



# Town of Fairfax Open Space Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.  
In-person at the Fairfax Women's Club  
46 Park Road, Fairfax, CA 94930



## Fairfax Open Space Members

Susan Pascal Beran, Chair  
Jack Judkins, Vice Chair  
Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary  
Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary  
Christine Kelly, Treasurer

Geoff Bolt  
Heather Duplaisir  
Joe Franaszek  
Teddy Catrini, Youth Member (ex officio)  
Corina Karr, Youth Member (ex officio)

## 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.

## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order at 7 p.m. / Roll Call / Approval of Agenda / Appointment of Timekeeper for this meeting – Chair Susan Pascal Beran.** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

*Members present:* All; *Members absent:* None

*Guests:* Fairfax Mayor Chance Cutrano / FOSC Liaison; approximately 12 members of the public attending for the 615 Oak Manor Drive development update and/or the Wall property update.

2. **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.

3. **Wall Property (update)** — (discussion and possible action). Jack Judkins has talked with Bill Long and Jonathan Braun of Marin Open Space Trust and went on a tour of the Wall property. MOST has hired someone to conduct a fair market appraisal of the property in late October or early November. There also needs to be a geotechnical study of the property. It is noteworthy that the Wall property open space connects with existing San Anselmo open space such as Hawthorne Canyon and Upper Hawthorne. It provides an open space corridor from Highway 101 to Point Reyes National Seashore. Jack Judkins will write a letter of Wall property support to Marin Supervisor Katie Rice. FOSC members are aware that a brochure about Wall property information needs to be developed. We also need to provide info on the FOSC website as well as utilize QR codes. FOSC requested development of a draft letter from the Town Manager to be forwarded to Marin County officials. Fairfax resident Myron Walters volunteered to provide information regarding the adjacent Marinda Oaks neighborhood to the Wall property and to help with Wall property outreach to the community.
4. **Status of 615 Oak Manor Drive development update** — (discussion and possible action). After much discussion, additional background and history was requested. Neighborhood resident Marc Lubomirski volunteered to provide some information to FOSC members via FOSC secretary Michael Ardito. Member Joe Franaszek proposed that a Working Subcommittee be established with at least 2 FOSC members and some interested neighborhood residents to focus on clarifying and resolving issues. The motion was approved by FOSC. Kristen Nickl was one of the neighborhood residents volunteering to serve on the Working Subcommittee

5. **Status of Town Acceptance of Open Space Land Donation from Cresci Family parcel near Canyon Road and Adjacent to Egger Grove for Potential Access** — (discussion and possible action). This item was removed for consideration from this agenda and in the future until further notice.
6. **Treasurer's Report** — (discussion and possible action). We received at least \$218 from sales and donations at the Fairfax Town Picnic on Sunday, September 17. FOSC needs to retrieve the "old" supplemental cashbox from a recent former Treasurer. Also, we will contact the first FOSC Treasurer Ted Bright about some historical knowledge regarding the original accounting book.
7. **FOSC Outreach, Town Picnic Report, Fairfax Art Walk, Merchandise, Storage of Materials, and Nature Walks**— (discussion and possible action). Susan Pascal Beran indicated FOSC did not have enough help for set-up of the FOSC information table for the Town Picnic on September 17. We need to do better garnering help for public events. We sent around a sign-up sheet for helping with the FOSC information table during the Fairfax Art Walk on Friday night, September 29. We will be located near Mas Masa plaza on Bolinas Avenue. It was decided that the FOSC storage unit should remain at the Fairfax Pavilion, but FOSC will need improved key access to the materials. Heather Duplaisir has announced an autumn bio-blitz on Saturday, November 18 near the Wall property on Marinda Drive.
8. **Reports from FOSC Committees/ Subcommittees** (discussion, possible actions and reassignments): Acquisitions, Governance, Stewardship, Community Outreach & Fundraising; Measure A. The Stewardship Subcommittee met via Zoom this past week and updated its annual goals. Paper maps of open spaces in and adjacent to Fairfax were provided to new FOSC members. (Laminated maps were previously provided to veteran FOSC members.) Susan Pascal Beran will search for a wood carver to do the lettering on redwood slab signs for three Fairfax Town-owned open space properties to be dedicated in 2024. The youth members were inclined to do an invasive broom pull in open space next spring. Geoff Bolt will reach out to Jane Richardson-Mack on the Fairfax Tree Committee regarding the Adopt-a-Tree program.
9. **Reports of activities from partner agencies** such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Marin County Parks and Open Space; Marin Conservation League's Parks and Open Space Committee; Together Bay Area; One Tam; Friends of Corte Madera Creek: FOSC representatives (updates and discussion). Michael Ardito indicated that SAOSC had a setback in acquiring Upper Hawthorne Canyon. He listened to today's Together Bay Area Zoom call regarding biodiversity conservation. The program is part of Governor Newsom's "30 x 30" Executive Order in 2020 to preserve at least 30 percent of the State as open space by 2030. Michael Ardito also listened to a recent Zoom call with "Our Neighborhood Voices" from elected officials throughout California trying to get an initiative on the November 2024 ballot to give local planning control back to local jurisdictions that was taken away by the State Legislature.
10. **Approval of FOSC Minutes from March, May, June, August 2023 plus Notes from July 2023 meeting** (discussion and possible action). Michael Ardito requested that FOSC approval of meeting minutes be postponed to the next meeting.
11. **Next FOSC Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023: Quorum Check, Future Agenda Items, Schedule combined meeting for Nov/Dec 2023** (discussion and possible action): FOSC decided to hold its combined November/December 2023 meeting on Tuesday, December 5. This will avert meetings around the Thanksgiving and other end-of-year holidays. The regularly scheduled meetings for Tuesdays, November 28 and December 26 will be canceled.
12. **FOSC Member Reports on Non-Agenda Items** (no discussions or actions). Geoff Bolt inquired again regarding the status of the Marin Municipal Water District's Recreation Plan response to comments as it pertains to the Elliott Nature Preserve.
13. **Appreciations and Adjournment.** Adjournment was at 9:20 p.m.

*This meeting notice was posted in accordance with Government Code section 54954.2(a)(1) on or before September 22, 2023.*