

MINUTES FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

16 Park Road, Fairfax Tuesday, January 26, 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 – FOSC members: Mimi, Ted, Barbara, Niccolo, Helen, Ruth, Jack; Kathy Wilkie – Fairfax Public Works Director & FOSC Liaison; Pam Meigs – Planning Commission; Diane Causey – GPAC Committee; Wayne Ingraham, Link Creative; Craig Foster – member of the public

Craig Foster – lives at 27 Holly Road on 5 acres, raised issue of chain saws on trails adjacent to his property. FOSC noted Volunteer Committee fire safety clearing of trails.

- \rightarrow <u>Action item</u>: Kathy Wilkie will look into who owns the adjacent parcels and potential liability.
- 2. Approval of 1-26-10 agenda and minutes for 11-24-09 FOSC meeting agenda & minutes approved
- 3. Review and discussion regarding draft GPAC Open Space Element Mimi and Ruth (Diane Causey of the GPAC Open Space Element –OSE Subcommittee and Planning Commissioner Meigs in attendance).

All FOSC members expressed thanks to Mimi and Ruth for the OSE draft. Most felt very comprehensive and improved from prior OSE in the existing General Plan. FOSC member comments discussed and will be raised at the next GPAC meeting, Monday.

- •Michael Ardito sent comments by email primary comment that OSE should include use for evacuation for natural disasters and possible helipad.
- •Niccolo sent comments by email early primary comments re: too much emphasis on recreation purpose in OSE.
- •Barbara provided written comments primarily included issue of inclusion of visual corridors, ridgelines, early in the document and throughout, comments passed out to meeting attendees and sent by email.
- •Jack requested the setting discussion "beefed up" and discussion of an ordinance process (i.e., a kind of performance standard) instead of stating will do ordinances, he feels they may not get completed. Jack seemed to have extensive comments which were not completed.
- →<u>Action item</u>: Jack requested to send his written comments to Mimi & FOSC this week so they can be discussed at next GPAC meeting Monday. If not able to do so, should send very soon
- •Pam Meigs noted that she would like an attorney with General Plan expertise to review the document soon. Mimi raised concerns that commitments for OSE completion dates are unclear and have differed, in addition, unclear as to the Conservation Element timing.

4. Review, discussion and action regarding FOSC website – Barbara (web designer Wayne Ingraham from Link Creative in attendance).

Overview of the website discussed & goal is to get website content up to the extent feasible soon; some tabs will have Under Development and will be completed at a later date. Also, the website is setup so that FOSC Administrators can upload content also.

- \rightarrow OS Resolutions/Newsletters Action items: Kathy to send Wayne the 3 OS Resolutions and she will scan the 3 newsletters and send to Wayne (cc to Barbara).
- \rightarrow OS Photos Action items: Ruth to contact Terry Goyan to find out if he has OS photos for the header (i.e., rotating OS photos); all FOSC members to send Mimi any of their Fairfax OS photos that would be good for the website Mimi will post on her Facebook page and inform Wayne so he can use them for the website.
- \rightarrow OS MAP Action item: Helen to give Jack the digitized OS map, Jack will put on CD and give to Barbara who will send it to Wayne.

Prior website action items from November include – new logo (also for trailheads etc.) & outreach post-card design – not completed, to be agendized for February meeting

5. Status of review of fallen retaining wall in creek by Egger Grove by Regional Water Quality Control Board and efforts to address problem by Town of Fairfax – Kathy Wilkie

Kathy reported that Ted Bright, Frank Egger & she met with County reps, Liz Lewis and Jack Kinley (Marla of the RWQCB could not attend but she reviewed materials) – Liz & Jack concluded that the erosion is not due to the retaining wall but due to the tree(s) felled. They recommend that the Town contract with the Conservation Corps for a Bank Stabilization Project but the Town has no funds to do this, and the permitting process would be extensive (Army Corps/RWQCB/Fish & Game permits, review/approval).

- →Action item: Kathy to send follow-up information to FOSC members.
- 6. Discussion regarding development of possible rules of use for open space and status of efforts to make permanent sign for Jolly Hill Open Space area Kathy Wilkie

Kathy provided handout map showing Jolly Hill & Bennet House; there is no public easement over Bennet for access to Jolly Hill so at this time cannot post permanent sign.

- \rightarrow <u>Action item</u>: Kathy will research to find public easement or to obtain public easement (and will look into legal issues).
- 7. Update on Ross Valley School District consideration of MT&CC and Deer Park Helen reported that the School District has dropped MT&CC, likely because Michael McIntosh was asking too much for the property. Side benefit is that we are getting a pre-appraisal of MT&CC. Their next property under consideration is Deer Park which will entail cutting down trees, redoing the infrastructure for water supply. This expansion would be very disruptive. In addition, they may also look at expanding existing school sites, e.g., White School. Next school board meeting is 1/28/2010.
- →Action item: Mimi to send out schedule of upcoming School Board and related meetings.
- 8. Subcommittee Reports
 - Acquisitions
 - i. Evelyn David Property Discussion regarding (a) possible request to Town Council for acquisition; and (b) possible field trip to property by FOSC and possibly, Council Members, and Action Ruth and Helen passed out maps showing the property and proximity to the Ben Ross and tax foreclosure parcel. They estimate could purchase for \$8,000, using the size of the tax foreclosure parcel as a guide. They also discussed consideration of trading this parcel for other open space at a future date. FOSC members discussed: questions regarding the value of the property, the likelihood of it being developed soon or in the future; preserving limited FOSC funds.
 - \rightarrow <u>Action item</u>: Ruth/Helen to contact David Smadbeck for possible value of the property; FOSC field trip to be held in March or later, after the rainy season.

- ii. Tax Foreclosure Property Update Jack reported that the paperwork was submitted on November 13 to the State Controller's Office; once it is returned from the State Controller's Office, there is another 45 day process subsequent.
- Fundraising no report
- Governance no report
- Public Outreach no report
- Stewardship no report
- 9. Status of November Action Item(s) both to be agendized for February meeting:
 - Update on possible annexation of Egger Grove Ruth, Helen
 - Update on Berg Litigation Mimi
- 10. General Update on Miscellaneous Issues no items
- 11. Open time for public expression conducted at the initiation of the meeting with Craig Foster