



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

16 Park Road, Fairfax
Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 7:30 PM

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Mimi Newton - Chair
Michael Ardito Helen Fauss
Ted Bright Ruth Horn
Barbara Coler Jack Judkins
Niccolo Caldararo Ryan O'Neil – Co-Chair

1. Roll call - present were Mimi Newton, Michael Ardito, Ryan O'Neil, Ruth Horn, and Jack Judkins; Guests included Larry Bragman and Frank Egger
2. Assignment of Secretarial duties - minutes to be prepared by **Mimi** this month
3. 4-27-10 agenda and 3-23-10 meeting minutes - agenda revised slightly to include Ridgeway, Glen Drive and Raker property discussion with respect to Acquisitions subcommittee; to correct reference to "480 trail" (which should read "680 trail"); and to include EcoFest discussion under miscellaneous issues item; minutes and revised agenda approved unanimously
4. Open time for public expression - None
5. Treasurer's Report, Discussion regarding status of Town financial meetings & Preparation of Budget for coming fiscal year - Ted Bright, Kathy Wilkie and Laurie Ireland Ashley were each unavailable and we have post-poned the full discussion of the financial issues until next month's meeting; on Friday 4/30/10, **Mimi** will give the Town \$354 from t-shirt and other sales from the Good Festival and the Fairfax Picnic and 1 t-shirt sold in January 2010; Barbara sent around a draft budget proposal, which **Mimi** will be revising and sending out to FOSC for review and will then provide it to Laurie Ireland Ashley (aiming for May 3, 2010, but she will call Laurie and find out what our deadline really is).
6. Discussion & update regarding fundraising effort for with Meadow Way neighborhood - **Ryan** will take the lead on working with the Meadow Way Community and the Town to find a date for a fundraiser to be held at the Women's Center, potentially focusing on the mid-June time frame. (We need to figure out what type of a fundraiser we are talking about and figure out who on our committee can do what to help. These efforts will continue between now and the next meeting in May.)
7. Discussion and possible action regarding annexation of Egger Grove and possibly neighboring properties - Discussion regarding annexation of Egger Grove; the Town, the Local Action Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the County Assessor's Office need to get together and discuss possible assessment of Egger Grove in anticipation of annexation. **Larry** agreed to ask the Town Manager to agendize this item for the Council to direct staff to explore this issue during the next Council Meeting on May 5.
8. Update regarding rules for use of Open Space - Item continued to next month due to Kathy Wilkie being absent due to illness. However, we also discussed the information Kathy Wilkie provided to us electronically about access to Jolly Hill; **Jack** will follow up with Jim

Moore, Town Planner, and Mark Squire of Good Earth about initiating discussions with Bennett House to secure easement for access to Jolly Hill across Bennett House property (Mark Squires and the Good Earth are engaged in discussions now with Bennett House regarding a lot line adjustment).

9. Subcommittee Reports

- Acquisitions

- i. Discussion regarding criteria for determining when to acquire small parcels for small amounts, such as back taxes etc. – Jack provided us with a draft set of criteria for Open Space Acquisition that covers: natural resources; cultural resources; recreational opportunities; connectivity; level of threat; cost related issues; and “other pertinent information.” We may want to practice rate some or all of the 30 or so properties listed in the draft open space element. (Note: **Mimi will scan and send the document out by 4/29/10, unless Jack has circulated it to FOSC members electronically before then, but since he’s going out of town, he may not have time.**) **FOSC members** should provide Jack with any comments we may have on the document before our May meeting.
- ii. Update regarding Ross Valley School District proposal regarding schools in Fairfax – School district is still considering Deer Park property (Flood District 9 is also, apparently interested in Deer Park as a flood detention basin), School Street Plaza, White Hill and Manor. Public meetings are being well-received.
- iii. Update regarding tax default properties acquisitions – Tax default has gone through State Controller’s Office; owner has until 5:01 pm on 4/30/10 to redeem property. After that, as of May 3, 2010, Town of Fairfax can acquire property for \$5700. **Larry** will agendize obtaining payment for property on next Town Council meeting, since Council has previously approved its acquisition.
- iv. Discussion re: Ridgeway properties – owners of two parcels on Ridgeway Ave. are potentially interested in donating some portion of the land to a charity; one they were talking with not interested; Jack prepared a draft letter to send letting them know that they may want to initiate discussions with FOSC or the Town about donation of land for open space. **Jack** to send letters to owners.
- v. Discussion re: Glen Drive property – Landlocked parcel off Glen Drive was initially supposed to be maintained as open space, but sold in a bankruptcy and restriction did not stick. Large, beautiful lot that we need to keep an eye on, even though there does not appear to be any access to it for development currently. **Mimi** to talk with David Smadbeck about what he can learn about this property.
- vi. Discussion re: Raker property disposition - The 5-acre Lillian Raker property has been sold to a Trust for the tenant Alex Ivanov, who has been there for over 20 years.

- Fundraising – Michael Ardito is added to this subcommittee

- Governance – **Mimi** to schedule a meeting of Governance Subcommittee, (Barbara, Ryan and Ted) to review when terms of FOSC members expire.

- Public Outreach – No update

- Stewardship
 - i. Discussion regarding access to Hawthorne Canyon Open Space from Fairfax – **Ryan and Niccolo** will scope out situation on the ground, talk with John Reed and report back to FOSC about this issue at the May FOSC meeting.
- 10. Update on work of GPAC regarding Open Space and Conservation Elements – Planning Committee will be looking at Open Space Element in their Planning Commission Workshop on May 6. Jack is concerned that a lot of good information (e.g., maps) from current Open Space Element did not get incorporated into draft revised Open Space Element. **Mimi** will endeavor to ensure that the information is included in either the Open Space or Conservation Elements. Mimi is working with General Plan Advisory Committee subcommittee on revisions to Conservation Element.
- 11. Update regarding communication with Ben Ross re: acquisition of his property – **Mimi and Ryan** to report back to FOSC on this item by May FOSC meeting.
- 12. Update on website – Ryan provided status update. **FOSC members** should review website and report any comments etc. to Ryan. At next meeting, we will make a final review before submittal of site to Michael Rock for review. We will try to roll out website and potentially obtain post-cards or other notices of website for EcoFest booth.
- 13. Discussion regarding Grant opportunities – Michael Ardito has identified an urban greening grant opportunity, but the timing for getting grant applications in has come and gone and FOSC would have to wait for the next grant cycle to apply. **Michael** will follow up with Town Manager Michael Rock to determine FOSC’s authority to explore and apply for grants. **FOSC members** should make efforts to develop a relationship with Tom Gandesbery, who works with the Coastal Conservancy. Coastal Conservancy is beginning to have funds available for acquisition of Open Space lands again. Ryan also raised the issue of a sales tax to support open space, which we should also explore.
- 14. Update regarding 680 Trail Issues – trail is not in Fairfax and FOSC involvement in this issue is limited.
- 15. Update on action items from 3-23-10 meeting - Already discussed, above.
- 16. General Update on Miscellaneous Issues, including EcoFest – Members decided to participate in EcoFest, but not Fairfax parade this year. We will need to address what else besides t-shirts we want to sell and the quantities at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned.