

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: November 2, 2022
Location: Kenmore Library
Facilitator: Gary Johnson
Note Taker: Debbie Meyer

Executive Committee Attendees: A quorum was present.

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

Absent Executive Committee Members:

Bachelor, Dan (Bicyclists) – Excused
Blanchard, Bill (Neighbors) – Excused

Non-Committee Attendees:

Hughes, Joe (King County Parks)
Newbold, Bill (Deputy Fire Chief – Kirkland Fire Department)
Pacekonis, Carly (Emergency Management Team – City of Kirkland)

Summary of Meeting Topics:

Trail Marker Proposal:

Gary Johnson took the group through the FBFHPT Subcommittee's preliminary suggestions for trail markers which were designed with the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) concept in mind. The suggestions included limiting the number of trails marked and using a color coding vs. numbering system. Deputy Fire Chief Newbold stated whatever trail marker system King County considered implementing, Kirkland Fire would accept as a Big Finn Hill Park (BFHP) “pre-plan” and then a future “drill” could be coordinated through Carly Pacekonis with the City of Kirkland Emergency Management Team. However, Deputy Fire Chief Newbold suggested for efficiency purposes in the event of an emergency that consideration be given to using a grid system, similar to what has been implemented for the Redmond Water Shed, rather than simply color coding and/or naming trails. Joe Hughes said he would share Kirkland Fire's input with Leanne, Supervisor of King County Park's Back Country Trails, as he reiterated the need for King County to form a subcommittee to develop a King County Parks' plan for trail markers to avoid a future situation where first responders are unable to find an injured person in BFHP in a timely manner. However, it is questionable what priority King County Parks can give to this project, considering current workload and staff shortages.

King County Parks Update (Joe Hughes):

- Baseball season is officially over for the year. The east side restroom is now closed.
- The preliminary work for the Big Finn Ballfield Entrance Improvement Project has begun with most of the heavy work completed. The main gate has been painted, pads for the picnic tables and benches have been poured, gravel has been removed and replaced with topsoil, tripping hazards removed, and the new dumpster pad is being readied for concrete which Joe believes has been poured. King County Parks is still waiting for the picnic tables and benches to be shipped out, delayed because of last month's hurricane. Garbage can receptacles have arrived and will be installed at the same time as the tables and benches. Some landscaping plants have been purchased with more to come. They will be planted before the end of the year. When able, the area will be hydro-seeded.
- Starting Monday, November 7, the Big Finn Ballfield Improvement Project will continue with FORMA Construction beginning to remove the infield fencing on Field #1, replacing with new fabric. This is scheduled to end on November 28 or when completed. Field #2 work begins November 29, scheduled to end on December 19. Field #3 work begins December 20, scheduled to end on January 10, 2023. Weather may delay some of the start and end dates. Working hours will be approximately 7am to 5pm, Monday – Friday. The contractor will be using a handful of parking stalls and some onsite staging areas for equipment and materials. Asphalt crack sealing will begin after the temporary fencing for the above project has been removed. Risk reduction tree maintenance (behind Field #1 outfield) activities are largely completed. The only remaining item is herbicide application sometime in the winter. Schedule TBD, and Joe will provide an update when that gets scheduled. Signage for this project has been received and will be installed next Wednesday or Thursday.
- Back Country Trail Crew completed building the new trail bridge behind Field #4. They will be back to install plant plugs in the MSE Flex bags later this winter.
- Back Country Trail Crew and members from Joe's staff, Jake and Jim, will be installing a new puncheon between the two bridges by the beaver dam (weather permitting) starting Monday, November 14. The lumber is already onsite. Melissa (from the Back Country Trail Crew) believes the project will be completed by November 18. When completed, this section of trail will be above the flooding issues caused by the beaver dam nearby. The dam still will be notched once or twice a week as needed.
- Crescent, King County Parks Volunteer Coordinator, led a small group of 9 volunteers at Big Finn Hill Park on Saturday, October 8. Most of their efforts were spent weeding around the conifer trees at the site and giving them a little space to grow. They weeded around 19 trees and shrubs and removed 3 cubic yards of weeds from the site. On Friday, October 28, Crescent spent the day working with students from the Environmental & Adventure School (EAS) at Big Finn. They worked in the area to the right of the fallen cottonwood tree in the restoration area. They pulled blackberries and mulched in the area worked.
- Jim (from Joe's staff) has completed injecting over half of the Holly and Laurels on the west side of Big Finn. He started at trail marker W20 injecting everything south to the park, west to 72ndAve NE and east to Juanita Dr. NE.
- The heavy equipment crew is working at Big Finn on November 2, removing "volunteer alders" out of the Bioswale on the west side of the park as required for stormwater runoff.
- Joe has hired a security company to close the 2 gates and restrooms at Big Finn. The company is called Str8 Up Security. They will be responsible to close the east side security gate and restroom (when it's back open) at dusk and then returning later to close the west side security gate after scheduled field use or at dusk if nothing is scheduled. They are instructed to give a 15 minute warning and to check the restrooms before closing the gate. They also are to report any issues or concerns that may come up.
- Hot off the press...The new purchase for Big Finn Hill Park (phase II) closed late on November 1. The current tenants have signed a rental agreement with King County and are permitted to remain on the property through January 2023. When the tenants move out, Joe will receive the key to the house to secure. It will then be put on the demolition list.

Google Groups Distribution List:

In an attempt to fix problems with the original FBFHPT google groups distribution list (ie., some members, for unknown reasons, not being able to send or receive emails, using the original distribution list), Gary Johnson created a new list and sent an invitation to the FBFHPT Executive Committee members to join. However, only Dan Bachelor and Jeanette Leach accepted in the timeframe Google evidently allows so when other members attempted to accept the invite, they were not able to do so. Gary then attempted to re-invite those members that had not accepted his invite within the allowed timeframe but the invite was not received. As a result, Gary will delete the original google groups distribution list and any new list(s) he has made; create yet another list and send an invitation to join, followed by an email so all members know they need to accept in a timely manner. Hopefully, this will finally fix the problem but until the fix proves to work, 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 the email addresses of the individual members.

Halls Pass Project: Wayne Hoofnagle agreed to find a date and coordinate the outstanding work needed to complete the Halls Pass Project, along with blocking off the unauthorized access to Halls Pass from 138th Place, just off of Juanita Drive.

Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance (FHNA) Board Feedback: Frederik Schaffalitzky advised he received FHNA Board consent to add a link to the new FBFHPT web page he created from the FHNA home page. Thank you, Frederik!

2023 Meeting Dates: The FBFHPT Executive Committee confirmed our 2023 meetings will be held from 3pm to 5pm on the following dates:

February 1

May 3 (Annual Meeting)

September 6

November 1

Most, if not all, of the meetings will be held in the meeting room of the Kenmore Library. Executive Committee members are asked to mark their calendars accordingly and plan to attend each meeting in its entirety.

Other Business/Walk-in Topics:

- Individual FBFHPT Executive Committee members were encouraged to coordinate future walkabouts in the Park for the Committee, similar to the one Jeanette coordinated of the beaver pond on the East side.
- The FBFHPT Executive Committee agreed the existing map of Big Finn Hill Park (BFHP) with trails numbered will be used internally only to communicate Park issues with Joe Hughes (ie., location of downed trees).
- The next meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee is Wednesday, February 1, 2023, from 3pm to 5pm in the meeting room at the Kenmore Library. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.