



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

SPECIAL MEETING STAFF REPORT

June 7, 2023

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Interview and consider appointment of applicants to the Climate Action Committee and the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee; appoint a Council liaison to the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Interview applicant Liz Gottlieb for the Climate Action Committee to fill a vacancy term to May 31, 2025, and make appointment as appropriate.
2. Interview applicants Guy Norenus and Jeremy Nieuwenhuijs for the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee, each for a three-year term, and make appointments as appropriate. Staff recommends Mr. Norenus be appointed to the at-large community member position and Mr. Nieuwenhuijs be appointed to the Neighborhood Response Group category.
3. Appoint Mayor Cutrano Town Council liaison on the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee.

DISCUSSION

Climate Action Committee

There are currently three (3) vacancies for the Climate Action Committee, each with a term of two (2) years. There is one applicant for the position, Fairfax resident Liz Gottlieb, who has attended at least one meeting of the Committee.

The Climate Action Committee (“CAC”) was established to implement the Climate Action Plan, adopted by the Town Council on February 5, 2014. Its mission is to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas and compile existing and potential strategies to address climate change. Initially it was a subcommittee of the General Plan Implementation Committee (“GPIC”); in July 2015, CAC was established as a separate Town Committee.

CAC develops an annual action plan as well as any recommended amendments to the Climate Action Plan. In addition, the committee keeps a scorecard to track greenhouse gas reduction actions taken.

Community Emergency Preparedness Committee

There are currently two (2) at-large community member vacancies on the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee (“CEPC”). The seven members of the committee are to represent specific stakeholders, according to the CEPC establishment resolution. Additionally, there is one vacancy for the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce category, one for the Neighborhood Response Group (“NRG”). When making appointments, the Council will need to state which stakeholder group the member will represent.

The applications for the CEPC before the Council tonight are from two Fairfax residents:

- Guy Norenus
- Jeremy Nieuwenhuijs

Mr. Norenus is eligible for the community member-at-large position.

Mr. Nieuwenhuijs is eligible for the Community Emergency Response Team (“CERT”) category and the NRG category; we recommend appointing him to the NRG category since the CERT category is filled.

As a reminder, on March 1, 2023 the Council appointed the first two members to CEPC, one representing Age Friendly category, and one representing the Firewise category. The Community Emergency Preparedness Committee was formed in 2021 by resolution of the Town Council (attached for background) and includes 7 members. Appointing the two applicants would complete the quorum (4) for this committee, allowing them to determine a meeting cadence and begin gathering.

Finally, the Council needs to assign its own liaison to the Committee. Mayor Cutrano has expressed an interest in this role, as he worked with former Fairfax Councilmember Renée Goddard to develop the CEPC and has a clear understanding of the committee’s purpose and structure.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Liz Gottlieb
- B. Guy Norenus
- C. Jeremy Nieuwenhuijs
- D. Resolution 21-11

Fairfax Boards and Commissions Application

Date

04/24/2023

Please select the board/committee/commission to which you are applying:

- Climate Action Committee

Name

Liz Gottlieb

Address

[REDACTED]
Fairfax, California 94930

Phone

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Please explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee.

I am very interested in applying my academic studies as a biologist/naturalist and my professional work as an educator to local action. I care deeply about our environment including people and planet. I am eager to learn from community members and contribute my skills toward a common goal to help move toward a sustainable, equitable and just future for communities and planet.

Please describe your relevant work/life experience or background for the board/commission you are applying for:

I am a passionate science educator who has spent a large portion of my career engaging students in local events and policies. Over the years my classes have debated and explored the Streamside Ordinance in West Marin, Restoration vs Development in the San Francisco South Bay, the state of salmon in California via a mock trial "Salmon vs. the State of California" and most recently the Reusable Foodware Ordinance in Marin.

Since childhood, I have been an enthusiastic learner and naturalist, born an identical twin and the 7th of 8 children in an east coast Irish Catholic family. Since earning my science degree and entering the teaching profession 26 years ago, my life has blended the personal and professional with my passion as a runner and coach, high-school science educator and naturalist, avid mycologist, and parent of two teen daughters. I teach a senior elective called, "Climate Justice: Science, Culture and The Stories we Tell about Climate". Through writings, videos, guest lectures, place-based activities and concurrent service projects students develop skills and leadership abilities to spend the last 5 weeks of the course addressing the needs of a local organization.

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax?

I am interested in supporting efforts to make Fairfax a more sustainable community through electrification, carbon sequestration programs, water conservation efforts, sustainable and active transportation arteries

for all. (to name a few). I would absolutely love to help involve more students in Fairfax's climate action goals. I am also interested in engaging with more people on local issues.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest.

NA

Please enter the date of the meeting you attended:

April 18, 2023 (CAC)

Electronic Signature

- By printing your name below and checking this box you agree that represents your electronic signature on the application.

Please type your full name here.

Elizabeth Gottlieb

Fairfax Boards and Commissions Application

Please select the board/committee/commission to which you are applying:

- Community Emergency Preparedness Committee

Name

Guy Norenus

Address

FAIRFAX, California 94930

Phone

Email

Please explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee.

