



MINUTES
FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
16 Park Road, Fairfax, CA.
February 24, 2009, 7:30 PM

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Mimi Newton - Chair
Michael Ardito Denise Ferry
Ted Bright Ruth Horn
Barbara Coler Jack Judkins
Niccolo Caldararo Ryan O'Neil – Co-Chair
Helen Fauss Jane Richardson-Mack

1. Roll call: Mimi Newton, Ted Bright, Barbara Coler, Niccolo Caldararo, Helen Fauss, Ruth Horn, Ryan O'Neil, Jane Richardson-Mack. Guests: Kathie Wilkie (Town Liaison), Patrick Troupe, Alpha Lo, Millard Morgen, John Reed (Fairfax Volunteers).
2. Parks and Rec. – Community Garden Discussion – The Community Garden by the library was established 10 to 12 years ago and has outgrown its space and are seeking sites to allow more room. The 5 sided town owned lot next to the Bennett House was suggested (Jolly Hill). 1) the soil appears to be pretty good and well-drained. 2) the lot is sunny for good plant growth. A water hook up would be needed. The current library site was approved with installed raised plastic beds and a fence to keep out deer and pays the library for water usage. Concerns raised included fencing, tilling open space, blocking access trails to the Wall property and the amount of water needed to raise plants. Positive aspects – it could involve more people in the neighborhood and the site could be kept clean and free of debris and broom. The Community Gardens group (Patrick and Alpha) are researching how other community gardens are administered. This is the same lot that the Taylor-Rocco neighbors came to our last meeting to discuss.
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of minutes of September 2008 and January 27, 2009.
5. Update – Coordination with Fairfax Volunteers regarding trails. Feedback to the fire trail marking is to make the markers less intrusive in terms of the number, the size, the color, the height etc. The Oakland Hills fire of early 90's had a low-death rate because they had trails for residents to use to escape.
6. During the last weekend of April, a work clearing day is planned for Secenic/Tamalpais loop with a chipper and a truck.

7. Treasurer's Report – Current Bank of America checking account balance: \$7,214.21. Recent activity – deposit \$14.96; Withdrawal – Avatar for 2008 newsletter - \$1369.46; Contributions – 2008 Newsletter proceeds - \$665.00 and Wall property anonymous donation - \$3000.00 - Held in a separate account by the Town.
8. Update: Town-owned portion of Jolly Hill. Rudy of Public Works agreed to put a trash bin on the site and empty it daily. Mimi will contact him for an update. Niccolo had pictures of the site with broom and homeless campsite trash. Our workday will be Sunday March 22nd, show up at 9:30 am; pot luck brunch afterwards. Ruth will call the neighbors.
9. T-shirt designs: Motion made, seconded, approved: The budget is \$500 for t-shirts using a different design.
10. Acquisitions – update regarding the Ross Property. The Acquisitions Subcommittee met with the Rosses. James Reives of Marin County Open Space suggested 1) asking Hal Brown for appraisal money; 2) contacting Semple Company for an appraisal; and 3) asking Marin Open Space Trust (MOST) for fundraising help. We have a meeting scheduled with Supervisor Brown for Wed. March 4. A portfolio of information and photographs about the property is being prepared. Semple Company says the appraisal cost for a smaller property would be \$1000 to \$2000. A title search is needed and we need to be proactive.
11. GPAC – Open Space and Conservation Elements Update – The Subcommittee meets every two weeks. They are beginning with revising the goals, then objectives for each, policies for each objective and finally programs to achieve the policies. The person or group responsible will be spelled out. The two elements may be combined, as in other communities because of overlapping information.
12. AT&T Utility Boxes – AT&T has the right under law to construct these. They work with the community to find the best way to construct the larger cabinets. They are proposed in existing parks and may be masked with plantings. One location is the Doc Egger Park. The town attorney is working with on an agreement with AT&T regarding the boxes.
13. Status of Egger Grove issues – Kathie Wilkie explained that it is typical to leave out fallen trees as habitat. Ryan and Mimi will talk with Michael Rock about the fallen retaining wall in the creek that is diverting water that washes out the Preserve bank and caused the trees to be cut several years ago.

14. Door to door outreach – Mimi passed out papers describing what three other groups passed out. Mimi asked for a volunteer to help work on outreach materials for the Ross Property.
15. Website – Ryan has a contact with a professional web designer who individually designs websites. He could do this in two weeks time for \$1000 for us. Maintenance would be \$60 every 6 months. Pay pal could be wired into our account for fundraising. Mr. Millard's daughter is a professional (web designer? Fundraiser? Check notes). FOSC is interested in more information. Kathie Wilkie says the town wants to redo their website as well. Ryan's person may come to our meeting next month. He will email us his portfolio. Mimi would like to talk to the Council about this in April. Continue to next meeting.
16. Open time for public expression: None.