



MINUTES
REGULAR FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING
16 Park Road / Community Center, Fairfax, CA 94930
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 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)
Brad Handel	

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Jack Judkins, Vice Chair called the meeting to order about 7:20 when a quorum of members was reached.
Members Present: Michael Ardito, Chris Borjian, Chance Cutrano, Ruth Horn, Jack Judkins.
Members Absent: Charles Cornwell, Brad Handel, Susan Pascal Beran, Dahlia Siegel-Zigmund
- 2. Approval of Agenda for January 28, 2020.** The agenda was approved with the change to move agenda item #15 moved up for earlier discussion during the appearance of Town Council member / FOSC liaison Barbara Coler regarding the consideration of expansion of FOSC membership. It was decided not to pursue this option at this time with apparently only one new application for membership in the near future. Michael Ardito suggested creating an informal “Friends of FOSC” to include former members, potential new members and those interested in helping FOSC with busy events.
- 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.*) Today’s guests included (1) Jonathan Sicroff (potential new member) and (2) Lynn and Bruce McDermott to speak about the agenda item regarding 200 Toyon / Ben Ross property.
- 4. FOSC Continuing Business** (updates, discussion and possible action on): (a) *Spring Lane properties near Sky Ranch:* Jack Judkins has been in communication with Town officials (particularly Mark Locaby) about sending the letter drafted by FOSC to the nearby residents regarding the removal of the “no access” sign on the Spring Lane “paper road.” Also, there is no news reported about the potential sale of properties formerly owned by the late Hal Lezzeni. (b) *Victory Village:* The construction of the senior citizen housing is progressing towards completion with a project opening in April 2020. Residential applications will be accepted as soon as February 15 with openings for Section 8 chronically homeless individuals. FOSC will invite members of Marin Open Space Trust (MOST) to our February meeting regarding potential help with funding for an open space purchase at this site. (c) *Marinda Heights/Wall property:* The “holding pattern” and delayed selection of a contractor to conduct the required Environmental Impact Study, is reportedly due to property owner Marshall Rothman’s objections to the \$650,000 estimated cost of the EIR. (d) *200 Toyon Drive / Ben Ross property:* FOSC guests Lynn and Bruce McDermott reported that they learned Fairfax Town Planner Linda Neal recently sent a letter to Ben Ross regarding the seriousness and penalties for removal of the endangered Napa false indigo plant from his property. The McDermotts will forward to FOSC Secretary Michael Ardito an electronic copy of the Town’s letter provided to them. Ardito will forward the letter to FOSC members. This item will be placed on the agenda for next month and the property’s appraisal value be researched. Ruth Horn requests that MOST member David Hansen also be invited to our next meeting regarding this property. (e) *Property for sale near Hawthorne Canyon Open Space in San Anselmo.* There is no news about completion of the Environmental Impact Study for this property.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Charles Cornwell. With the absence of the treasurer this item was postponed to the next meeting.
6. **FOSC Outreach, Merchandise and Nature Walks** (discussion and possible action). Michael Ardito today belatedly provided the contact information to Chair Susan Pascal Beran regarding nature walk leader Nick Nutu. Chance Cutrano and Brad Handel met regarding FOSC social media account thru Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. There is interest in FOSC resurrecting a newsletter. Meanwhile, Chance as FOSC liaison to Fairfax Volunteers has been working with placing FOSC items in the Town's electronic newsletter.
7. **Review of Assignments and Reports from FOSC Committees and Subcommittees.** This item was postponed to the future orientation meeting with new FOSC members.
8. **Broom pulls and stewardship projects for 2020** (discussion and possible actions): Michael Ardito reported that Marin County Park and Open Space is holding an annual Sky Ranch / Bald Hill broom pull on Saturday, February 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
9. **Open Space Fuel Loads and Fire Safe Marin** (discussion and possible action): Susan Pascal Beran was absent for today's meeting so this item was postponed to the next meeting.
10. **New Housing Accountability Laws (and Impacts on Open Space):** Jack Judkins reported that California cities and towns because of SB 330 "The Housing Crisis Act of 2019" can no longer deny housing development for subjective reasons. The permit process is now easier for single-family and multi-family dwellings as well as accessory units. Chance Cutrano talked with Town Planning Director Ben Berto and asked about possible FOSC roles for guidance with developing objective Open Space standards that are not subjective. FOSC members asked if the California League of Cities has developed guidance.
11. **Concept to Amend General Plan Land Use Designations and Rezoning Town Owned Open Space** (discussion and possible action). The San Anselmo Town Council was able to do this last year as we learned at our combined FOSC meeting / picnic dinner with San Anselmo Open Space Committee last August.
12. **Reports of activities from partner agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Bay Area Open Space Council; Marin Open Space Commission. Michael Ardito reported that the Bay Area Open Space Council has reorganized and has forwarded an electronic newsletter to FOSC members.
13. **Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes and Notes from previous meetings** (discussion and possible action): Michael Ardito. The FOSC meeting minutes for October 15, 2019 were approved for finalization and posting. Approval of the meeting minutes for December 3, 2019, provided earlier today, will be postponed to the February meeting of FOSC.
14. **FOSC 2020 Calendar with Quorum Check** and Agendas for Next FOSC meetings (discussion and possible action). It appeared that there will be a quorum for the next FOSC meeting on February 25.
15. **Consideration of Expansion for FOSC Membership and Orientation for New Members** (discussion and possible action): Please agenda item #2.
16. **FOSC Members Expressions.** (1) Chance Cutrano reported that Fairfax Volunteers have announced an all-town Committees / Commissions "Give Back Tuesday" fundraiser at Iron Springs on Tuesday, February 18. (2) Jack Judkins, Chance Cutrano and Chris Borjian have been working for at least a year on continuing Priority Conservation Area (PCA) and Open Space designations in Fairfax. (3) Jack Judkins has talked with Liz Clark at the County Tax office regarding auction properties and will also follow-up with Roy Givens. (4) There were questions about the history of the Cascade Canyon Open Space. (5) Ruth Horn mentioned owl boxes are being provided from Sonoma County organizations.
17. **Adjournment** was about 9:00 p.m.