

*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 - DRAFT**

Date: September 7, 2022  
Location: Zoom  
Facilitator: Gary Johnson  
Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

**Executive Committee Attendees: A quorum was present.**

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

**Non-Committee Attendees:**

Early, Tom (King County Parks)  
Gerrish, Janice (FBFHPT Supporter)  
Godinez, Andrea (King County Parks)  
Goel, Sujata (King County Parks)  
Hughes, Joe (King County Parks)  
Jimenez, Warren (Division Director - King County Parks)  
Lloyd, John (Deputy Director – City of Kirkland Parks & Community Services)  
Polka, Jon (King County Parks)

**Summary of Meeting Topics:**

**Guest Speakers:**

Guest speakers at this meeting included Warren Jimenez, Division Director of King County Parks, and John Lloyd, Deputy Director of City of Kirkland Parks & Community Services. Warren joined the King County Parks team in 2019. Previously, he served with various organizations in Oregon. After introductions, a Q&A was had with the FBFHPT Executive Committee. Warren addressed questions regarding the allocation of King County resources to Big Finn Hill Park; the importance of the FBFHPT Executive Committee to King County Parks; and any interest in revising King County Park’s “Big Finn Hill Park Trail Recommendations Plan”. Warren and his team members discussed King County’s capital investment project for the ball field area of Big Finn Hill Park; the work underway with the University of Washington-Bothell to preserve the fish and indigenous plants throughout Big Finn Park; and plans for the private property acquisition/annexation to Big Finn Hill Park which should be completed by the end of 2022. John addressed questions regarding City of Kirkland’s interest in acquiring ownership of Big Finn Hill Park and considerations for doing same.

### **Election of FBFHPT Executive Committee Officers:**

In accordance with the FBFHPT Bylaws, there shall be three officers of the Executive Committee, consisting of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, elected to serve a one-year term, following each FBFHPT Annual Meeting. Since no other Executive Committee members came forward with an interest to serve in an Officer role, a motion was made and seconded to re-elect the following:

Chair – Gary Johnson  
Vice Chair – Wayne Hoofnagle  
Secretary – Debbie Meyer

### **King County Parks Update (Joe Hughes):**

- Baseball season is coming to an end on October 31, 2022. No major games or tournaments have been scheduled. This will allow work to start on some of the projects listed below.
- Field # 4 was graded on August 29, 2022. Ball field soil was added as needed. The natural mound has been removed and will be replaced with a portable mound which has been supplied by Kirkland National Little League.
- Starting hopefully in a couple of weeks, the Big Finn Ballfields Entrance Improvement Project will begin. As a reminder from our last meeting, this project will be updating the main entrance gate for fields # 1, 2 and 3; enhancing the area around the concessions stand with updated seating; and making the area more ADA accessible for all Park users. The scope of the project is to remove all the chain link fencing around the main gate. We will be placing 3 to 4 man rock and adding landscaping shrubs and plants in its place to keep vehicles from coming into the park. One bollard will be installed in front of the main gate. Once installed, the main gate will remain open. Three more bollards will be added to replace the service gate to the southeast. The main gate and pillars will be sandblasted and repainted to match the restroom and concession building. The concrete pad around the main gate has lifted up causing a tripping hazard. This will be repaired including any other tripping concerns in this area. Gravel around the concessions will be removed and replaced with sod. Irrigation will be installed. The new picnic tables, garbage can receptacles and benches that will be included in this project have been ordered. For more information about this project, check out the last meeting notes.
- Starting in November, Big Finn Ballfield Improvements is scheduled to begin. This scope of work will focus on replacing the infield fencing on fields # 1, 2 and 3; snagging and pruning a few Cottonwoods and a alder tree behind field # 1; and asphalt repair work between the 3 fields. Some of this work may start in October to avoid any weather concern. The Capital Project Manager for this project is Jon Polka who can explain in more detail about the upcoming work.
- Melissa from the Back Country Trail Crew has scheduled to replace the “shaky” bridge behind field # 4 in the next few weeks. Millwork for the bridge has started and should be ready to move to Big Finn in the next week or two. During the removal and installation, this section of trail will be closed to public use. Joe Hughes will be putting up temporary notification signage once he has a solid date.
- Crescent led a couple of volunteer events in August with one more scheduled for October 8, 2022. The first volunteer event took place at Juanita Woodlands. The main focus was removing Himalayan Blackberry vines. The second event took place at Big Finn Hill Park, and she worked with 18 volunteers from Delightful Communications. They did some weeding around the restoration area; attached ribbon on some of the native plants to make it easier to identify when watering; and finished up the day mulching.
- Sahar Arbab, Volunteer Program Education Coordinator, has scheduled a volunteer event for Friday, October 28, 2022, working with EAS students at Big Finn.

