

MISSION: The "Friends of Big Finn Hill Park Trails" promote safe, sustainable, multi-use trails within a healthy, natural environment while fostering relationships and engaging the broader community.

Friends of Big Finn Hill Park Trails (FBFHPT) Executive Committee General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 13, 2019
Location: Kingsgate Library
Facilitator: Gary Johnson
Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

Committee Attendees:

Ayrault, Lisa (At Large)
Gerrish, Bob (Dog Walkers)
Gerrish, Janice (At Large)
Hall, Bill (Bicyclists)
Hodge, Desiree (King County Parks for Joe Hughes)
Johnson, Gary (Dog Walkers)
Meredith, George (Walkers)
Meyer, Debbie (Neighbors)

A quorum was present.

Absent Committee Members:

Blanchard, Bill (Neighbors) – Excused
Kasper, Troy (Bicyclists) – Excused
Leach, Jeanette (Walkers) – Excused

Summary of Meeting Topics:

Committee approved the Minutes of the February 6, 2019, General Meeting of FBFHPT Executive Committee. The Committee agreed that going forward Minutes should be approved via email to avoid the lag between Meetings. Members will be given two weeks to respond with any modification requests or their non response will signify concurrence.

Joe Hughes (King County Parks) was unable to attend due to illness. However, Joe sent the following update to the Committee prior to the meeting and had Desiree Hodge attend the meeting in his absence:

No seasonal hiring will occur until April 15 at the earliest this year. As a result and until more help is available, the Park staff's focus will be on routine maintenance (i.e., opening up gates, garbage/litter removal, restrooms), ball field maintenance (i.e., grooming fields, fence repair, sweeping lacrosse field) and keeping area safe around Tiny Tree pre-school.

Park staff also hopes to accomplish the following in March:

1. Groom and prepare all four fields as scheduled.
2. Mow the outfields and Park as needed, weather permitting.
3. Plant 14-20 Western Red Cedar trees on the east side of the Park; these are replacement trees for the 12 cottonwood trees removed last fall.
4. Complete installing new fence fabric on fields 1 and 2.
5. Continue checking the trails for down trees, branches, etc.-the downed tree reported between post 53 and 55 is scheduled to be dropped by March 13.
6. Weekly notching of the beaver dam. Back Country Trail Crew has been asked to raise the area between the two bridges, and it is hoped this work can be done this spring/summer. A group project is also planned to remove the debris from notching the bridge.

Wilson and Jim (new PS II) have been assigned by Joe to be the liaisons this year at Big Finn Hill Park to help make sure what King County commits to do in Big Finn Hill Park gets done.

In answer to the Committee's questions for King County from the 2-06-2019 General Meeting which Joe was unable to attend due to the icy road conditions:

- The area that was worked by WTA north of 138th Place had been culturally reviewed by Brian Lund. The decision had been made to work this area before Joe brought forward the FBFHPT's recommendations from the November 2018 meeting, one of which was on the west side of the Park in the "southwest corner between intersection 62 and 134th Street". However, those recommendations are now under review.
- Given Joe is not the supervisor of the Back Country Trails group, all he can do is ask Melissa or Gabe of that group what their availability is to review any questions/concerns the FBFHPT may have with regards to trail building. Both Melissa and Gabe are busy planning WTA and Back Country Trail group projects throughout King County. However, they might have some availability for a walkabout during the repair/replacement of the Denny Creek bridge.
- The removal of any rotten bike jumps on Hall's Pass or the Log Ride Loop will be deferred to Wilson and Jim. However, this work may not happen until seasonal help is on board, unless they determine it is a safety issue.
- Dave Kimmett is working on updating the trail map for Big Finn Hill Park and is aware that trail markers have been installed.

The Committee asked Desiree H to please work with Joe H on getting answers to the following questions:

- What has King County decided to do with regards to the Hall's Pass trail between the two cedar trees (one of which is now dead) on the north end of the trail?
- Does King County have a plan to re-plant trees on the south end of the lacrosse field since there is no longer a natural barrier between the field and trail?
- What is the plan to connect trails to the crosswalk on Juanita Drive between the

- east and west sides of the Park? The Committee had previously suggested a plan and offered to do the work but is awaiting King County authorization.
- King County clarification is requested with regards to who may use “borrow pits” since it appears the King County Back Country Trails group and WTA are using them, but they historically have not been authorized for use by the FBFHPT.
 - Is the WTA work down on the west side of the Park, north of 138th Place? If so, when will the borrow pit they used be reclaimed?
 - Could the dirt available from the McDonald property construction site be used for FBFHPT projects?

Project Updates/Prioritization/Tracking Format:

The Committee agreed they would use the document format proposed by George M and Debbie M for tracking project progress going forward. Discussion began on verifying/updating lead positions, status, issue(s), next step/help needed and target completion dates for the outstanding Phase 1 projects. However, prioritizing the projects requires King County input. Desiree H agreed to request Joe H be prepared to prioritize the projects during the project-progress discussion at the next Executive Committee General Meeting.

