



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### May 6, 2015

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Michele Gardner, Town Clerk *GT*

**SUBJECT:** Interview of candidates to fill three vacancies on the Planning Commission

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#### RECOMMENDATION

Conduct interviews of each candidate. The Council may wish to ask applicants to leave the room during the other applicants' interviews, as a courtesy.

#### DISCUSSION

There are currently three vacancies on the Planning Commission due to one resignation and two expirations of term. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town received seven applications for the three seats, from:

- Bruce Ackerman
- Ryan Connelly (availability unknown at the time of printing)
- Norma Fragoso
- Mimi Newton
- Brian Pedersen
- Cindy Swift (not available this evening)
- Karl Vavrek

The candidates were invited to tonight's meeting for an interview, and asked to prepare a brief (3 to 5 minute) presentation elaborating on their interest in serving and vision for the Town. The appointment of candidates to fill the vacancies is on the agenda for regular 7:00 pm meeting.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Applications

APR 08 2015

RECEIVED

TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council    Date: April 8, 2015

**Please consider this as an application for appointment to: Planning Commission**

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

NAME: Bruce Ackerman

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF YEARS IN FAIRFAX: 22 YEARS

**Education:**

Public schools in several states, finishing with High School in Albuquerque, NM

Baylor University 1971-73 – Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics

MIT 1973-75 – Electrical Engineering / Computer Science and Psychology

Continuing to learn in many areas through work, travel and public service

**Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong:**

Fairfax General Plan Action Committee (adjourned) – was Chair, previously secretary.

General Plan Implementation Committee – was Chair, now community member

Fairfax Climate Action Committee – currently Chair

Member of the Environmental Forum of Marin, having graduated from the Masters Class 34 (2006-07)  
and served on the Board of Directors

Member of Coffee Party USA (organization promoting civil discourse)

**Briefly describe your employment background:**

Presently the Data Collection Director for the Division of Research of the Midwives Alliance of North America, since 2004 (founding member of the Division)

Founding partner of Pacific Consultants LLC, Mountain View CA: Vice President of software, led the development of several laboratory and medical instruments.

Photon Energy Inc., El Paso TX: Laboratory Research & Development on photovoltaics (solar electric technology)

I've spent a lifetime engaged in community work including recycling, political organizing, work in several food cooperatives, helping refugees, educating myself on energy issues, and working for 20 years for the Midwives Alliance.

**What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax??**

I envision our town as a strong, smart community in which all our citizens *enjoy* being involved, in which true democracy shines, and which becomes less and less dependent on external sources of goods, services and energy, and more and more truly at place among the green hills surrounding us.

I envision citizens being able to work at home and in the town, with less need for frequent commutes and using effective transportation options when we do travel.

I envision diversity thriving and making our town ever stronger, more resilient and more fun, as we find ways to remove the barriers so those who work here are able to live here and so all our citizens have the time to be part of the community at all levels.

I envision our economy becoming more localized, particularly as we enjoy the produce of local farmers and ranchers and as we produce more of our energy locally. We will become more resilient to the global shifts underway, and focus our lives on the rewards of bringing every bit of the intelligence and world-class experience of the Bay Area's people to reimagine our life on this earth.

I envision all the changes we make locally having wide-ranging benefit as Fairfax continues to be a beacon for others, of hope and best practices for community, democracy and sustainability.

**Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest**

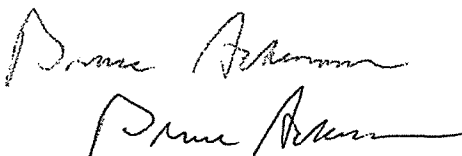
Our family has material interest in two small houses on Bolinas Road, so I would be required to recuse myself from Planning Commission decisions regarding applications in that vicinity.

**Briefly explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee**

This is an opportunity to contribute to the Town and beyond. I was privileged to work on GPAC, guiding our wonderful community process to craft a General Plan. Through that I learned a good deal about Fairfax and the planning process in general.

I believe that I could bring an understanding of Fairfax's needs, while respecting multiple viewpoints and encouraging creative discussions based on complex and nuanced information. My participation on the Planning Commission would be informed by my understanding of the General Plan and with the public input that went into it, and also by my ongoing study of the vast changes needed in our use of energy and resources in order to live sustainably.

SIGNATURE:



**Please return this completed, signed form to:**

**Town Clerk, Town of Fairfax, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, CA 94930**

**12/11**



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

APR 28 2015

RECEIVED

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council

Date: 4/27/15

Please consider this as an application for appointment to:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Cittaslow Committee
- Design Review Board
- General Plan Implementation Committee
- Measure I Oversight Committee
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Open Space Committee
- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Volunteer Board
- Youth Commission
- Other

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

Name: Ryan Douglas Joseph Connelly

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Fairfax: 2 years

Education Santa Rosa Junior College - Construction Management Program and  
additional classwork regarding architectural design and drafting.

Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong.

