

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 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2019

Location: Kenmore Library

Facilitator: Bill Blanchard

Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

Committee Attendees:

Ayrault, Lisa (At Large)

Blanchard, Bill (Neighbors)

Gerrish, Bob (Dog Walkers)

Gerrish, Janice (At Large)

Hall, Bill (Bicyclists)

Hodge, Desiree (King County Parks for Joe Hughes)

Johnson, Gary (Dog Walkers)

Leach, Jeanette (Walkers)

Meyer, Debbie (Neighbors)

A quorum was present.

Absent Committee Members:

Kasper, Troy (Bicyclists) - Excused

Meredith, George (Walkers) – Excused

Non-Committee Attendees:

Cahn, Andy (indicated “At Large” interest and voted)

Judd, Amanda (City of Kirkland)

Kandathil, Heidi (King County)

Mikkelson, Kevin (indicated “Bicyclists” interest)

Redmond, Kathleen (indicated “Dog Walkers” interest and voted)

Terry, Katy (King County)

Summary of Meeting Topics:

Voting for Executive Committee Members

After introductions, the first order of business was voting for Executive Committee members. The following incumbents were on their respective Interest Group ballots because their terms were expiring and they wished to continue to serve in accordance with Section 3a: Nominations of Article IV-Executive Committee of the FBFHPT Bylaws:

At Large: Janice Gerrish
Dog Walkers: Bob Gerrish
Neighbors: Bill Blanchard
Walkers: Jeanette Leach

After the ballots were verified in accordance with Section 3b: Voting Procedure of Article IV- Executive Committee of the FBFHPT Bylaws, Bill Blanchard, as Executive Committee Chair, announced all incumbents who appeared on the ballots had been re-elected for another two-year term. The vote tally was as follows:

At Large – Janice Gerrish received 3 votes
Dog Walkers – Bob Gerrish received 3 votes
Neighbors – Bill Blanchard received 2 votes
Walkers – Jeanette Leach received 2 votes (one by email)

Troy Kasper, **Bicyclists** Interest Group representative whose term also expired, previously informed the Executive Committee that he did not wish to continue to serve. As a result and since no candidates came forward within two weeks of the annual meeting in accordance with Section 3a: Nominations of Article IV-Executive Committee of the FBFHPT Bylaws, there is a vacant position in the Bicyclists Interest Group. In accordance with Section 8: Vacancies of Article IV-Executive Committee of the FBFHPT Bylaws, anyone interested in filling this vacancy should send an email with her/his intent to serve, along with a short biography and reason(s) for wanting to align with the Bicyclists Interest Group. The email should be sent by June 26, 2019, (which is two weeks prior to the next General Meeting of July 10, 2019) to any of the current Executive Committee members for circulation among the entire Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will vote at filling the vacancy at the July 2019 General Meeting.

King County Presentation

Following the election of Executive Committee members, Katy Terry, King County Parks Interim Division Director, presented King County's "2020-2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Levy" which will replace the current levy that expires at the end of this year. As Katy explained, on April 27, 2019, the King County Council approved a measure which will be on the August 6, 2019, ballot to renew the property tax levy supporting parks, trails and open spaces across King County, along with the Seattle Aquarium and Woodland Park Zoo. This levy will generate an estimated \$810 Million over six years, costing approximately \$7.60 per month to the homeowner with an assessed property value of \$500,000 which is about \$2.25 more per month than King County residents are currently paying for a home valued at \$500,000 with the expiring levy.

Katy further explained this levy was developed to keep King County's 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, 215 miles of back country trails and 28,000 acres of open space and trails clean, safe and open while keeping pace with our growing region. This will be done by expanding and improving access to parks and recreation for all King County residents. Towards that end, King County Parks will use proceeds from the levy to:

- Build and design regional trails, including missing links and crossings over rivers and highways.
- Acquire more open space lands that provide recreation opportunities for people and protect forestland lands, water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Improve trail heads by adding parking and signage.
- Repair hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails.
- Replace turf on 11 ball fields.
- Rehabilitate play area equipment in six parks.
- Maintain park infrastructure, such as; pathways, roofs, fencing and electrical systems.

After the presentation, Katy was asked if the property tax assessed in years 2021 through 2025 would increase if property values increased since that could cost a homeowner with an assessed property value of \$500,000 in 2020 more than the approximate \$7.60 per month in years 2021 through 2025. Katy explained that the property tax in 2020 at \$0.1832 per \$1,000 of assessed property value will be the basis for calculating the annual costs in 2021 through 2025.

Katy also was asked what happens if the new levy does not pass. She stated there would need to be another vote in 2020 as the current levy does not expire until the end of this year.

To review Katy's presentation and the allocation of the estimated \$810 Million to be generated by the proposed levy, along with a King County Parks levy fact sheet and map of levy investments, please visit:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/parks-recreation/parks/about/levy.aspx>

Other Business

Next General Meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee is on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at the Kenmore Library from 7 pm – 8:30 pm; and the public is welcomed to join.

Agenda items for future General Meetings are always welcomed and can be submitted through any of the current Executive Committee members.

Future meetings are posted on the Big Finn Hill Park page of the King County Park's website, along with other useful information regarding the FBFHPT Executive Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.