



## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Peri Park Picnic Tables next to 16 Park Road, Fairfax

Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 7:00 PM

(if it is raining, the meeting will move to the Volunteers' Office  
in the back of the Youth Community Center at 16 Park Road)

#### **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:**

Mimi Newton - Chair

Michael Ardito

Denise Ferry

Ted Bright

Ruth Horn

Barbara Coler

Jack Judkins

Niccolo Caldararo

Ryan O'Neil – Co-Chair

Helen Fauss

Jane Richardson-Mack

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Mimi, Michael, Barbara, Helen, Denny, Ruth, Jack, Ryan, Jane

Guests: David Smadbeck, local realtor and Fairfax resident; Ralph Mihan, Marin Open Space Trust (“MOST”) Secretary and former acquisitions attorney with Nat'l Park Service and Dept. of Interior; Bill Long, Chair of MOST's Board; Michael Rock, Town Manager; Pamela Meigs, Planning Commission Member and Fairfax resident.

#### 2. Acquisitions Subcommittee update and action items regarding Ross Property – Helen, Jack, Jane, Ruth

Helen indicated that she wants to work on developing a road map for acquiring the property. She is staying in close contact with Katie (Kat?) in Hal Brown's Office about keeping Hal in the loop and seeing if he might be able to talk with Sharon McNamee, who chairs the County Open Space District, about whether the County might be interested in playing a larger role in the acquisition of the Ross Property.

A question arises as to whether the Town of Fairfax will be able to take over management of the property. If the County accepts the idea of managing the property, Michael Rock recommends we ask the Council on May 6 if that is their preference as well.

Helen also provided information on the acquisition of the Egger Grove, where we used funds from the Tides Foundation and the Town Council, and there were tax breaks for the owner. We will want to contact the Tides Foundation and identify other possible grant opportunities. We are also thinking of including outreach to the Community both in the neighborhood of the Ross property and throughout Fairfax.

Jack indicates that Ben Ross is paying interest only and the note comes due sometime in May. It has already been extended for a year once. The other complicating factor is that a lot of State grant opportunities have dried up right now.

Barbara discusses her ideas regarding asking the Marin Community Foundation since they also have environmental and open space funds.

David Smadbeck asks whether the plans for building a house had been approved and Pam indicates they had not.

A general discussion is had regarding ownership. MOST is able to hold land as well.

We discussed waiting to do outreach until we have a negotiated deal in hand.

David Smadbeck agrees to do some investigating pro bono on our behalf and will look into doing a title search and other things and will come back to us with his report.

We may want to invite Hal Brown and others to look at the property with us.

Jack will talk with Ben Ross soon and tell him we are starting to move forward and make some progress.

Michael will reach out to his contacts at the Marin Community Foundation and get back to us in a few days.

When we get into negotiations, we will have to bring in the Town's attorney.

3. Discussion with Town Manager regarding FOSC Budget – Michael Rock  
Michael raised concerns similar to those raised in our meeting in November about our bank account. Michael is not opposed to asking the Town Council to give us the authority to manage our account separately from the Town's funds.

4. T-shirts design – Mimi, Jane

By this point in the evening, our quorum had disappeared. Jane and Mimi will come back to the Committee at the regular meeting in April with additional design options.

5. General Update on Miscellaneous Issues - Mimi

6. Open time for public expression