Proposed Bylaw Revision:

Troy Kasper had brought forward a Bylaw amendment proposal which would require an Interest Group representative abstain from serving beyond a two-year term without a one-year hiatus between terms. The Committee did discuss in Troy's absence but decided to defer a vote until after this year's Annual Meeting so then-current Interest Group representatives could participate in the decision. However, there was concern expressed that term limits could actually discourage volunteering, especially given the difficulty some have had in identifying proxies for any of their meeting absences and since there has not been much participation in meetings to date beyond the Executive Committee members.

Annual Meeting:

The following positions were confirmed for the Annual Meeting election ballots of FBFHPT Executive Committee Interest Group representatives:

At Large: Janice Gerrish

Bicyclists: Open as Troy Kasper advised he is not running for re-election this year

Dog Walkers: Bob Gerrish

Neighbors: Bill Blanchard

Walkers: Jeanette Leach

The Committee was reminded that the simpler version of the outstanding bylaw proposal for Article IV-Executive Committee/Section 3: Election of Committee Members passed via email with a vote of 8 Executive Committee members in favor of it (Bill B, Bill H, Debbie M, Gary J, George M, Janice G, Jeanette L and Lisa A); 1 Executive Committee member against (Bob G); and 1 Executive Committee member abstained from voting (Troy K). Debbie M read for

the Committee Article IV-Executive Committee/Section 3: Election of Committee Members, including the newly approved Section 3a: Nominations and Section 3b: Voting Procedure so everyone was clear on the amended process for this year's Annual Meeting.

The Committee discussed the agenda content/format, venue and broadcasting of this year's Annual Meeting. It was agreed the meeting should start at 7 pm and conclude by 8:30 pm with an agenda which includes:

- Sign In/Welcome/Introductions
- Voting for Executive Committee Members
- King County Presentation
- Presentation by EMBA or WTA or Kirkland
- Open Discussion
- Executive Committee Election Results
- Wrap Up/Adjourn

Desiree H agreed to give her King County colleagues a heads up that they may be invited to participate in a King County Park's update; Bill H committed to identify a potential EMBA speaker; Gary J, a potential WTA speaker; and Bill B would be asked to invite appropriate Kirkland representation.

The Kenmore Library meeting room is reserved for the Annual Meeting, but there was some concern that a larger venue may be needed. As a result, it was agreed to research the availability of the Thoreau Elementary School and the Finn Hill Junior High.

As usual, the Annual Meeting will be announced via the King County Parks website and e-News distribution list. However, in an effort to help further drive attendance, it was suggested a meeting notice be posted on the Finn Hill Neighborhood Association website and area Next Door blogs.

Other Business:

Gary J gave a shout out to Bob G for his persistence and perseverance in bird dogging all the amendment changes through approval as the Friends of Big Finn Hill Park Trails Bylaws are now more clear and consistent thanks to him!

Frana Milan of King County emailed Debbie M with a request to have the Committee discuss starting its own webpage so the FBFHPT would have direct control over its information and be able to start building an online presence of its own. Frana suggested creating a free page on a site like Wordpress (which offers templates that function like a Word document so no web design experience is needed) and storing FBFHPT documents in a free online shared file system like Dropbox or Googledocs. Frana further offered to work with the FBFHPT to get things started and transfer old Meeting Minutes over to a shared file system.

In answer to some questions, Frana advised:

- King County Parks will keep the general Big Finn Hill Park page on its website and continue to maintain e-News.
- Friends of Marymoor Park have a website which appears to have been

- developed by someone not using a free website template.
- Other groups use Facebook instead of a website to create an online presence.

The Committee discussed the value of having more direct control over the timely posting of its information. However, there were security concerns expressed over the use of free websites or Facebook; and none of the Committee members in attendance were willing to sign up to take on the challenge of developing/maintaining a FBFHPT online presence. There also was some discussion on the need/value to posting Meeting Minutes. As a result, it was agreed to defer further discussion on this topic until a future Executive Committee General Meeting following this year's Annual Meeting elections. In the meantime, the Committee agreed to ask Bill B to pursue establishing some presence on the Finn Hill Neighborhood Association website for FBFHPT so future meeting notices could minimally be posted, along with having Committee member subscribers to various Next Door blogs start posting future meeting notices, too.

May 1, 2019, was the date identified for this year's FBFHPT Annual Meeting. However, due to conflicts which surfaced as work began in finalizing the agenda and venue, the date needs to be pushed. Since the only business up for vote will be the election of Executive Committee Interest Group members, those current members who, unfortunately, will not be able to attend can vote via email beforehand.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.