



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

16 Park Road, Fairfax

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 7:30 PM

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Mimi Newton - Chair

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Ardito | Helen Fauss |
| Ted Bright | Ruth Horn |
| Barbara Coler | Jack Judkins |
| Niccolo Caldararo | Ryan O'Neil – Co-Chair |

1. Roll call

Present: Ryan (served as acting chair because Mimi was absent), Michael, Ted, Barbara, Niccolo, Helen, Ruth, and Jack.

In attendance: Kathy Wilkie with the Town of Fairfax

Guest: Frank Egger, Former Town Council Member

2. Approval of agenda for March 23, 2010 and meeting minutes for March 2, 2010.

Motion for approvals was made by Barbara Coler and seconded by Ted Bright. Both were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report – Ted Bright.

- Current Bank of America checking account balance is \$6,742.26
- Recent account activity: on 1/26/10 Helen Fauss was given a check for \$69.01 for laminating the open space maps.
- Connie Segal Smit's EcoFest book sale check for \$45 written on 7/28/09 has not yet been cashed.
- **Action Item: Mimi Newton needs to provide FOSC funds received from the Town picnic to Ted Bright.**
- **Action Item: For the next meeting, Ted Bright needs to provide a report, in broad categories, what FOSC has generally done financially for each of the last three years. Ted will send that budget information to us in the next couple of weeks.**
- **Action Item: Mimi needs to add an agenda item for the next FOSC agenda that gives Laurie Ireland Ashley the opportunity at the next FOSC meeting to talk about the financial status updates from FOSC in advance of the special May and June meetings of the Town Council. Then, the FOSC will need to submit a report to the Town within one week for its discussion of the 2010-11 budget.**

4. Discussion of annexation of Egger Grove and neighboring properties.

Frank Egger reported that one advantage for the Town of Fairfax to annex the Frank Egger Town Preserve is that it becomes a part of the Town. He reported that it is good to have town parks within the town limits. There would need to be a proposal to have the Town annex it. He reported that all Town property has no assessed tax value, but

it will have an appraised value. Frank said we need to check with the Assistant County Assessor and the LAFCO (Local Action Formation Commission) regarding this issue and provide a statement as to why the property should be annexed. Egger also reported that can be “island annexation” – if the Town owns property substantially on three sides, the Town could force the property into annexation, if the owner agrees to be annexed.

He reported that the Elliott Nature Preserve was bought and annexed by the Town. But, then the Town gave the property to the County of Marin.

The nearby Raker property, with a little cabin on it, has been assessed for \$149,927. At one time Ms. Raker wanted to give the property to the Town, but she did not transfer the property before she passed. County zoning could allow two houses on that property.

Information regarding public access to the Egger Grove is still confidential as the Town has held closed sessions about this issue.

Action Item: This issue needs to be re-agendized for the next FOSC meeting.

5. Discussion regarding pros and cons of acquiring small parcels for small amounts, such as back taxes

Jack Judkins indicated that we need to look at liability and maintenance issues before agreeing to purchasing and acquiring small parcels. Some of these may have back taxes owed of \$2,000 to \$9,000. The Acquisitions Committee needs to meet and develop some criteria for acquiring these types of property.

Action Item: If you have any ideas for these kind of acquisitions, please email Helen Fauss or Jack Judkins.

6. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Acquisitions

1. Ross Valley School District consideration of possible new sites.

Helen reported that the Ross Valley School District gave the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children’s Center two year’s notice to vacate the property by July 2012. The lease indicates a need for a two-year notice. The RVSD is still planning to have a bond measure on the ballot this November.

2. Evelyn David property

It was agreed that FOSC needs to establish its criteria first before considering where this property could be acquired.

3. Tax foreclosure properties

We are waiting for the State Controller to sign-off on some tax delinquent properties.

B. Fundraising

The Meadow Way homeowners will be holding a fund-raiser soon. There was a request about whether this fundraising event could be combined with a FOSC fundraiser.

There was the suggestion of holding a wood “chipper” event as a FOSC Town fundraiser.

C. Governance – Nothing to report.

D. Public Outreach – Work is still being done on the FOSC Website. There are a number of next steps that need to be taken before this can be announced to the public.

E. Stewardship – Nothing to report.

7. Jolly Hill Open Space area

(Development of possible rules of use for open space and efforts to make permanent sign for Jolly Hill Open Space area.) Kathy Wilkie indicated the need for a Town resolution from the Town for rules regarding open space properties. This may be a modification from the current codes for schools and parks.

Action Item: Kathy Wilkie will be doing the revision to the Town's code for open space and presenting to the Town Council.

8. Analysis of public easement for Jolly Hill access

There is currently no public access through the Bennett House property.

Action Item: Research needs to be done. Linda in the Planning Department may know about some rules established regarding this issue.

9. Update on action items from 3-2-10 meeting

No further updates.

10. General update on miscellaneous items

Possible letter regarding the Ben Ross property is made a carryover action item for the next FOOSC meeting.

11. Open time for public expression

None.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned.