



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7 p.m.
By Teleconference and Videoconference Only

Fairfax Open Space Members:

Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary	Jack Judkins, Vice Chair
Chris Borjjan	Susan Pascal Beran, Chair
Chance Cutrano	Jonathan Sicroff
Brad Handel	Sophie Taubman, Youth Member (ex officio)
Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary	

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

Password: 097432

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.

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REGULAR MEETING (Starts at 7 p.m.)

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

Members Present: Michael Ardito, Chris Borjjan, Chance Cutrano, Ruth Horn, Jack Judkins, Susan Pascal Beran, Jonathan Sicroff, Sophie Taubman (youth member); **Quorum**

Member Absent: Brad Handel

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.*) None. Zoom guests included Town Council Member and FOSC Liaison Barbara Coler, Fairfax Planning Commissioner Michele Rodriguez, former Town Mayor Frank Egger, former FOSC member Pamela Meigs, Tree Committee Member Deborah Lee Benson, Tree Committee Member Kathy Flores and Ed Tilton, Fairfax resident Ellie Cummings.

4. **FOSC Continuing Business** (updates, discussion and possible action on): (a) **Spring Lane properties near Sky Ranch**: Jack Judkins mentioned this issue to Town Manager Garrett Toy at the recent Measure A Funding Committee meeting. Jack will send Barbara Coler an electronic copy of the FOSC draft letter to the homeowners. Michael Ardito reported that this week he visited the site and the saw horse had been moved from across the center of the paper road over to the side; (b) **Victory Village**: Barbara Coler reported that it is now open and people are moving in. Jack Judkins mentioned that there is a designated public access to the back parcel; (c): **Marinda Heights/Wall property**: The Environmental Impact Report has been assigned to Ascent Environmental, Inc. In addition to Marin Open Space Trust, Chance has talked with Trust for Public Lands about this property. We do not have a current appraisal for the approximate 80 acres of open space as a portion of the 100-approximate acres in this property. Mr. Marshal Rothman has estimated the asking price to be \$3 to \$4 million for the open space portion. (d) **200 Toyon Drive / Ben Ross Property**: Chance Cutrano contacted Carl Somers at the Marin County Parks and Open Space who expressed less interest (compared with potentially other open spaces) to help us purchase open space at the Ben Ross property – even to expand open space to Pam’s Blue Ridge. Susan Pascal Beran has made some calls regarding the Northern spotted owl survey. (e) **Upper Ridgeway Trail**: no new information as Ruth Horn is continuing to reach out to stakeholders; (f) **Sky Ranch / Bald Hill Preserve**: no updates and this item will remain on the agenda through August and then possibly removed. (g) **Town information and interaction with FOSC**: nothing new for this meeting.
5. **Concept to Amend General Plan Land Use Designations and Rezoning Town Owned Open Space** (discussion and possible action). Chance Cutrano and Kathy Flores (ex officio subcommittee member) conducted an inventory of Town-owned parcels. Cutrano wants to contact some other stakeholders. He will talk with Town Manager Garrett Toy prior to our meeting with him on August 25. Town Council Member Barbara Coler brought this issue to the Town Council last year. She reminded everyone that now if the Town “down zones” certain properties, the Town must “up zone” other properties.
6. **Review of Combined FOSC Meeting with Fairfax Planning Commission on July 16, 2020** (discussion and possible action). Jack Judkins acted as FOSC chair for the joint meeting with the Planning Commission regarding the Visual Resources map. The map #9 in the 1974 Town General Plan was moved into the updated 2010 General Plan with a different name. After the combined meeting, the Planning Commission desired to digitize the map, but retain the map identification. Planning Commissioner Rodriguez stated that there was some ambiguity about the center of ridgelines in the protection ordinance. Councilmember Coler reported that four General Plan amendments can be made each year.
7. **FOSC Proposed Ordinance on Sale Notifications for Fairfax Open Space parcels** (discussion and possible action). This task was assigned to the FOSC Acquisitions Subcommittee. Jack Judkins reminded us that the Town has identified Priority Conservation Areas for the Association of Bay Area Governments. Fairfax sent letters to owners of the PCAs circa 2010 regarding notification protocols for proposed development on those properties.
8. **Cascade Canyon Bridges by Marin County Open Space District** (discussion and possible action) – Christopher Borjian thought there would be more complexity to this, but discovered that the process to place bridges for bicycles to cross over the creek in the Elliott Preserve is already under environmental review this summer and that construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2021.
9. **Preparations for Proposed FOSC Meeting with Town Manager** (discussion and possible action). Chance Cutrano volunteered to notify Town Manager Garrett Toy in advance of the meeting.
10. **Cancellation of Annual Combined Meeting with San Anselmo Open Space** (discussion and possible action). In lieu of this cancelled meeting, we will invite Jonathan Braun of the SAOSC to join us at our next regular Zoom meeting.
11. **Resignation of FOSC Treasurer Charles Cornwell and Selection of New Treasurer** (discussion and possible action). Chance Cutrano was unanimously elected as the new FOSC Treasurer, at least temporarily.

- 12. Assignments and Reports from FOSC Committees / Subcommittees** (discussion and possible action). None.
- 13. FOSC Outreach, Merchandise and Nature Walks** (discussion and possible action). Chance reported that a FOSC T-shirt has recently been sold.
- 14. FOSC Calendar 2021 and Exhibit Fundraiser Proposal** (discussion and possible action): Susan Pascal Beran reported that former FOSC member Martha Ture is helping to set up this project. Artist submittals with amazing photographs are requested to be submitted by August 31. Participating artists will receive 50 percent of the proceeds along with the online exhibit to be on Marin TV. This outreach fundraiser also will be pitched to the SAOSC to receive 50 percent of the profits from sales. Jonathan Sicroff requested that the calendars be ready prior to Thanksgiving so holiday gift purchases can be tapped into for better sales. Sophie Taubman mentioned she is good with graphic design and could help in that way. Jack Judkins mentioned that Marin would have a nature and wildlands calendar with the title “Wonderfully Wild Marin.”
- 15. Discussion: New Housing Accountability Laws** (and Impacts on Open Space). This item was taken off the agenda for August.
- 16. Tax Default Open Space Properties in Fairfax** (discussion and possible action). Jack Judkins has called Roy Gibbons at the County Tax Assessors’ office. This item was deferred to the August FOSC meeting.
- 17. 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 reported that One Tam (collaborative with federal, state, county agencies and MMWD lands on the Mt. Tam watershed) will hold a series of online workshops each Thursday morning this October from 9 a.m. to noon. He will send reminders to FOSC members interested in registering and participating.
- 18. Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes from previous meetings** (discussion and possible action): Michael Ardito had provided draft minutes for the special June 1 and regular June 23 FOSC meetings. The June 1 minutes were approved. The June 23 minutes are being postponed for approval at the August 25 meeting to allow more time for FOSC member review.
- 19. FOSC 2020 Calendar Updates, Quorum Checks, Agendas, Format for Next and Future FOSC Meetings This Year** (discussion and possible action). It appears FOSC will have a quorum for the August meeting.
- 20. Adjournment** was at 9:10 p.m.