

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 - APPROVED**

Date: February 2, 2022
Location: Zoom
Facilitator: Gary Johnson
Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

Executive Committee Attendees:

Ayrault, Lisa (At Large)
Bachelor, Dan (Bicyclists)
Blanchard, Bill (Neighbors)
Gerrish, Bob (Dog Walkers)
Gerrish, Janice (At Large)
Hoofnagle, Wayne (Bicyclists)
Johnson, Gary (Dog Walkers)
Leach, Jeanette (Walkers)
Meyer, Debbie (Neighbors)

Absent Committee Members:

Meredith, George (Walkers) - Excused

Non-Committee Attendees:

Hughes, Joe (King County Parks)
Schaffalitzky, Frederik (FHNA Board Member and "Webmaster")

Summary of Meeting Topics:

King County Parks Update (Joe Hughes):

- Baseball season begins March 01st. We have begun inspecting and preparing equipment to start working on the fields. We will be removing the dirt mound on field #4 and replacing with 2 portable mounds. I also put in a work request to regrade and add soil as needed to the infield. This work will take place in late May or early June. We are hoping the weather will help us out.
- The East side restroom will also reopen on March 01st.
- The Northshore Utilities Sewer relining work is now complete. Last December, with the help from the restoration and volunteer crews, my staff and I replanted the area around the two bridges. We also added gravel and woodchips along the trail to repair and to help reestablish the original width.
- The Denny Creek pump house project also has been completed. Native plants were installed at the location in late November.
- Holly from the Restoration crew, worked with WTA youths and family at Big Finn on Saturday, January 29th. They planted native plants near and around the new turnpike they installed last year.

In response to this project, Lisa Ayrault and Jeannette Leach expressed concern that it occurred close to the area where Lisa led a massive ivy removal project and has been replanting with King County Park's approval and with funds donated by the FHNA. All the plantings within the ivy removal area have been marked with bright tape. However, some of the WTA plantings are within inches of those previously marked new plantings (i.e., Douglas Fir planted within 18" of a Cedar planted two or three years ago). As a result, the healthy growth of some of the new plantings is in jeopardy. There was discussion about how this might be avoided in the future, and Lisa questioned Joe as to who from King County will be responsible to watering the WTA plantings. Joe committed to find out.

- Crescent has a few upcoming volunteer events scheduled for Big Finn and Juanita Woodlands East:
 - At Big Finn, on Saturday, February 12th, Crescent will be leading a group grubbing out blackberries and mulching. Friday, February 25th, she will be working with the Environmental Adventure School planting natives and mulching. Saturday, April 23rd, she will be leading an Earth Day event with the main task listed as weeding.

At Juanita Woodlands West, she has two events scheduled working with Emerald Parent's Association. Those dates are March 26th and April 09th.
- The Cross Country Team which marked the course with permanent paint, has been warned by our Scheduling team, that they will not be allowed to use Big Finn for any events until all markings are removed or painted over. I am also preparing to either paint over or pressure wash it off when I have more staffing. Scheduling has also been instructed that all events that need to be marked out, will need to meet onsite with one of my staff before it's approved.
- Frana Milan has left King County for a similar job working for Stepherson & Associates, a consulting firm. With that said, the Engagement Team is now a skeleton crew and will be undergoing some restructuring in the coming months. Until that is complete, please contact Steve Dubiel at sdubiel@kingcounty.gov with any questions or requests.
- Once again I would like to thank all the eyes in the two parks reporting back any issues. We will need your help more than ever for the next month or two. Over the weekend our maintenance yard had some unwanted thieves come in and they removed 3 of our trucks catalytic converters, which is half our fleet. With that said, you might not see us in the park all day as usual as we take care of other district needs requiring a truck.

Trail Plan and Project Prioritization (Gary Johnson):

Gary led the Committee through the below list of open projects he created from the Trails Plan. The objective of the list/discussion was to determine which projects the FBFHPT could take on now that Covid restrictions may be lessening. Once the list is refined, the Committee will work to prioritize the projects and determine what resources are needed to tackle them to completion.

2022 Projects list (un-prioritized)

- Log ride skills area (soil augmentation).
- Hall Pass action items: Clear an alternate route/"go-around" for those who do not want to go down the rocks. (There is a serious erosion issue growing as result of riders using their brakes on the steep portion.) Wayne Hoofnagle and Dan Bachelor previously had agreed they would lead this project as the Bicyclist Interest Group Representatives. Wayne announced he had scheduled a walkabout with Joe Hughes for Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at Noon to discuss the alternate route/"go-around" and what King County resources were needed. All Committee members interested/available to join in the discussion should meet at the gravel parking area on 138th off of Juanita Drive.
- Unauthorized trail building (ongoing closures to be prioritized).
- Trail directional signs (ID trail intersection signs needing repair, replacement or removal. There was discussion over the need to decide how many signs are needed throughout Park; and replacements should be made with more permanent material.)
- Enclose kiosk on East side of Park (to reduce vandalism and removal of kiosk information). Joe H will be submitting a work order.
- Trail segments to address erosion/abatement/drainage:
 - E22-E21 (erosion/drainage)
 - W16-W17 (erosion, abatement)
 - W62-W64 (drainage)
 - W21-W17 (needs to fill in SE turn)
 - W78-W63 (many mud holes need to be filled to shed water to sides)

- Skills development area (SE exposure) – Blackberries cleared; lies fallow.
- 132nd Street Powerline Trail (Jon Pascal of the Kirkland Council obtained a grant to use for this purpose and posted about it on Facebook. Jeanette will forward Jon's FB post to the FBFHPT Committee.)
- Boardwalk from E43-E44
- ADA compliance trail (connection to boardwalk) from E41-42-42
 - It was agreed the above two projects will be massive undertakings so they are not ones to be tackled by the FBFHPT Executive Committee because of limited resources.
- Turnpike extension needed on Mainline trail (near intersection 78)
- Construct new trail on East side connecting to new property acquired on East side
 - This will be a 2023 project
- Construct new trail/boardwalk along 72nd to 138th (West side)

In addition to the above projects, it was suggested the following projects be added to the list:

- General park stewardship to include preservation of ecological restoration, along with invasive weed control and vegetation management.
- Address erosion issue on East side between the new bridges as flooding makes bridges impassable.
- Wildlife camera to be installed by Beaver pond on East side
- Consider installing “hierarchy signs” to help all bicyclists understand walkers, dog walkers and horses have the right away. Joe reminded the Committee that King County wants to limit signage throughout the Park but said he would look into the availability of the signs suggested as they are posted in other parks.

Confirmation of Candidates Up for Re-Election at May 2022 Annual Meeting:

The following Executive Committee Interest Group Representatives are up for re-election to another two-year term:

At Large – Lisa Ayrault

Bicyclists – Wayne Hoognagle

Dog Walkers – Gary Johnson

Neighbors – Debbie Meyer

Walkers – George Meredith

Debbie shared she may not run for re-election. Wayne and Gary will be running for re-election. Since Lisa left the meeting early and George had an excused absence, they will be contacted to determine their intent.

Bill Blanchard shared he met someone in the Park recently who may be interested in joining, and Frederik Schaffalitzky also expressed interest! The Committee was reminded that according to the FBFHPT By-Laws, candidates will include:

- current Executive Committee members whose terms are expiring and who wish to continue to serve; and
- new candidates who send an email at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting with their intent to serve as an Interest Group representative, along with a short biography and their reason(s) for wanting to align with the particular Interest Group. Emails may be sent to all Executive Committee members directly or forwarded by a current Executive Committee member once received.

Annual Meeting Agenda Topics:

The next meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee will be the Annual Meeting. It was suggested Jon Pascal of the Kirkland City Council be invited to further discuss his January 30, 2022, Facebook post about the capital funding being requested by the City of Kirkland for some high priority trail crossings to improve safety and productivity. It also was suggested someone from the City of Kirkland be invited who could discuss the City's

future plan to take over responsibility for Big Finn Hill Park. If anyone has any other agenda topic suggestions, please submit them to Gary Johnson.

Update on Web Support for FBFHPT from the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance (FHNA):

Jeanette previously had secured Frederik's agreement to include FBFHPT postings on the FHNA website given King County had discontinued providing any web support to the FBFHPT Executive Committee quite awhile ago. Thank you, Frederik! Debbie, as current FBFHPT Executive Committee Secretary, committed to work with Frederik in determining what from King County's website should be imported to the FHNA website. It is hoped the FBFHPT Executive Committee Annual Meeting date minimally will be posted to help drive participation.

Wrap Up:

Next meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee is the Annual Meeting on May 4, 2022, from 3 pm – 5 pm. Weather permitting, the majority was interested in holding the meeting outside in the Park. Alternatively, a Zoom meeting will be conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.