



**MINUTES**  
**FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 7 p.m.**  
**By Teleconference and Videoconference Only**

**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	Jonathan Sicroff
Brad Handel	

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) ADVISORY NOTICE**

Consistent with State of California Executive Order Nos. N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the Marin County Public Health Officer's Orders directing residents to shelter at home, this meeting will be held via teleconference only. There will not be an in-person physical meeting location.

**Members of the public may watch, listen, and participate in the meeting as follows:**

**Watch on Zoom:** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3855568697>

Meeting ID: 385 556 8697

One tap mobile

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To speak during the public comment period, select the **Raise Hand icon** and you will be added to the speaker queue, and unmuted when it is your turn.

**Listen by telephone: dial \*67 (1-669) 900-9128.** At the prompt, enter **meeting ID 385 556 8697#**

To speak during the public comment period, **press \*9** and you will be added to the speaker queue, and unmuted when it is your turn.

**REGULAR MEETING** (Starts at 7 p.m.)

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Susan Pascal Beran, Chair

*Members present:* All

*Members absent:* None

**2. Approval of Agenda** and affidavit of posting. Approved.

**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.*). All guests were on the Zoom conference line to talk about posted agenda items except for a potential youth / student member applicant, Evan Brink, residing in Fairfax and a student at San Domenico School in San Anselmo. The following guests were on the line to talk about agenda items: Former Fairfax Councilmember Frank Egger; Fairfax Planning Commissioner and former FOOSC Chair Mimi Newton; Tree Committee member and FOOSC Ad Hoc Committee Member Kathy Flores; Tree Committee Member Deborah Lee Benson; Jean Paul Rose; Bruce and Lynn McDermott.

4. **FOSC Continuing Business** (updates, discussion and possible action on):
  - (a) **Spring Lane properties near Sky Ranch.** The saw horse with the “No Public Access to Open Space” sign was still placed across the paper road. Jack Judkins will reach out again to Town officials regarding the status of this situation;
  - (b) **Victory Village;** It was reported that due to the coronavirus shutdown, this project completion has been delayed and is still in construction.
  - (c): **Marinda Heights/Wall property;** The Town’s selection and award of the Environmental Impact Report for this proposed housing development is on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting on July 1. Marinda Drive resident Jean Paul Rose has been in contact with the developer, Marshall Rothman, who has offered to sell some of the open space on his property for an untold amount of money. A discussion proceeded about finding deep pockets to help with funding the purchase of open space properties in Fairfax. Entities mentioned included Marin Open Space Trust; Trust for Public Lands; Sierra Club; and Access for Bikes.
  - (d) **200 Toyon Drive / Ben Ross Property;** It was reported that the property is 10.8 acres and there was an asking price of \$699,000 at one time. Chance Cutrano sent Carl Somers at Marin County Parks and Open Space a Zillow ad with background about this property and the idea of possibly including and expanding this open space with “Pam’s Blue Ridge.” Chance will give us an update in July. Regarding the reparations for the destruction of the endangered Napa false indigo plants on the property, FOSC is seeking evidence from the property advisor from the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife with the Marin Municipal Water District that the proper funds were deposited by the property owner. Mimi Newton added that in regards to the nearby Northern spotted owl nesting, the Audubon Society can provide information to Marin County. Frank Egger reported that he just emailed FOSC members the 2019 California Natural Diversity Data Base Map for the Fairfax watersheds that includes observations and critical habitats of the Northern spotted owl. Frank, after the COVID-19 pandemic, wants to show FOSC members the Egger Grove with its endangered species.
  - (e) **Upper Ridgeway Trail;** Ruth Horn was asked to find out more details about planned future actions by the nearby property owners.
  - (f) **Sky Ranch / Bald Hill Preserve;** San Anselmo Open Space has reported that the owners from Asia are interested in selling the property, but due to building restrictions, so far there has not been any interest from potential purchasers.
  - (g) **Town information and interaction with FOSC.** Mimi Newton, former FOSC Chair and now member of the Fairfax Planning Commission has indicated there is a request to have a combined meeting between FOSC and the Planning Commission at its next meeting on July 16 regarding adoption of the “Data Map #9 for the Visual Resources” portion of the Fairfax General Plan. This may impact the preservation of ridgelines and scenic corridors. FOSC voted to approve a combined meeting on this topic for July 16.
5. **Concept to Amend General Plan Land Use Designations and Rezoning Town Owned Open Space** (discussion and possible action). Chance Cutrano and Kathy Flores reported back from their Subcommittee meeting. SB-35 went into effect on January 1, 2020. San Anselmo was able to rezone prior to the deadline, but Fairfax missed the boat “to everyone’s chagrin.” Some open space parks, including some downtown, are still zoned residential. Some parcels are in the Town’s three Priority Conservation Areas. Some parcels need to be re-classified. More information will be available at our next FOSC meeting. FOSC will be inviting Town Manager Garrett Toy to a FOSC meeting to discuss this and other matters.
6. **Review of Assignments and Reports from FOSC Committees / Subcommittees** (discussion and possible action). Nothing new to report.
7. **Treasurer’s Report.** Charles Cornwell reported that Town Finance Director Michael Vivrette indicated that PayPal funds have been transferred into the FOSC account making a balance of \$42,448.
8. **FOSC Outreach, Merchandise and Nature Walks** (discussion and possible action). Chance Cutrano reported that he will have small versions of the Fairfax open space maps printed and provided for new FOSC members. After printing, those maps can be picked up from Maria Baird at the Town.
9. **FOSC Calendar 2021 Fundraiser Proposal** (discussion and possible action): As in-person fundraisers are postponed until after the pandemic, Susan Pascal Beran proposed a 2021 calendar of

Marin open space and nature scenes to be a collaborative fundraiser with the San Anselmo Open Space Committee. FOSC voted approval for Susan to move forward with this fundraising project.

- 10. Discussion: New Housing Accountability Laws** (and Impacts on Open Space). This discussion was postponed to a future meeting.
- 11. Reports of activities from partner agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Together Bay Area; Marin Open Space Commission; Marin Conservation League: FOSC representatives (discussion and possible action). Michael Ardito reminded members that the Bay Area Open Space Council is now called “Together Bay Area.” No other new information.
- 12. Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes from previous meetings** (discussion and possible action): Michael Ardito had provided the minutes from the last in-person FOSC meeting held on February 28, 2020. Those minutes were approved. The approval of the minutes for FOSC’s first Zoom meeting held on June 1, 2020 was postponed to the next meeting in July.
- 13. FOSC 2020 Calendar Updates, Quorum Checks, Agendas, Format/Location for Next and Future FOSC Meetings This Year** (discussion and possible action). It appears that all members will be available on July 28 for the next FOSC meeting -- except for Brad Handel so there should be a quorum. Also, it appears FOSC will have a quorum of members available for the special FOSC meeting to be held with the Fairfax Planning Commission on July 16.
- 14. Appointment of New Youth Member** (discussion and action). Sophie Taubman, a student at Sir Francis Drake High School, applied for a youth member position and was interviewed via Zoom by a FOSC interview panel on June 4. After attending the required full meeting of FOSC just now, she was then appointed by FOSC to the youth member position until June 2021.
- 15. Adjournment** was at approximately 9:30 p.m.