Former member of Troop 68! Sonoma County - Boy Scout's of America

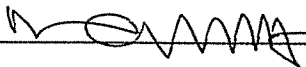
Sonoma County Union of Mountain Bikers

Briefly describe your employment background. Presently - Drafter/Designer at G Design/  
G Family Construcion (2 years). Past - Drafter for Summit Engineering - Wastewater  
and Electrical Engineers (2 years). Non-profit in Sebastopol (2 years).

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax? Fairfax has many unique features which  
help to make it the town that it is. By being involved in the process I can help to give  
input from a code point-of-view as well as how I would like to see the town grow  
as a young member of the community but retaining elements important to the character.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest. Potential conflict with projects related  
to G Family Construction/G Design, in which I would be willing to sit out.

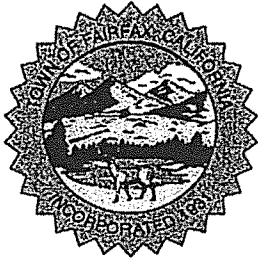
Briefly explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee. \_\_\_\_\_  
As a young residence of Fairfax I would have the opportunity to gain input and  
guidance from members of the Fairfax Community that have been long standing  
members. Being more involved in the process will develop myself into a better  
designer; being able to gather town input, interpretation of code, and providing  
knowledge and input gained while working in the field. By serving on the board this  
allow greater experience in the public-sector vs. the private sector, and the differences  
between the two areas - figuring out ways that both can work together.

Signature  4/27/15

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*12/11*



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

APR 13 2015

RECEIVED

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council

Date: April 13, 2015

Please consider this as an application for appointment to:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Cittaslow Committee
- Design Review Board
- General Plan Implementation Committee
- Measure I Oversight Committee
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Open Space Committee
- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Volunteer Board
- Youth Commission
- Other

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

Name: NORMA FRAGOSO

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Fairfax: 25

Education MASTERS COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong.

350 BAX AREA

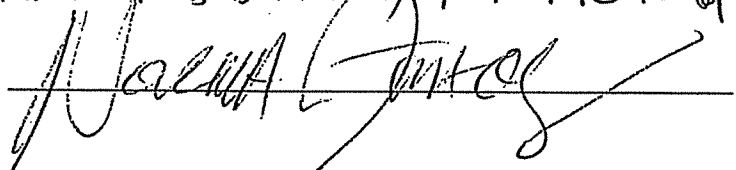
Briefly describe your employment background. RETIRED 2014 AFTER 30 YRS CITY GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY & REDEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR PUBLIC WORKS IMPROVEMENTS & DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax? THE PRESERVATION & ENHANCEMENT OF TOWN'S SENSE OF PLACE & HISTORIC VILLAGE CHARACTER & PEDESTRIAN SCALE; WHILE PROMOTING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC VITALITY.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest. NONE

Briefly explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee. A DESIRE TO ASSIST WITH EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN QUALITY OF LIFE WE ALL LOVE ABOUT FAIRFAX. MY SKILLS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & KNOWLEDGE OF STATE LAW & DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS COULD BE VALUABLE TO THE COMMISSION. I'M INTERESTED IN THE TOWN CENTER PLAN; AND THIS IS A WAY FOR ME TO GIVE BACK TO MY HOMETOWN.

Signature



Please return this completed, signed form to:

Town Clerk, Town of Fairfax, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, CA 94930

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RECEIVED

MAR 25 2015

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council

Date: 3/24/15

Please consider this as an application for appointment to:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Cittaslow Committee
- Design Review Board
- General Plan Implementation Committee
- Measure I Oversight Committee
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Open Space Committee
- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Volunteer Board
- Youth Commission
- Other

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

Name: Mimi Newton

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Fairfax: 9

Education JD Georgetown Univ. Law Center 1989

BA Univ. of Pennsylvania 1985

Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong.

Marin Green Party (co-chair)

Fairfax Open Space Committee (chair)

G.P.I.C. (FOSC Representative)



Briefly describe your employment background. 1989 - 1994 US EPA;  
1994 - 1995 Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker;  
1995 - 2000 Zevnik Horton; 2000 - present  
U.S. EPA

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax? I'd like to see the  
town keep its small town character,  
including retaining as much of  
its beautiful natural settings as practicable.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest. Any issues involving  
my own <sup>neighborhood</sup> home or the US government  
would raise potential conflicts

Briefly explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee. \_\_\_\_\_  
I'd like to help the Town in navigating  
some of the trickier issues involving  
the General Plan, I'd also like to  
work towards bringing people  
together who have different perspectives  
so as to help minimize internal  
conflicts among Fairfaxians.

Signature Shimi Newfan

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RECEIVED

APR 27 2015

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council

Date: 4/25/15

Please consider this as an application for appointment to:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Cittaslow Committee
- Design Review Board
- General Plan Implementation Committee
- Measure I Oversight Committee
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Open Space Committee
- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Volunteer Board
- Youth Commission
- Other

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

Name: Brian Pedersen

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Fairfax: 20

Education BA UCSD '90, JD UC Hastings '93  
(Marin County elementary schools)

Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong.

