



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 7 p.m.
By Teleconference and Videoconference Only

Fairfax Open Space Members:

Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary	Jack Judkins, Vice Chair
Chris Borjian	Susan Pascal Beran, Chair
Chance Cutrano, Treasurer	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

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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 Borjian, 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.** Guests included: Town Manager Garrett Toy, San Anselmo Open Space Co-Chair Jonathan Braun, former Town Mayor

Frank Egger, former FOSC member Pamela Meigs, Bruce and Lynn McDermott, Mitch and Kristine Levine, Richard Bodony.

4. **FOSC Continuing Business** (updates, discussion and possible action on): **(a) Spring Lane properties near Sky Ranch;** Councilmember / FOSC liaison Barbara Coler with Jack Judkins worked with Planning Department's Linda Neal to move forward in contacting the residents to make sure that the paper road will continue to provide public access to Sky Ranch. Jack Judkins will accompany someone from the Town up there to verify. **(b) Victory Village;** Regarding the 18 acres of open space, Marin County has extended its loan to Resources for Community Development to allow completion of Victory Village. Chance Cutrano talked with RCD's Adam Levine and \$1 million is still owed. At this time the two 9-acre open space lots behind Victory Village are still on the market for \$500,000 each. A motion was passed for FOSC representatives to meet with Supervisor Katie Rice and Carl Somers of the Marin County Parks and Open Space to reaffirm FOSC interest in pursuing purchase of at least one of the parcels for open space. **(c) Marinda Heights/Wall property;** Town Manager Garrett Toy said the property owner / developer has not yet started on the Environmental Impact Study. It was reported that the Trust for Public Land has visited the property and hopes to explore options. **(d) 200 Toyon Drive / Ben Ross Property;** It was reported that the property is on the market for \$600K and the owner received permission to build. Meanwhile, Point Blue is working on an update to its owl survey. Mr. Bodony on Toyon Drive reported he has had three recent sightings of the owls with one photo taken about 10 feet away. As a reminder, construction is not allowed during Northern spotted owl nesting season. **(e) Upper Ridgeway Trail;** Ruth Horn and Susan Pascal Beran are still planning to visit the property. Ruth reported there are questions about saving the tax-default auction properties in the Upper Ridgeway area near the Hawthorne Canyon Open Space Preserve. Several members and guests asked if the County may be able to chip in some funds for a purchase. Chris Borjian reminded everyone that if the County has primary financial interest the County would be responsible for maintenance. **(f) Sky Ranch / Bald Hill Preserve;** SAOSC Co-Chair Jonathan Braun reported no news. **(g) Town information and interaction with FOSC:** Regarding the FOSC Treasurer's report with information received from Town Financial Manager Michael Vivrette, a motion was passed to have quarterly rather than monthly reports made by the FOSC.
5. **Concept to Amend General Plan Land Use Designations and Rezoning Town Owned Open Space** (discussion and possible action). Of the 50 to 60 open space parcels owned by the Town, about 20 are already in the public domain and already zoned as open space. Garrett Toy reported the others should have been "cleaned up" or designated as open space when the Town's General Plan was updated in 2010-12. However, the state restrictions in effect on January 1, 2020 for down-sizing under SB 330 will expire in five years. Also, there will be an opportunity to include the open space designations when the General Plan's land use zoning is revised in a few years. The Open Space Committee will revisit this item at a later date when appropriate. Guest caller Frank Egger reminded everyone that the Elliott Park Reserve received a state grant.
6. **FOSC Proposed Ordinance on Sale Notifications for Fairfax Open Space parcels** (discussion and possible action). Letters were sent to land owners regarding this issue about a decade ago. FOSC decided to take this item off the agenda for now.
7. **General Open Space Issues with Fairfax Town Manager Garrett Toy** (discussions; no actions). Inclusion of the Town Manager in some FOSC meetings was deemed valuable. FOSC decided to invite the Town Manager at least once or twice a year.
8. **Cancellation of Annual Combined Meeting with San Anselmo Open Space** (discussion and possible action). Earlier in the meeting SAOSC Co-Chair Jonathan Braun provided a verbal report of highlights over the last year in lieu of our regular annual combined meeting that was cancelled due to the coronavirus. Braun reported that San Anselmo and SAOSC picked four downtown bridges for right-of-way signs. Also, five other locations were selected for new trail signage due to trail management issues, particularly with mountain bikers – including at Red Hill and Memorial Hill. For example, the Red Hill trail was relatively new and did not have historic use – and bikes were not allowed. However, vandals removed the signs that need to be replaced.

- 9. Assignments and Reports from FOSC Committees / Subcommittees** (discussion and possible action). Jonathan Sicroff proposed a motion which was passed to have the Acquisitions Subcommittee get together, assess and prioritize which of the possible acquisition properties to pursue for purchase and to return next meeting to the full FOSC with a recommendation.
- 10. FOSC Calendar 2021 and Exhibit Fundraiser Proposal** (discussion and possible action): Susan Pascal Beran reported that she met with SAOSC and they agreed to collaborate with FOSC for the calendar fundraising project. The online artist exhibit will be kept separate from the calendar sales. The number of calendars to be printed will be 750. Fairfax and San Anselmo will each receive 375 copies to sell. The open space / wildlife calendar will have 20 photos printed on 12" by 18" paper that will be folded to 12" by 9" pages. FOSC and SAOSC would each contribute \$1,335 for the calendar production. FOSC voted to approve the \$1,335 expense.
- 11. FOSC Outreach, Merchandise and Nature Walks** (discussion and possible action). Chance Cutrano has reached out to nature hike guide Nick Nutu about social distancing walks on a donation basis.
- 12. Tax Default Open Space Properties in Fairfax** (discussion and possible action). This item will be folded into future Acquisitions Subcommittee meetings and reports.
- 13. 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 the Together Bay Area (Open Space Council) annual conference will be a two-day Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 1 and Friday, October 2. Ardito is already committed to participate in the five Thursday morning sessions with One Tam. So he invited any interested FOSC members to sign up for the Together Bay Area conference. Scholarship or reimbursements may be available from FOSC for interested FOSC member(s). He will forward additional information.
- 14. Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes from previous meetings** (discussion and possible action): Michael Ardito presented a second reading of the June 23, 2020 FOSC minutes which were approved for finalization and posting. Several minor corrections were made to the draft FOSC minutes for the July 28, 2020 meeting.
- 15. FOSC 2020 Calendar Updates, Quorum Checks, Agendas, Format for Next and Future FOSC Meetings This Year** (discussion and possible action). Due to several Zoom technical issues, it was decided to better manage the meetings via Zoom. Due to the length of this meeting, it was requested to reduce the number of agenda items and not repeat issues already discussed and exhausted for determinations.
- 16. Adjournment** was at approximately 9:45 p.m.