

## **TOWN OF FAIRFAX GPAC MEETING MINUTES**

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DATE AND TIME: January 28, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Fairfax Youth Center

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Regular Monthly Meeting

PRESENT:

GPAC MEMBERS: Bruce Ackerman, Hobart Bartshire, Diane Causey, Tom Childers, Nav Patel

STAFF: Larry Kennings

GUESTS: Jeff Adams, Craig Dinsdale, Chris Yalonis

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS: Brannon Ketcham, Chairman

COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 15, 2009 meeting were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time Hobart mentioned he had questions about the article "Builders may be able to skip affordable units" dated November 27, 2009 in the SF Chronicle and SFGate.com. He asked if this applied to the town; Larry responded that it didn't and that there are pressures against this from Sacramento and advocacy groups and that Fairfax is actively pursuing affordable units through its amnesty program and other efforts. Hobart thanked him and commented that he would like to hear Jim's response as well.

5. PLANNING DIRECTOR/STAFF COMMENTS

Larry commented that the Town Council is reviewing the Circulation Element and has identified two additional aspects it is considering: right pricing of parking and strategic networks of sidewalks. The Planning Commission is reviewing the Safety Element and has discussing the importance of community preparedness education. On Housing, Larry commented that last fall studies were done on the Mandarin Gardens and the Christ Lutheran Church and not enough alternatives were reviewed. On February 17, another mass study at the church will be undertaken with the goals of creating elderly housing for church members and others, needs of Cascade School, and a shuttle system. The town is negotiating both a loan and grant with the Marin Community Foundation to study a commitment to affordable housing on the FairAnselm/Lucky areas. Staff feels that the subcommittee process to develop general plan elements is working well. Along these lines a two-day marathon to do a complete overview of general plan by representatives of the town's council, commission, and committees. The Town Council wants to receive the Conservation Element by the end of June. It was discussed that GPAC should start considering its subcommittee for this element and how can it further aid the Planning Commission in its work on the elements soon to come. Brannon requested that in addition to GPAC's formal hand-off to the PC, that it include callout descriptions on any important considerations, actions, etc.

6. PRESENTATION: SOIL/WATER CONSERVATION BY JEFF ADAMS

In preparation of GPAC's upcoming work on the Conservation Element, Bruce invited Jeff to make the

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presentation. Bruce was introduced to Jeff by Rebecca Collins of Sustainable Fairfax. Jeff is a graduate of Humboldt State. Over the last two years he has built an ecological design consulting and education business in Marin and Sonoma counties. One of his current projects is working on SPAWN's 10,000 Rain Gardens project. Principally, he works on ideas and suggestions for water management from ridgelines to streambanks. There are four ecosystems or processes at work: water, energy, nutrient, and community. His work helps prioritize hazards like potential source of fire-wind direction, drainage, fire corridors, riparian areas, and slope stability. He provides holistic management consultation for staff of towns and cities as well as landowners. His presentation prompted requests for additional assistance GPAC might seek from him as well as references he could provide in the way of links, books, etc. Jeff said he would be happy to help.

### **6. DISCUSSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS ON OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

Tom commented that the subcommittee is nearing completion of the draft for GPAC. A draft of the element was discussed at the January 26, 2010 meeting of the Fairfax Open Space Committee and the comments generated will be discussed by the subcommittee before draft submission to GPAC.

### **6. DISCUSSION OF SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS ON LAND USE ELEMENT**

Tom commented that the subcommittee is meeting every couple of weeks and is closing on in completing a draft for GPAC in the near future.

### **9. NEXT GPAC MEETING**

The next regular GPAC meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2010, 7-9 PM at the Fairfax Youth Center.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Diane Causey, Secretary

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

Approved minutes emailed to: Planning Director, Town Manager, and Town Clerk.