



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 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
Heather Duplaisir	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:

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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.

Agenda Preamble / Land Acknowledgement: *The Fairfax Open Space Committee acknowledges that we are located on the un-ceded ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok people of present-day Marin County. We honor with gratitude the land itself and all of its ancestors: past, present and emerging.*

REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Susan Pascal Beran, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:13 after Zoom meeting technical issues were resolved.
Members Present: Michael Ardito, Chris Borjian, Heather Duplaisir, Ruth Horn, Jack Judkins, Susan Pascal Beran, Jonathan Sicroff, Sophie Taubman (youth member)
Member Absent: Brad Handel
Guests included: Chance Cutrano (Town Council liaison), Stephanie Hellman, Deborah Benson, Diego Gonzalez, Martha Ture, George Osner,
- 2. Welcome to New FOSC Member:** Heather Duplaisir, the recently appointed member, introduced herself to the group.
- 3. Approval of Agenda and affidavit of posting.** The agenda was approved for tonight's meeting. It was posted on the Town's website the previous Friday, March 19, 2021.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Update Report: FOSC Wonderfully Wild Marin Fundraiser** (discussion and possible action). Martha Ture and George Osner offered their photos for the 2022 calendar project.
- 6. Update on Proposal for Photo Survey of Existent Open Space Lands** and Environmentally Sensitive or Priority Acquisition Lands (discussion and possible action). Susan provided a write-up for the photographic survey. Some photos from Martha Ture, former FOSC member and George Osner (a town planner and biologist) photos may be used for this project too. Susan's proposal: "Create a photographic survey of the flora and fauna of open space lands under consideration for acquisition. Priorities would be based upon the criteria and analysis done by the Acquisitions Subcommittee. This survey would be done by members of the public under the direction of FOSC (defining parameters surrounding each area's geographical characteristics, land ownership considerations, respect for the natural environment, and subjects of interest and/or concerns.). FOSC will work to research potential sources of funding such as grants, to equitably recompense photographers for significant contributions to this effort. Additionally, the photos created would be promoted online, in exhibits, and be considered for use in future calendars and other such fundraising efforts. The goal would be to create greater understanding of the different biotics of each area in order to help in better stewardship. The information garnered from this, along with bioblitz / enaturalist endeavors would help us in documenting the rich and sensitive biodiversity of this area and to advocate more effectively for it."
- 7. Treasurer's Report and Selection of New FOSC Treasurer** (discussion and possible action). Jack Judkins temporarily has the FOSC Treasurer's ledger, stamp and cashbox from former member and treasurer Charles Cornwell. Susan Pascal Beran reported that Town Finance Director Michael Vivrette reported FOSC has \$70,000 in Measure A funds.
- 8. Cascade Canyon Bridges** (discussion and possible action): Chris Borjian announced that the public comment period to the Marin County Parks and Open Space regarding the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed two bridges at the Elliott Preserve in Cascade Canyon will end on March 19. There will be a Zoom meeting about this for the public on Thursday, March 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at <http://bit.ly/CascadeMeeting>.

There was a lot of discussion about this topic. Is it good to have bridges there? There were issues of illegal trail building, riding, safety, parking at the Elliott Preserve. Martha Ture expressed her disapproval of bridges being built.

Geoffrey Bolt, who attended our Fairfax Open Space Committee meeting s provided this information to us. There is to be an online Zoom meeting on February 25th at 7 o'clock with many residents of the Cascade Canyon neighborhood tuning in. If you are interested and able to

participate:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://presidio.zoom.us/j/7298989944?pwd=SmRZUzhkZGo5OU1QclowNW1vOXVHZz09>

Meeting ID: 729 898 9944

Passcode: 375337

George sent some information along, as well as invited people to the neighborhood zoom meeting concerning the Elliott Nature Preserve.

The preserve was originally Fairfax's. In the 1980s Fairfax gave it to the Marin County Parks and Open Space for stewardship on a 4-1 vote, Egger voted no but was able to get a condition and reversionary clause if development occurred out there without Fairfax's approval. The Fairfax Council voted 4-1 (Lacques no) to approve the bridges in 2018 before the County even did the EIR.

In 1972, Floyd Elliot was thinking of selling his 400 acre ranch in the Fairfax Cascades for development. Karen Urquhart contacted then Fairfax Mayor Frank Egger asking if purchase by the Town of Fairfax for open space was a possibility to save the land. Frank put it on the Fairfax Town Council agenda and invited Karen to come to the council meeting and make a presentation to the full council.

The Fairfax Town Council, with Frank leading the effort, and on a split town council vote, voted to seek funds to purchase Elliott Ranch for public open space. Then town administrator Bill Hadden and Frank worked closely together and with a State Park Grant and local funds were able to purchase the lower 38+ acres (up to and including the Cascade Falls) and name it the Elliott Nature Preserve (see sign with Town of Fairfax name). The County of Marin, with then supervisor Pete Arrigoni's leadership, purchased the upper 360 acres. In the 1980s the Fairfax Town Council voted to conditionally deed its 38+ acres to the Marin County Open Space District so the entire Elliott property could be managed by one public agency.

- 9. Assignments and Reports from FOSC Committees / Subcommittees** (discussion and possible action)
- 10. FOSC Outreach, Merchandise and Nature Walks** (discussion and possible action). A possible bio-blitz, such as was done San Domenico School may be conducted. Susan Pascal Beran and Heather Duplaisir will bring a proposal to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 11. FOSC Framework for Annual Goals for FY 2021-22:** Jonathan Sicroff and Jack Judkins (discussion and possible action)
FOSC 2021 GOAL Conversation on Feb. 23, 2021
(submitted by FOSC Member Jonathan Sicroff)

Discussion Points:

1. SMART goals – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely
2. Pick categories: see below
3. Determine if we should have one set of goals for the committee or if individuals should have their own goals.

Sample Categories and Goals:

- A. Governance – Recruit, Train, Retain new members so they can provide leadership.
 1. What skills and experience do we need and who can we target.

B. Community Outreach and Fundraising

1. Framework for engagement with community open expression.
2. Tool kit for folks we can't help, can help themselves
3. Fundraising Annual Plan
4. Outreach Plan and Calendar

C. Protect and Preserve Open Space

1. Next steps with our Acquisition target (professional presentation, more photography on each, etc.)
2. Partnership plan – land trust, other agencies (example: SAOSC)

D. Stewardship of existing Open Space

Chance Cutrano suggested the concept of “In Take” forms.

- 12. Reports of activities from partner agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Together Bay Area; One Tam: FOSC representatives (discussion and possible action). Together Bay Area's 2021 spring summit is scheduled for May 10-14.
- 13. Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes** from previous meetings (discussion and possible action): With approved changes submitted by Jack Judkins, the FOSC minutes for the December 8 meeting were approved.
- 14. Next Regular FOSC Meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021:** Quorum Check, Future Agenda Items (discussion and possible action): It appears FOSC will have a quorum for the next meeting on March 23.
- 15. FOSC Member Reports on Non-Agenda Items** (no discussions or actions allowed). The Town has updated a number of maps. FOSC may want to invite Planning Director Ben Berto to a future meeting. Also, Jessica Green sent a lot of maps to Susan Pascal Beran.
- 16. Adjournment was at 9:18 p.m.**