State and County Bar Assn, Chair of MCBA real estate section

Briefly describe your employment background. Misc. jobs (incl. Meadow Club)  
to put myself through school. I've been a practicing attorney  
since 1993, and since 2001 at Flynn, Riley, a San Rafael real  
estate firm where I am the managing partner

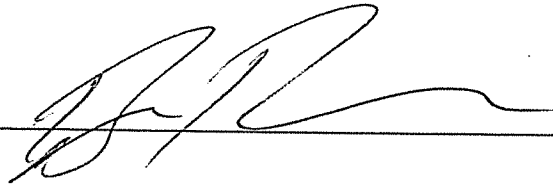
What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax? A town that protects and preserves  
its unique character & surroundings, is open to the opportunity of  
positive change and organic growth, and engages its challenges through  
constructive, reasoned & respectful sharing of ideas & ideals with due  
regard for applicable rules, rights and planning.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest. N/A, unless I do  
renovations of my own home

Briefly explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee. \_\_\_\_\_

I want to give back to a place that has provided so much  
for 20+ years to me and my family, ~~and want~~ learn  
more about the town and its people, and work as  
part of a team to help the town provide at least  
as much to others

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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RECEIVED

MAR 03 2015

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX**  
**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO**  
**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council

Date: 2 Mar 15

Please consider this as an application for appointment to:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Cittaslow Committee
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- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Open Space Committee
- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Volunteer Board
- Youth Commission
- Other

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

Name: Cindy Swift

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Fairfax: 35

Education City College of San Francisco, Humboldt State University

Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong.

Friends of the Fairfax Library, Friends of the Marin County Free Library, Canon Swim & Tennis

Club, Marin Humane Society volunteer, Corps of Engineers Reemployed Annuitant Cadre.

Briefly describe your employment background. IT Program Manager for HQs US  
Corps of Engineers managing Corps-wide IT programs and projects as a certified Project  
Management Professional (PMP).

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax? My vision for Fairfax is that we continue to  
preserve our unique small town qualities. We are a small town both in size and character and  
need to maintain both. We also need to preserve and continue to support our business  
community.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest. None known at this time.

Briefly explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee. I  
have a vested interest in the future of Fairfax as well as interest in serving my community.  
Serving on the Planning Commission supports both of those interests.

Signature Cindy Swift

*Please return this completed, signed form to:*

*Town Clerk, Town of Fairfax, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, CA 94930*

*12/11*



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

FEB 12 2015

RECEIVED

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO  
BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE**

TO: Mayor and Fairfax Town Council

Date: 1/15/2015

Please consider this as an application for appointment to:

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Cittaslow Committee
- Design Review Board
- General Plan Implementation Committee
- Measure I Oversight Committee
- Measure K Oversight Committee
- Open Space Committee
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- Youth Commission
- Other

(Your completed application will become a public record upon submittal to the Town)

Name: KARL VAVREK, P.E.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Office Cell Home Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in Fairfax: 12 1/2 YEARS (SINCE AUGUST, 2001)

Education BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING, THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIV. 1999  
(w/4 CONCENTRATION IN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING)

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE, THE CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, 2008

Please list the names of professional societies, clubs, and other organizations to which you belong.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS; THE GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE;

Briefly describe your employment background. 10 YEARS AS A PROFESSIONAL

CONSULTING STRUCTURAL ENGINEER; 6 1/2 YEARS AS AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER (STRUCTURAL ENGINEER)

(THE LAST 3 AS OWNER OF MY OWN DESIGN CONSULTANCY); 1 YEAR AS A LOCAL DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTOR; 3 YEARS ON THE BOARD OF A LOCAL INDEPENDENT K-8

SCHOOL (ON THEIR FACILITIES COMMITTEE, THE LAST 7 MONTHS AS CHAIR OF FACILITIES)

I ENVISION A TOWN WHERE A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE CAN CO-EXIST IN A BEAUTIFUL & CULTURALLY DIVERSE ENVIRONMENT -

IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER & WITH THE BUILT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - BUT IN AN ECOLOGICALLY & ECONOMICALLY

PLEASE DESCRIBE POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST. SUSTAINABLE SYMBIOSIS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC, (RESIDENTS), BUSINESSES & THE GOVERNING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

I RUN AN ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING BUSINESS IN TOWN. I AM 'DIRECTOR' OF FACILITIES ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT THE CASCADE CANYON SCHOOL (WHICH IS THE PRIME TENANT (FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS) AT 2626 SFD) A SITE OF PROPOSED

BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING ON THIS BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE. I CARE DEEPLY ABOUT PRESERVING & PROMOTING FAIRFAX & SEEK TO SERVE WHERE POSSIBLE

"PREFER (IT) TO 'LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO 'CURSE THE DARKNESS'".

AND I HAVE OVER 25 YEARS OF MULTI-INTER & CROSS-DISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCE TO APPLY + SEVERAL RECENT EXPERIENCES ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & ISSUES IN FAIRFAX THAT COMPELS ME TO PITCH IN.

Signature [Signature] 2/10/2015

Please return this completed, signed form to:

Town Clerk, Town of Fairfax, 142 Bolinas Road, Fairfax, CA 94930

12/11