

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: July 10, 2019

Location: Kenmore Library

Facilitator: Bill Blanchard

Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

Committee Attendees:

Ayrault, Lisa (At Large)

Blanchard, Bill (Neighbors)

Gerrish, Bob (Dog Walkers)

Hall, Bill (Bicyclists)

Hughes, Joe (King County Parks)

Johnson, Gary (Dog Walkers)

Leach, Jeanette (Walkers)

Meredith, George (Walkers)

Meyer, Debbie (Neighbors)

A quorum was present.

Absent Committee Members:

Gerrish, Janice (At Large) - Excused

Non-Committee Attendees:

Conant, Kate

Hoofnagle, Wayne (declared interest per FBFHPT By-laws to fill Bicyclists Interest Group vacancy)

Summary of Meeting Topics:

Voting to fill Bicyclist Interest Group vacancy

The FBFHPT Executive Committee unanimously voted to have Wayne Hoofnagle fill the vacancy within the Bicyclists Interest Group for its two-year term.

Voting to fill Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions

Given the Officer incumbents were willing to serve another one-year term and no one ran against them, the Executive Committee voted in the following for the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

Bill Blanchard, Chair

Gary Johnson, Vice Chair

Debbie Meyer, Secretary

King County Update

Joe Hughes reported the following Big Finn Hill Park happenings:

- Batting cage repairs are now completed.
- Back Country Trails Crew removed the fallen tree that fell on the new bridge installed last year on the Denny Creek trail and replaced it with a new one.
- Joe Hughes and Dave Sizemore, King County Parks Engineer responsible for the cross walk design, have been working to get a City of Kirkland permit to reroute the trail to the new crosswalk on Juanita Drive since the original design was not approved by the City of Kirkland. Jeanette Leach offered to email Jon Pascal on the Kirkland City Council for his support in getting this project completed.
- Going forward, everything on the west side of Big Finn Hill Park needing a permit from the City of Kirkland for contracted work to be performed by one of King County's vendors will require King County Parks to obtain a letter of approval from the third-party Geo Tech firm engaged by City of Kirkland before applying for a permit. This process is expensive for King County so work that is not considered an immediate hazard to Big Finn Hill Park users will be grouped with other requests requiring the Geo Tech firm's approval to save money.
- Beaver dam debris is scheduled to be removed by the end of July.
- Trail brushing is targeted to start the week of July 15.
- Now that the baseball season is coming to an end, some of the outstanding trail issues identified during the walkabout with Joe and Wilson of his team in January will be addressed by Wilson and the newest member of Joe's team, Jim. Given the length of time that has passed, Joe requested another walkabout be scheduled for Wilson and Jim on July 16 at 11 am. George Meredith committed to participate with others expressing interest in joining, if able.
- A summer volunteer event is scheduled for July 20 in Big Finn Hill Park to remove a patch of blackberries to make room for future native plantings this winter.
- King County Parks management wants focus on completing existing trails work with help from the Washington Trails Association (WTA) and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA).
- In answer to how the FBFHPT Executive Committee can find out about the WTA, EMBA and Back Country Trails projects scheduled in Big Finn Hill Park before the work commences, Joe committed to email the group once he learns of the projects but warned the project dates are subject to change.

Kirkland National Little League's Batting Cage Plan

Kenny Booth, representative of the Kirkland National Little League and coach of the league's all-star 2019 team, was scheduled to present the details of their proposed batting cage replacement project at the Big Finn Hill Park ball fields. Subsequently, the all-star tournament schedule was released and their first game conflicted with the FBFHPT Executive Committee General Meeting on July 10. As a result, Kenny was invited to present at the September FBFHPT Executive Committee Meeting.

However, Kenny had previously met with Jeanette Leach and Scott Morris of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance (FHNA) to review the plan. As a result, Jeanette summarized for the FBFHPT Executive Committee her takeaways from that meeting in preparation for Kenny's

presenting at a future FBFHPT Executive Committee General Meeting:

- The Kirkland National Little League is proposing to more than double the footprint of the current batting cages. As a result, the following concerns have been raised to date:
 - Increased noise level caused by a solid wall on the north side of the proposed batting cages which will reflect all field noise of game play and maintenance machines. Noise from the fields is already a serious problem for neighbors given the standard buffer zone was not part of the current ball field installation.
 - Even more dangerous choke point for the cross country team races will be created as the proposal makes the existing choke point ten feet narrower.
 - The trail behind the field and the entrance gate for maintenance equipment is blocked in the proposal.
 - Increased footprint of proposal includes 1200 sf of private storage despite King County code which does not permit private storage.

Big Finn Hill Park Trails Project Tracking Document

Gary Johnson led the discussion of the Big Finn Hill Park Trails project tracking document and will be maintaining it going forward. This document summarizes the Phase 1, 2 and 3 projects of the Big Finn Hill Park Trails Recommendation Plan, along with outstanding maintenance projects. It is the organized approach the FBFHPT Executive Committee agreed to take to track project status and to identify issues inhibiting progress with the execution of the Plan. Given the importance of the discussion surrounding this document, it was agreed its place on future meeting agendas will precede the King County update to insure sufficient time is allocated to this topic.

Other Business

Modifications to the Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails google groups distribution list were discussed as this is the list used to communicate among current FBFHPT Executive Committee members and interested King County Parks colleagues. As a result, it was agreed to add Wayne Hoofnagle as the newest Bicyclists Interest Group representative; to add Jim Barber of Joe Hughes' team; and to invite Aaron Hall who is now Joe Hughes' manager, replacing Kirsten Chapman who has taken on a new territory.

There was an opportunity advertised in the Summer 2019 edition of the King County Parks' Volunteer Program Newsletter to learn about how back country trails are constructed. Those interested in learning how to retread a trail, build a turnpike or solve drainage problems should register directly with the Washington Trails Association (WTA) on their website (<https://www.wta.org/>) or by calling 206-965-8561.

Next General Meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee is on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at the Kenmore Library from 7 pm – 8:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.