



# On The Trail

The Newsletter of the Friends of Folsom Parkways

November 2023

## The Friends advocate to Protect Trees in the Oak Parkway Trail Corridor

### Progress!

The FOFP has been advocating on behalf of the majestic oaks in the Oak Parkway Trail Corridor (OPTC) since 2021 when PG&E was threatening to cut numerous beautiful, mature native oak trees in the corridor that runs between Natomas Street and Blue Ravine. PG&E previously unceremoniously and without permission or notice cut down several oak trees that were hundreds of years old. We have advocated for designating the Oaks in the corridor as Landmark Trees to provide an additional level of protection for these incredible community assets. Many won't know or remember but it was the FOFP who advocated and applied for landmark tree status for the oaks along Folsom Blvd when the light rail corridor was proposed. Those efforts of early FOFP leaders in 1990 lead to the protection and preservation of the wonderful oak corridor in that section.

At the City Council meeting on September 12, 2023 FOFP Board members Bruce Cline and Max Hoffstadt and FOFP Life Member Sally Callahan all urged the City to protect the oak

tree groves in the OPTC and provide them landmark status. The City Council directed staff to return with an item to protect these trees as well as the incredible groves on the Folsom Prison property. On Tuesday November 14 at 6:30 p.m. the City Council will meet to consider Landmark Tree status for the groves in the Oak Parkway Trail corridor. Make your voices heard by emailing Mayor Rosario Rodriguez and the City Council to let them know that you support preservation of the trees in the OPTC.



## THE NEXT MEETING...

The next regular Friends of Folsom Parkways meeting will be held on November 11th at 7:00 p.m. in The Parkway at Folsom Owners' Association Building, 1455 Willow Bend Road, Folsom.

To get to this meeting take Blue Ravine east, past Oak Avenue Parkway to Parkway Drive. Make a right turn on to Parkway Drive. Go one block and turn left on to Willow Bend Road. The club house is immediately on the right.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to promote the usage, preservation and development of parkways within the City of Folsom.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to make the citizens of Folsom aware of the parkways, raise funds for parkway development, work to educate the community on parkway issues, work to influence development proposals to the benefit of the parkways, and work to identify areas of Folsom worthy of inclusion in the parkway system.

Look for us on Facebook, on Meetup, and at our web site

<http://www.enjoyfolsomtrails.org/>

## Volume XXXII Number 11

### Officers

President	Robert Goss
1st Vice President	Bruce Cline
2nd Vice President	Lynn LePage
Secretary	Carol Ramstad
Treasurer	Jim Ramstad
Communications Director	-
Membership Director	Eric James
Special Projects Director	Glenn Hermanson
At-Large Director	Maynard Johnson
At-Large Director	Jan O'Brien
At-Large Director	Jay O'Brien
President Emeritus	Jim Kirstein

### Board of Directors

Bruce Cline	Glenn Hermanson
Eric James	Maynard Johnston
Jim Kirstein	Jan O'Brien
Jay O'Brien	Hitha Varganti
Max Hoffstadt	

## Do You Love Folsom Trails and Parkways? You Can Help!

A tireless group of Volunteers have been advocating for trails, open space and oak tree preservation in Folsom for over 30 years. Believe it or not, we still have two founding members on our Board, Jim Kirstein and Lynn LePage. We have new faces, new members, a recently adopted strategic plan and Board members seeking new roles in this incredible advocacy organization. From the earliest days the FOFP has advocated to expand the trail system and preserve open space and trees as Folsom has built out. We continue to review the development plans that come into the City and advocate for trail connections and tree preservation. What a great feeling to know that we have had a part in creating over 50 miles of Class I biking and walking trails in Folsom and have worked to preserve our oak trees.

The City of Folsom recognizes the benefits of being "Distinctive By Nature" and we are here to assure that continues to happen. WE NEED YOU to help us continue our mission. We seek to grow membership. More members equals more advocates. We need Board members in several key areas to help us pursue the goals of FOFP and to educate the public on critical issues that affect our trails, natural areas and oak trees.

A broad range of opportunities are available. If your talents lie in communications or \$\$ or are organized and could serve as the Secretary, well... You found your place to serve. Would you lead as a Board Member or perhaps want to help on a committee as you learn more about opportunities to make a difference in Folsom? If so, we have a spot for you regardless of your experience. Bring your gifts and we can help you help Folsom and its trails, open space and oaks. Contact our First VP Bruce Cline at 916-365-5041 or [1stvicepresident@friendsoffolsomparkways.org](mailto:1stvicepresident@friendsoffolsomparkways.org) for more information.



## FOFP Supports the Folsom Residents Supporting Public Safety and Quality of Life Initiative

A group of Folsom Residents have become so concerned about the fiscal health of the City, an inadequate level of public safety (Police and Fire), declining conditions in our parks and trails, inadequate resources to address storm water and traffic problems that they have been spearheading discussions on how best to address the fiscal challenges facing the City. This group consists of representatives from Friends of Folsom Parkways, the Folsom Athletic Association, the Zoo, Police and Fire, the Chamber of Commerce and concerned citizens.

The reality is this: We have 13 fewer police officers budgeted now than we did in 2007! Really?? Yes. Budget needs across all City department cannot be funded because the fiscal resources are simply not there. The condition of our treasured parks and trails are in significant decline because of significantly deferred maintenance. City staff does an amazing job working with the limited resources they have and the City has been fiscally prudent, but simply stated...

