



**MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

16 Park Road, Fairfax

May 24, 2011

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Mimi Newton – Chair ✓	
✓Michael Ardito	Jacob Feickert✓
Ted Bright	Ruth Horn✓
✓Barbara Coler	Jack Judkins-Co-Chair✓
Chelsea Donovan	Linda Novy✓
✓Jolie Egert	Ryan O’Neil✓

1. April minutes approved; FOSC attendees – Mimi, Michael, Barbara, Jolie, Jacob, Ruth, Jack, Linda, Ryan.

2. Update, discussion and possible action regarding request from Ben Ross for recommendation to Town Council by Open Space Committee regarding possible donation of undeveloped land on Toyon Road as dedicated open space to assist with efforts to market the property. Mimi sent the minutes of June 4th 2008 City Council to Margo that said the city has approved the Ben Ross property as a high priority for acquisition. Margo is worried that she is going to find a donor and she is going to get caught up in the new city council politics. FOSC told Margo that FOSC would support a donation of all the property to the city when she provides a specific proposal.

3. Update regarding hike on Friday May 20 to Egger Grove and Ben Ross properties.

This property is rich in diversity and is an ecotone between redwood forest and riparian habitats. There was discussion about the possible rare plant that was identified on site. Jolie is not sure whether it is *Amorpha californica* variety *napensis* (rare) or *Amorpha californica* variety *californica* (not rare). **Action item:** Jolie will follow up and determine if it was the rare variety. Jolie will work with Marin Chapter of CNPS to do a hike on the property to begin compiling a plant list for the site and have available on the web.

4. Berg property:

Barbara got the AG’s office to look at the legal case, but they indicated the issues are too fact-specific for their office to get involved with respect to filing an *amicus* brief. Jack contacted the following agencies to see if they might have an interest in filing a “friend of the court (*amicus*)” brief in the case supporting the Town’s position: California Coalition of Land Trusts; State Attorney General’s Office and League of California Cities. Information on what to provide and who to contact were passed on to the town’s appellate attorney.

5. Iron Spring Fundraiser:

We got \$331 from the fundraiser from Iron Springs, the City cashed it but it was not put into our account. **Action Item:** Ryan to follow up with Laurie Ashley Ireland.

6. Business Cards: FOSC voted to approve generic cards with the mission statement printed on the back.

7. Ecofest: Discussion and action regarding participation of FOSC in Fairfax Ecofest and Movie Night in the Park, Friday June 10th. **Action item:** Mimi will organize.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Councilman Weinsoff’s request for feedback on the idea of growing community gardens in open space. Group discussed the idea of having community gathering grounds where people can gather wild edible and medicinal plants in exchange for restoration efforts. There are currently no public lands in Marin where people can gather foods or medicines. FOSC should draw up a

detailed proposal that includes a botanical inventory of resources on the land. This could be a great opportunity to combine community restoration, research and education. There was interest to start with Bay Nut harvesting and truffles. **Action Item:** Jolie, Linda and Mimi to form a subcommittee to look into local nut harvests.

9. Discussion regarding efforts to identify grant opportunities for open space acquisition or other management activities. Jack, Mimi, Michael & Jolie are on the fundraising subcommittee.

10. Update and discussion regarding draft Rules of Use for Open Space. Moved to agenda for next month.

11. Update and discussion regarding Open Space acquisition criteria. Jack sent Criteria, staff recommendation and Town resolution to adopt criteria to Michael Rock but has not heard anything. **Action Item:** Jack will follow up.

12. Update and discussion regarding Marin County Open Space District's development of Road and Trail Management Plan. June 18th is the meeting of MCOSD. Many groups are concerned that EIRs from former studies be respected and adhered. Linda will get back to us about this. This includes the bike race issues that were brought up by Martha. **Action Item: Linda will go to meeting and report back to FOSC.** Agendize for next meeting.

13. Update, discussion and possible action regarding latest research and analysis of urban wildlands interface issues and status of San Anselmo Open Space Committee efforts to work with Ross Valley Fire Dept. regarding same. We don't think the fire department is actually going to enforce the rules because it would require too many trees be cut. We need real information and not just rumors. **Action Item:** Ryan will invite the Fire Chief to the Tree Committee meeting and will invite FOSC members to meeting.

14. Update, discussion and possible action re: upcoming hearing on appeal of Camp Tamarancho Cell Tower decision by County. FOSC members encouraged to attend hearing if possible.

15. Update, discussion and possible action re: story poles at former Albertsons location (proposed new location for the Good Earth at Fair-Anselm). Moot issue; the plan was approved by the planning commission.

16. Update re: Jolly Hill access easement negotiations. Agendize for next meeting.

17. Update and discussion regarding proposed FOSC budget. Mimi not getting info from Laurie. **Action Item:** Ryan will follow-up with Laurie.

18. Review of Action Items from April minutes and Committee member comments and requests. Agendize fundraising issues for next meeting; ask Larry Bragman and Frank Egger about fundraising ideas.

Open time for public expression.