As a resident of Fairfax, I have knowledge about emergency preparedness through been a part of the volunteer firefighters in total 11 years, have completed emergency and rescue studies and would like to offer my perspective and guidance based on this.

Please describe your relevant work/life experience or background for the board/commission you are applying for:

FF1, 11 years of direct fire suppression and emergency response with RVFD.
Licensed Contractor with knowledge about life safety and code compliance through the building trades and local to the area.
Resident of Fairfax

What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax?

To aide in the advancement of the town and it's residents through effective standards and policies and guidelines the committee was setup to achieve.
Use my experience as a former first responder and volunteer to add my dynamic perspective in developing a more thorough and community invested approach to emergency preparedness.

Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest.

I do not have any conflicts of interest of which I can see.

*For the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee, there are several categories of membership. Please check all categories of membership you would like to be considered for:

- Community

Please enter the date of the meeting you attended:

N/A

Electronic Signature

- By printing your name below and checking this box you agree that represents your electronic signature on the application.

Please type your full name here.

Guy Peter Norenus

ATTACHMENT B

Boards and Commissions Application

Date
04/01/2023
Please select the board/committee/commission to which you are applying:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community Emergency Preparedness Committee
Name
Jeremy Nieuwenhuijs
Address
[REDACTED] Fairfax, California 94930
Phone
[REDACTED]
Email
[REDACTED]
Please explain your interest in serving on this Board, Commission, or Committee.
I want to give back to Fairfax. I want to invest in the town, because I want to be here and I want to be accepted here. I've lived in Fairfax since 2013. I rarely left the house for anything other than work and for a run. I liked spending time with my wife. We separated and now I have to expand my little world.
Please describe your relevant work/life experience or background for the board/commission you are applying for:
Once upon a time I was certified as an emt-b in Santa Fe. I spend a lot of time running in the hills here and I have a good eye for seeing mechanisms of injury. There's a lot of ways to become an injured person. In an emergency spanning the entire town, very specific mechanisms of injury become more obvious and less avoidable and very specific methods to mitigate them can be applied.
What is your vision for the Town of Fairfax?
A place where we treat water with great care. Behave towards the lowest of us, as if our lives depend on that person feeling our love. It's a hard world to exist in and the slightest bit of perceptible disdain for another human can be enough to destroy whatever thread some of us are hanging on by. An affordable place to live for those who can't afford to own, and more promotion of Fairfax as a trail head for running and riding. Invest in a little more 1st mile infrastructure. Maybe a shuttle that acts like a ski lift, only it goes to the top of Tam and out to Sky Trail Head. Promote specifically for those who can park in town and ride or run back. It can be the stagecoach. But just call it the smash trolley or something.
Please describe possible areas of conflict of interest.
I do like to run in the most inclement of weather in the dark with a headlamp.
*For the Community Emergency Preparedness Committee, there are several categories of membership. Please check all categories of membership you would like to be considered for:

- CERT
- NRG

Please enter the date of the meeting you attended:

4/5/23

Electronic Signature

- By printing your name below and checking this box you agree that represents your electronic signature on the application.

Please type your full name here.

Jeremy L. Nieuwenhuijs

RESOLUTION 21-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OFFAIRFAX ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

WHEREAS the Town Council desires to form a Community Emergency Preparedness Committee (Committee) to support and help coordinate collaborative town-wide efforts to prepare residents to respond to emergencies of all kinds; and

WHEREAS the Town Council will follow its standard practice of interviewing and appointing members to the Committee; consider the ratification of appointments from the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Age Friendly Fairfax via the Parks and Recreation Commission; assign a Council representative; and request a liaison from the Ross Valley Fire Department; and

WHEREAS the general focus of the Committee would be on tangible, practical, cost-effective actions regarding emergency preparedness that can be implemented at the local level, including but not limited to the following:

- a. increase community awareness about the full spectrum of potential disasters and the need for emergency preparedness;
- b. consolidate, develop, and distribute emergency preparedness information and educational materials;
- c. facilitate communication and coordination between existing emergency preparedness programs;
- d. develop, recommend, and implement new community outreach and education activities;
- e. promote and develop volunteer opportunities to encourage community participation in local efforts, such as Firewise and Neighborhood Response Groups (NRG);
- f. collaborate with other governmental agencies focused on emergency preparedness (via coordination of community presentations and regular preparedness updates from Town Council representatives, Town staff, and other local/regional emergency preparedness personnel).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax that the Fairfax Community Emergency Preparedness Committee shall be established as follows:

1. The Committee shall consist of one (1) liaison from the Fairfax Town Council, one (1) liaison from the Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD), and (7) members appointed by the Town Council and representing the following Town stakeholders:
 - a. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
 - b. Firewise

- c. Neighborhood Response Group (NRG)
- d. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
- e. Age Friendly Fairfax
- f. Community members-at-large (2)

2. Each appointed member shall serve for a three-year term, with the initial terms staggered to avoid complete turnover in year three.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 5th day of May 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: ACKERMAN, COLER, CUTRANO, GODDARD, HELLMAN

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

/s/

BRUCE ACKERMAN, Mayor

/s/

Attest: _____
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk