



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7 p.m. in-person only
Fairfax Women's Club
46 Park Road, Fairfax, CA 94930

Fairfax Open Space Members:

Michael Ardito, Co-Secretary	Jack Judkins, Vice Chair
Geoff Bolt	Christine Kelly, Co-Treasurer
Heather Duplaisir	Susan Pascal Beran, Chair
Joe Franaszek	Josh Weinik, Co-Treasurer
Ruth Horn, Co-Secretary	Teddy Catrini, Youth Member (ex officio)
	Corina Karr, Youth Member (ex officio)

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 AGENDA (Started at 7:06 p.m.)

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

Members Present: Michael Ardito, Heather Duplaisir, Joe Franaszek, Ruth Horn, Jack Judkins, Christine Kelly (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Susan Pascal Beran, Teddy Catrini (youth member), Corina Karr (youth member); Quorum reached

Members Absent: Geoffrey Bolt, Josh Weinik

Guests: Fairfax Mayor Chance Cutrano, FOSC liaison; former Fairfax Mayor Frank Egger; Elise Hartinger, Artem Shnyder

2. Approval of Agenda. Agenda 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.

4. Wall / Marinda Heights Property (status of financial default and update) -- (discussion and possible action). The potential auction sale of this property was postponed until Thursday, May 18. Joe Franaszek, if possible, will try to track this bankruptcy on the Department of Justice PACER docket.

5. Upper Hawthorn Canyon Open Space support and fundraiser with San Anselmo (update, discussion and possible action). No updates.

6. Town Staff Report and 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). Mayor Chance Cutrano announced that the item would not be on the Town Council's May meeting agenda but would be again postponed until the June 7, 2023 Town Council meeting. Frank Egger reminded everyone that the nearby Egger Grove has protected species of the spotted owl and some frogs. FOSC has previously unanimously recommended to the Town Council that the Town accept this donation in order to obtain the easement associated with the land and thereby retain the possibility of developing access to the Egger Preserve. However, as detailed in its staff report, Town staff continues to disagree with this recommendation.

7. Dedication of Egger Preserve; Signage Program for Fairfax Open Space Properties (discussion and possible future action). Susan Pascal Beran will reach out to an artist who may be able to carve the signage out of the redwood slabs Frank Egger is trying to acquire.

8. Updates about Bio-Blitz presentation, events and City Nature Challenge (Heather Duplaisir discussion and possible action). Heather distributed flyers and fact sheets about the City Nature Challenge on April 28 thru May 1. The event is organized through the California Academy of Sciences. The Fairfax Open Space bio-blitz participation will be on Saturday morning, April 29 at the top of Marinda Drive. Teddy Catrini posted this event on Instagram. Heather Duplaisir will post on Facebook. All FOSC members were encouraged to register on-line through eventbrite.

9. Earth Day 2023 Events (review and discussion). The Fairfax Earth Day event for 2023 was canceled. Next year this event needs to be planned further in advance. Michael Ardito, who attended the county-wide event held Sunday, April 23 at the Mill Valley Community Center reported it was well-organized, but requested that the Fairfax event next year not compete with the same date/time as the county event.

10. Arbor Day Tree Planting on Saturday, April 29 at 12 noon in Peri Park (Mayor Chance Cutrano / Town Council Liaison to FOSC) (discussion and possible action). Michael Ardito, Heather Duplaisir and Christine Kelly will try to attend and join Mayor Chance Cutrano and others for the redwood tree plantings.

11. Treasurers' Report (updates, discussion). Jack Judkins provided historical treasurer documents to the co-treasurers.

12. Stewardship Project for Spring 2023 (invasive species removal from Archie Williams High School campus) Teddy Catrini and Corina Karr, FOSC youth members, coordinated with the school's SEA-DISC program and decided on removal of overgrown and nuisance ivy near the baseball field on Saturday morning, May 20. Michael Ardito will announce this event at the School Site Council meeting on April 26.

13. FOSC Outreach, Merchandise, Storage of Materials, Photo Survey Project, and Nature Walks (discussion and possible actions). No updates.

14. Fairfax Festival and Parade Participation on June 10-11 (discussion and possible action). Michael Ardito was tasked with submitting the FOSC application for a table and tent for this year's Ecofest that will be held on the baseball field. Heather Duplaisir will organize a Doodle poll sign-up for our outreach booth duty. The Fairfax Tree Committee had expressed interest in sharing our information booth for the Ecofest. It was determined that FOSC members do not have the band-width to participate in the parade with an entry as certain members are already committed to other parade duties such as Geoff Bolt as parade announcer at the Parkade and Michael Ardito in the annual Native Sons flag-carrying.)

15. Grant Writing for Open Space Grant Applications (discussion and possible future action). There is no news on this agenda item and it will be postponed to a later meeting.

16. Update on FOSC Social Media Accounts (discussion and possible actions). No updates.

17. Reports from FOSC Committees / Subcommittees (discussion, possible actions and reassignments): Acquisitions; Governance; Stewardship; Community Outreach & Fundraising; Measure A. Jack Judkins will convene the **Acquisitions Subcommittee** which is providing comments about the Town's housing element and proposed development as it pertains to priority open space. The Town of Fairfax is sponsoring an informational and comment session about housing on Saturday, May 3. Frank Egger provided institutional knowledge that the Town has required new housing to have emergency accessibility thru Fairfax and not thru San Anselmo or unincorporated Marin County. The **Stewardship Subcommittee** met on April 24 and updated its annual goals for the next year and after review will be provided to the full FOSC membership before the next regular meeting. Joe Franaszek represented FOSC at the annual **Measure A** allocation meeting. For the coming fiscal year, FOSC will not be receiving its traditional annual appropriation of Measure A funds. The Town had other priorities. Joe, as a new FOSC representative for Measure A, requested better orientation, information and advance planning about the potential dates of the Town's Subcommittee meeting before the session next year.

18. Reports of activities from partner agencies such as San Anselmo Open Space Committee (SAOSC); Marin Conservation League's Parks and Open Space Committee; Together Bay Area; One Tam; Friends of Corte Madera Creek: FOSC representatives (updates and discussions). Heather Duplaisir will represent FOSC at the annual **Together Bay Area** conference on May 10 in Richmond, CA. Michael Ardito will represent FOSC for the organization's field trip the following day, May 11, on Marin's bicycle greenway path. The combined conference registration reimbursement for Heather Duplaisir was approved by the vote of FOSC.

19. Adopt-a-Tree Program (discussion and possible fundraiser future action): Geoff Bolt was not present, but Michael Ardito reported that Geoff met with the Fairfax Tree Committee and there was interest in collaborating in this effort in the future.

20. Upper Ridgeway tax-default auction properties (update and possible future actions): Ruth Horn reported that there is no news. The property heirs need to be notified and the default process will need to start over again.

21. Approval of FOSC Meeting Minutes from January, February and March 2023 (discussion and possible approval action): Michael Ardito postponed these to a future meeting.

22. Preparation of FOSC Annual Reports (discussion and possible action): Michael Ardito and Joe Franaszek

23. Next FOSC Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023: Quorum Check, Future Agenda Items (discussion and possible action): It appeared that there will be a quorum for our regular May meeting. However, Chair Susan Pascal Beran will not be available to attend the meeting and Vice Chair Jack Judkins agreed to run the May 23 meeting. Members expressed interest in calendar planning and work on annual subcommittee goals for the next meeting's agenda.

24. FOSC Member Reports on Non-Agenda Items (no discussions or actions)

25. Adjournment was at 9:07 p.m.