

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: November 6, 2019

Location: Kenmore Library

Facilitator: Bill Blanchard

Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

Committee Attendees: (A quorum was present)

Blanchard, Bill (Neighbors)

Gerrish, Bob (Dog Walkers)

Gerrish, Janice (At Large)

Hall, Bill (Bicyclists)

Johnson, Gary (Dog Walkers)

Leach, Jeanette (Walkers)

Meredith, George (Walkers)

Meyer, Debbie (Neighbors)

Absent Committee Members:

Ayrault, Lisa (At Large) – Excused

Hoofnagle, Wayne (Bicyclists) - Excused

Hughes, Joe (King County Parks) - Excused

Non-Committee Attendees:

Barker, Andrew – proxy for Lisa Ayrault (At Large)

Hodge, Desiree – proxy for Joe Hughes (King County Parks)

Summary of Meeting Topics:

Big Finn Hill Park Trails (BFHPT) Project Tracking

Gary Johnson facilitated a group discussion on the “Outstanding Phase 1 Projects” of the BFHPT Project Tracking document with a focus on “unauthorized trail building signage” and “trail directional signs”. With regards to “unauthorized trail building”, it was agreed temporary signage should be posted in the affected areas. Desiree Hodge committed to look into what King County trail signage is already available for use in BFHP. With regards to “trail directional signs”, Bill Blanchard suggested a subcommittee be formed to discuss further and report back at the next General Meeting. George Meredith offered to chair the subcommittee and coordinate appropriate meeting(s) with those interested in participating on the subcommittee. While some on the Executive Committee do not see a need for “trail directional signs”, all were reminded it is in the approved King County Plan as a Phase 1 project and all Phase 1 projects should be completed before advancing to projects beyond Phase 1. Gary also solicited group input on any missing Plan projects or maintenance projects to be added to the tracking document.

King County Update

Even though Joe Hughes was unable to attend the meeting, he sent an email with the following updates:

- Weather permitting, asphalt repair work and crack sealing are under way at a couple other parks in the district (Cottage Lake and Redmond Ridge) with Big Finn Hill next on the list.
- The City of Kirkland planning staff has been contacted to review the most current King County design for connecting the Juanita crosswalk to existing trails. A pre-construction onsite meeting will then be scheduled with the City of Kirkland to address any concerns and permitting requirements. Earliest construction could possibly start is late December/early January but weather dependent. Bill Blanchard offered to facilitate a meeting with King County and the Director of Kirkland Traffic to help gain Kirkland planning staff concurrence to move forward.
- Joe spoke with members of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife about the recent coyote attack of an unleashed dog in Big Finn Hill Park. An officer from Fish and Wildlife was dispatched to check the trails and keep an eye out for coyotes. What the officer witnessed were most dogs off leash within the trail system, despite the number of “Keep your dogs on leash” signs throughout the Park. As a result, the officer was not surprised the coyote attack happened given the coyote was doing what coyotes do, The officer stated the best way to avoid this type of attack is to have dogs on leash and close to their owners. The officer also mentioned his Department received no reports of the attack prior to Joe's reaching out to them. **If/when any wildlife attack occurs, people should call Washington State Fish and Wildlife at 425-775-1311 or 911, if injured.** Joe is working on modifying a new sign installed in Marymoor's off-leash area to warn of the dangers of wildlife attacks. He would like to post signs in both kiosks and at a few trail heads to emphasize the risks to unleashed dogs.
- Northshore Utility is now planning to start the flushing of sewer lines in early January. Jeanette Leach asked Desiree Hodge to make sure Joe Hughes has communicated to Northshore Utility that alternate access points may be needed to avoid damage to any of the new plantings that will be placed as part of the culvert removal project during the volunteer event on Saturday, December 7, 2019, from 9 am – 1 pm. Interested volunteers should meet on the west side of the BFHP baseball fields.
- Several downed trees reported by members of the BFHPT Executive Committee have been removed and blowing of the trails for safety has commenced.
- With regards to whether Kirkland National Little League's (KNLL's) proposed batting storage area would be considered public or private, Joe Hughes provided this clarification: *“KNLL has proposed building the batting cage large enough to store their baseball supplies and equipment. Currently, KNLL shares King County Park's Quonset hut. The area is small and cannot hold all of their equipment. The storage element would be private as it is with the Quonset hut. The use of the batting cage would be scheduled either by King County Parks or KNLL but would be open to the public.”*
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Other Business

The FBFHPT Executive Committee voted to move to **quarterly** meetings in 2020 on the first Wednesday of the meeting month **from 3 pm – 5 pm**, starting in February. It was acknowledged that the new time may prove difficult for some; but the majority believed with enough advance planning the earlier start time could be accommodated.

The dates of the 2020 meetings are:

February 5, 2020

May 6, 2020 (Annual Meeting)

September 2, 2020

November 4, 2020

Bill Blanchard reported he was successful in getting the Google description for Big Finn Hill Park (BFHP) changed from a “bikers' park” to a “multi-user park” to be in line with King County Park's description and to be more representative of what BFHP has to offer.

Bill Blanchard also reported he was successful in gaining City of Kirkland approval to relocate the 138th Place crosswalk on the west side of the Park with additional lighting as part of their 2020 Street Striping Program. The new crosswalk will be located approximately 55 feet southwest of the curve-ahead sign and between two power poles. This project will require King County to close and reroute trails to the new crosswalk.

Bill Blanchard re-committed to follow up with the appropriate party to address the power line encroachment by the blackberry bushes in the southwest corner of the west side of BFHP.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.