Folsom is falling far short of what the residents love about our community. Residents want a safe community where they can work and enjoy the outdoors and that is not possible given the lack of financial resources facing the City. While property

tax is strong, national trends on sales tax have declined significantly.

We all know costs are rising everywhere and the City feels the financial hit just like all of us. No one likes to pay taxes, but our residents do support our wonderful town and want to invest for the future. The City of Folsom has not raised its sales tax like other cities in the region. Only Citrus Heights and Folsom are at a 7.75% sales tax percentage.

A citizen lead initiative is being developed for submission to the City for the November Ballot to invest in our community. This initiative will be a \$.01 (one cent) Special Sales Tax to support Police, Fire, Parks and Trails, Transportation Safety and Stormwater and Economic Development. The special tax can only be used for the specific purposes.

We must invest in our community to keep it safe and strong. The Friends of Folsom Parkways proudly supports the Folsom Residents Supporting Public Safety and Quality of Life Initiative and will continue to educate our members and community on the opportunities to make investments in our community.



## Friends of Folsom Parkways Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2023



# FRIENDS OF FOLSOM PARKWAYS

Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2023.

### OPENING

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Goss at 6:45 pm.

### PRESENT

James Ramstad, Carol Ramstad, Jan O'Brien, Jay O'Brien, Lynn LePage, Max Hoffstadt, Lynne LePage, Mary James, Eric James, Sally Kalaghan, Jim Kirstein.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes. Lyn LePage made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Ramstad seconded it.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. SPTC-JPA El Dorado Trail- Bruce Cline and Don Rose met with Derek Minima from South East JPA. (This Encompasses El Dorado Hills to I-5) Half of the sections in Folsom have been widened to the new standard. Our concern is Bike/Ped crossings. The next SE Connector Meeting will be October 20, 2023 will our concerns for the Bike/Ped crossings will be addressed.
- B. River District Master Plan – Citizens Advisory Committee has met twice. They have identified opportunities and constraints. The three objectives of the general plan are 1. Increase in recreation. 2. Increase in access to the lake. 3. Increase in economic development.
- C. Sales Tax Initiative – Our President and meeting attendees had a lengthy discussion on the Sales Tax Initiative. Jan O'Brien made a motion for FFOP to approve continu-

ation and advocacy of the Sales Tax Initiative Max Hoffstadt seconded the motion. A vote was taken where there were 10 yes votes and 1 nay vote. Jim Kirstein suggested a \$2,000 donation to the Tax Initiative. Jim Ramstad made a motion for FFOP to donate a \$1,000 to the Tax Initiative. Jan O'Brien seconded it. A vote was taken and there were 10 yes votes and 1 nay vote. This issue will be revisited if there is a another call for money. Sally Kalaghan and Max Hoffstadt will make a presentation to City Council on October 24, 2023

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jim Ramstad provided a printed report to those present and discussed it

### CITY ISSUES AND REPORTS:

- A. Folsom Urban Forestry: Romi made a presentation in the absence of Aimee. The Sac Tree Foundation and the City planted 25 trees at Handy Park. The next project will be free give away trees in a neighborhood by City Hall.

### B. Trails:

Folsom Blvd Overcrossing Feasibility Study:

The City of Folsom will have a feasibility study for a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Folsom Blvd between Blue Ravine and Glenn Drive There will be a Community Workshop on October 19 th , 2023.

There will be an informational pop-up tents at Castle Park on October 14 th and the Folsom Farmer's Market on the following weekend.



**Friends of Folsom Parkways Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2023****C. Local/Regional/State Issues:**

Landmark Tree Grove Designation – P.G.E. and SMUD have asked for a meeting about the Landmark Trees

D. Folsom Ranch: 4,030 lots have been approved which means about 8,000 people.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Adopt A Trail Program – City Council has approved to run an Adopt a Trail program.

B. Special Projects – Maybe the Duck Pond again.

C. Budget- Jim was asked to prepare a budget for 2024

D. Board of Directors Elections 2024 in December

E. Lyn Lepage made a motion for the Life Time Memberships monies to be invested in a CD account. All Board members agreed.

Board Member Comments: No comments.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 9, 2023

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Carol Ramstad







# CALENDAR

- November 9      FOFP Monthly Meeting
- December 14    FOFP Monthly Meeting
- January 11      FOFP Monthly Meeting
- February 8      FOFP Monthly Meeting

## ----- Membership Form -----

I would like to become a new member of Friends of Folsom Parkways or renew my membership for 2023. My yearly membership fee of Individual, \$25.00 or Family, \$40.00 is enclosed made out to: **Friends of Folsom Parkways**. Send to Friends of Folsom Parkways, P. O. Box 1501, Folsom, CA 95763-1501 or go to <http://www.enjoyfolsomtrails.org/> to join.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the activities you are interested in helping with:

- |             |               |                     |                  |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| TRAIL WALKS | TREE PLANTING | ADOPT-A-CREEK/TRAIL | PROJECT REVIEW   |
| TRAILS      | FUND RAISING  | MEMBERSHIP          | WILDLIFE HABITAT |
| FUN RUN     | TRAILS DAY    | BIKE PATHS          | FINDING SPONSORS |