



MINUTES
REGULAR FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING
16 Park Road / Community Center, Fairfax, CA 94930
Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Fairfax Open Space Members:

Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary	Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary
Chris Borjian	Jack Judkins, Vice Chair
Charles Cornwell, Treasurer	Susan Pascal Beran, Chair
Chance Cutrano	Dahlia Siegel-Zigmund, Youth Member (ex officio)

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Susan Pascal Beran, Chair. All members were present and there was a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Agenda for July 23, 2019.** The agenda was adjusted to meet with Fairfax Planning Department Director Ben Berto as early as possible when he arrives.
- 3. 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.
- 4. FOSC Continuing Business** (updates, discussion and possible action on: Spring Lane properties near Sky Ranch; Victory Village; Marinda Heights/Wall property; 200 Toyon Drive). We were informed that the Request for Proposal for the Environmental Impact Report for the Marinda Heights project will be posted in the next few days by the Town of Fairfax. The consultants will be chosen in the next two months. Then the scoping session will begin. That is when the public can provide input. This item will be continued to the next meeting. Regarding the 200 Toyon property, Susan Pascal Beran reported that babies of the northern spotted owl were recently photographed about a tenth of a mile from the property. This may require a CEQA determination.
- 5. Report from FOSC Subcommittee meeting with Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice** on July 22 (discussion and possible action). Susan, Jack and Chance with former Fairfax Councilmember Larry Bragman went to look at the Victory Village parcels prior to the meeting with Supervisor Rice about some open space issues regarding the senior housing project. The “Joan Baez” amphitheater and basketball court still existed behind the current building project.
- 6. FOSC meeting with Fairfax Town Planning Department Director Ben Berto** to discuss objective standards and new laws regarding building / development (discussion and possible action). Director Ben Berto talked about project review of undeveloped land and Planned Development Districts (PDDs). He talked about the impact to current objective standards under the recent State statutes from legislation such as SB 35 and the Housing Accountability Act (HAA). State authority has usurped local control. The Bay Area is “ground zero” for the housing shortage. The Town can only reduce density based upon a preponderance of adverse effects upon public health and safety. There is an expedited approval timetable for housing projects. This makes it more difficult to deny proposed development. If, however, there are specific standards with which a project must comply (“objective standards”) then the town could deny a project. These specific standards must be “universally verifiable.” Denying a project proposal without identifying specific standards with which the project did not comply could result in monetary fines if a municipality did not act in “good faith” when assessing a project proposal. FOSC will continue to work with the Town to identify and develop quantifiable / universally accepted objective standards to protect priority conservation areas, ridgelines, and other open space. Among other issues, we talked about slope stability, objective and subjective standards for ridgelines, and visually significant areas from the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard corridor. We were told the County is developing a guidance for objective standards.

FOSC will put our Town General Plan and Objectives on the next agenda. On another note, Ben Berto stated that the Town will be digitizing the old General Management Plan maps and hire a GIS person to tie these maps to the physical data points. This is to happen within the next three months.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** Charles Cornwell reported that FOSC received its \$1500 refund from the Fairfax Ecofest for co-sponsorship of the commemorative cups. Charles reported that the FOSC financial account has \$40,144.35. We also have Measure A Funds that the Town is holding for us including the recent \$13,000 appropriation for this fiscal year.
8. **Report from Give Back Tuesday at Fairfax Iron Springs** on June 18 (discussion and possible action). FOSC is awaiting the check from Iron Springs for this recent event. It appeared that there was a fairly good turnout of FOSC supporters that day.
9. **Application to participate in annual Biketoberfest on Oct. 12** (discussion and possible action). FOSC requested that Chris Borjian contact Tom Boss of the Marin Bicycle Coalition to ask if FOSC can receive a reduced fee for non-profit (such as \$100 like last year) for our information booth space at Biketoberfest. We voted approval to allow Chance Cutrano to use and run the FOSC film projector for a Fairfax Volunteers event in exchange for Fairfax Volunteers to loan us a tent to use for our booth at Biketoberfest. Susan Pascal Beran and Charles Cornwell will coordinate with Town Finance Director Michael Vivrette to send a check with our Biketoberfest application.
10. **Upcoming events:** Benefit Concert on Sept. 7; Town Picnic on Sept. 15 (discussion and possible action)
11. **Update about FOSC and Town Website** (discussion and possible action): Chance Cutrano had nothing new to report.
12. **FOSC Outreach, Merchandise and Web Activities** (discussion and possible action). Chair Susan Pascal Beran proposed using FOSC water bottles (there are plenty in stock) as part of the Oak Manor homeowners' "welcome package" to new residents. This proposal was approved by FOSC members.
13. **FOSC Outreach to Fairfax Volunteers / Creek Cleanup on July 27:** Chance Cutrano reported this activity will begin at 10 a.m. at the Fairfax Community Center. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. (Please see agenda item number 9: The volunteers will be doing a film night and they requested to use the FOSC projector. FOSC voted approval to do this and in exchange FOSC will be able to use a Fairfax Volunteers tent for FOSC to use during the Biketoberfest.) There will be a Fire Wise Community meeting at the Women's Club on Sunday, July 28 at 11 a.m. There will be a discussion about vegetation management. The Fairfax Chipper Days have been successful.
14. **Reports from FOSC Committees and Subcommittees:** None
15. **Reports of activities from partner agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Bay Area Open Space Council; Marin Open Space Commission: FOSC representatives
16. **County tax delinquent properties auction** (discussion and possible action): Ruth Horn and Jack Judkins met to discuss this matter and they will continue to pursue this to see if any auction properties need to be referred to the Fairfax Town Council for open space purchase.
17. **Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes.** The June 25, 2019 meeting minutes and May 28, 2019 meeting notes (no quorum) were approved. Other missing FOSC minutes are being postponed to another meeting.
18. **Quorum check and agenda for special FOSC meeting with SAOSC** on Wed., Aug. 21, 2019. It appears that FOSC will have quorum.
19. **FOSC Members Expressions:** Three FOSC members did not receive the commemorative cups from last month's Ecofest that had the FOSC logo. Jack Judkins will follow up. Ruth Horn mentioned that goats are being used to eat vegetation on the Upper Ridgeway Trail and requested that this be an agenda item for the combined meeting with SAOSC on August 21. Also, it was reported that an Oak Springs developable property is for sale near the Hawthorn Canyon Open Space in San Anselmo.
20. **Adjournment** was at approximately 9:40 p.m.