- Jim Barber, who is working as one of the leads for the Job and Housing Crews, has been busy at Big Finn and Juanita Woodlands injecting herbicide in Holly trees and Laurels. His crew has now injected and/or pulled Holly starts from trail marker W20 southwest to the Park boundary. This work will continue throughout the fall.
- Wilson Gulley has started cutting and removing ivy throughout the trail system focusing first on the area at the entrance to the Park at the end of NE 139<sup>th</sup> Street, close to 71<sup>st</sup> Place NE.
- Jake and Carl have been maintaining the trail system.
- Work is still underway at re-striping the entrance to the Park off of Juanita. Once completed, it is hoped a speed bump/crosswalk combo will be installed soon after. Work is also underway at obtaining trail/Park maps for both kiosks.

#### **Other Business/Walk-In Topics:**

- Another discussion was had regarding trail markers throughout Big Finn Hill Park and their intended use. Wayne Hoofnagle shared his research of available electronic maps from [openstreetmap.org](http://openstreetmap.org) (i.e., Trail Forks, All Trails) and concluded these are the primary sources used by the biking community so the need for physical trail markers was raised. Joe Hughes shared there was a recent emergency in the Park and First Responders were unable to find the person for quite awhile. As a result, he suggested a King County Parks subcommittee be formed with himself, Leanne, Supervisor of Back Country Trails, and members of the FBFHPT Executive Committee, to come up with recommendations to avoid such a situation from again happening. Bill Blanchard volunteered to contact the Kirkland Fire Chief for input as to what they would find helpful and to propose a future “run through” with Kirkland Fire and Police once King County Parks decides how to proceed. George Meredith volunteered to again chair a subcommittee of FBFHPT Executive Committee members to revisit why trail marker recommendations of the past have not worked and what options should be considered to address an emergency situation in the future so they can be shared with Joe and Leanne.
- Another discussion also was had about the problems with the existing Friends google groups distribution list. Those problems include some members, for unknown reasons, not being able to send or receive emails, using the existing distribution list. Other options were discussed but given a free emailing source is needed and one that the FBFHPT Executive Committee Officers can administer, it was decided to create a new google groups distribution list and retire/delete the existing one once the new one proves to work. Gary Johnson volunteered to create the new list. Until a new one is available and tested, members of the FBFHPT Executive Committee, including King County Parks representation, are encouraged to send emails to individual email addresses or “reply all” to a previous email sent to individual members email addresses.
- Frederik Schaffalitzky was again thanked for the work he did in creating a new FBFHPT web page accessible through the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance website with one click ([finnhill.org/fbfhpt](http://finnhill.org/fbfhpt)) or with an additional click ([finnhill.org/parks](http://finnhill.org/parks)). We again discussed the ideal is to have one of these links on the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance home page since it is believed more people visit that site. As a result, Frederik agreed to ask the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance Board for their consent at the next Board Meeting.
- Jeanette Leach volunteered to coordinate walkabouts in the Park since it has been so long since we have been able to get together in person and while the weather still cooperates so we can visit the areas we have discussed over the last two years. Thank you, Jeanette! The first walkabout to be scheduled will be of the beaver pond on the East side.
- The next meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee is Wednesday, November 2, from 3pm to 5pm in the meeting room at the Kenmore Library! Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.