; 2) Glen Drive to Oak Manor area bounded by Sir Francis Drake Boulevard on the south side and Loma Alta Preserve on the north side. The third area, Bald Hill (part of the original CMR) is now part of PCA MR20 – Multi-jurisdictional: Southern Fairfax/Bald Hill since it encompasses Fairfax, San Anselmo and Ross parcels.
10. **Receive Reports from FOSC Subcommittees Spokespersons: Acquisitions; Governance; Stewardship; Community Outreach & Fundraising; Trails; Measure A;** (discussions, reassignments and next steps). Most of the Subcommittees have not met recently. Acquisitions did meet.
11. **FOSC Participation in Fairfax Festival / EcoFest** (discussions and possible action). A sign-up sheet for the FOSC information and merchandise table duty at the EcoFest was circulated. The EcoFest has been moved from the Fairfax ball field to inside the Pavilion. Chair Pascal Beran received informal approval to keep the FOSC items in storage at the Fairfax Pavilion until immediately after the Fairfax Festival on June 7 and 8. She is no longer a Fairfax "artist-in-residence" and needs to relinquish that Pavilion storage space. No FOSC members have current storage space for FOSC purposes. FOSC voted to allow Chair Pascal Beran to seek a storage unit for a monthly fee of \$300 or less. The storage would be for our FOSC merchandise – T-shirts, ball caps, tote bags, note cards, and such. It will also include our informational displays, banners, tablecloths, easels, pedestals, electrical equipment, fundraising event supplies such as dish ware and napkins. The vote was unanimous with 6 ayes (two members absent.)
12. **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 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). Ardito reached out to SAOSC about FOSC hosting this year's combined meeting and potluck dinner on Tuesday, August 26. He will also attend the annual SAOSC fundraiser event this Saturday, May 31 when SAOSC member Brian Crawford will provide a presentation about his book The Bolinas-Fairfax Road: The History of One of Marin's Most Scenic Roads. Geoff Bolt will come up with language for a letter suggesting that the Northern Spotted Owl should be the Town of Fairfax mascot and wants signs at the Elliott Nature Preserve so that users do not disturb that owls' habitat. Ardito attended the Marin Conservation League's 90th anniversary dinner and awards ceremony on April 25 that honored Fairfax Manor School retired teacher Laura Honda with a lifetime environmental achievement award. She thanked the Marin Conservation League, all her students, support and help from school parents and community and especially her late husband Alan for the support to receive her teaching credential and degree in environmental studies. Christine Kelly attended the annual Together Bay Area conference in early May to represent FOSC. On Sunday, May 25, the *Marin Independent Journal* printed a front page story about Marin Water's 2-million gallon storage tanks for treated water at the Pine Mountain Tunnel on the outskirts of

Fairfax. The new tanks will be placed on the western side of Concrete Pipe Road near Bolinas Road and Sky Oaks Road. Construction is set to begin in June. FOSC has discussed this topic several times at recent meetings, particularly how to ensure Marin Waters' adherence to protecting the habitat of threatened and endangered species.

13. **Receive FOSC Minutes from Several Previous Meetings for Approval:** The minutes from the FOSC meetings on February 25 and March 25, 2025 were finalized and approved for posting.
14. **Agenda Items and Quorum Check for Next FOSC Meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025:** Michael Ardito indicated there appeared to be a quorum for the June meeting.
15. **FOSC Member Reports on Non-Agenda Items** (no discussions)
16. **Appreciations and Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.