

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
Annual Meeting Minutes - APPROVED**

Date: May 4, 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)
Meredith, George (Walkers)

Non-Committee Attendees:

Hall, Aaron (King County Parks)
Hughes, Joe (King County Parks)
Jensen, LeeAnne (King County Parks)
Whitman, Sam (King County Parks)
Schaffalitzky, Frederik (FHNA Board Member and “Webmaster”)

Summary of Meeting Topics:

FBFHPT Executive Committee Election:

A motion was made and seconded by all to re-elect the following Executive Committee Members to another two-year term:

At Large – Lisa Ayrault
Bicyclists – Wayne Hoofnagle
Dog Walkers – Gary Johnson
Neighbors – Debbie Meyer
Walkers – George Meredith

Janice Gerrish, the other At Large Interest Group Representative on the Executive Committee, decided to retire from her position, leaving an opening for the remaining year of her existing term, expiring in May 2023. Frederik Schaffalitzky had previously expressed interest in serving as an Interest Group Representative in accordance with the FBFHPT By-Laws. As a result, included in the motion to re-elect and seconded by all, Frederik was elected to replace Janice for her remaining term as an At Large Interest Group Representative. Welcome, Frederik!

May these Minutes reflect the FBFHPT Executive Committee's gratitude for Janice Gerrish's years of service as an At Large Interest Group Representative. Thank you, Janice!

King County Parks Update (Joe Hughes):

- There is a week long softball tournament scheduled for all four baseball fields starting June 2. My staff will be out all this month pressure washing structures and sprucing up the area.
- Starting shortly after the tournament ends, we have a Capital Improvement Project that will be updating the main entrance gate for fields 1, 2 and 3, improving the area around the concession stand 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 installing three to four man rock and landscaping in its place to keep vehicles out. 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 main heavy equipment 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 that has lifted up will be repaired, including other tripping hazards leading to the gate. Gravel around the concessions will be removed and replaced with sod. Irrigation will be installed. We will be adding four benches, two to the left of the concessions and two to the right of the restroom. We also will be adding four picnic tables with two being ADA compliant. Two will be installed close to field #3 and the other two near field #1. We will be lowering the grass mound flush with the "memorial circle" and relocating the "Peter T Riffe Fields" rock closer to the front. Also being addressed is moving the garbage and recycle dumpsters out of the parking lot and putting them southeast of the main service gate used for heavy equipment. They will be placed on a concrete pad for easy dumping, and we will be installing chain link fencing with slats on three sides of the dumpsters to minimize their presence. When the project begins, temporary fencing will be put up around the work zones.
- Either in June or July, field #4 will be regraded and soil added as needed. At that time, the natural mound will be removed and the irrigation lowered.
- The eastside kiosk now has been enclosed with plexiglass. One side will be accessible to add announcements, events, etc. The other side will be fixed, displaying the most current Big Finn Hill map and trails. I ordered maps for both kiosk. I have two extra keys to sign out to this group. Please let me know who would like to be in charge of one of the keys? (Jeanette Leach volunteered to be in charge of one of the keys.)
- I am still investigating who is responsible for maintenance on NE 138 Street that runs through the park. Once that's established, I will be requesting the road be re-stripped and either adding a speed bump or a crosswalk near the lacrosse field.
- Crescent (King County Volunteer Manager) led a few volunteer events in March and April. The first one took place at Juanita Woodlands on March 26 working with a small group from Emerald Parents Association. They removed three cubic yards of holly that were left onsite. She is planning on having the restoration team come out this summer to continue injecting holly. On April 9, she led another group of 9 continuing where the last group left off, cutting back and digging up holly at Juanita Woodlands. She added pink flagging to holly trees to be injected. The last event she led was at Big Finn Hill Park on Earth Day. She led a group of around 10 volunteers grubbing out blackberries. Together they removed about two cubic yards of blackberries and mulched the area as needed.
- Bear Creek staffing update: Jim Barber will be working as a lead for the Job and Housing Crew until the end of the year. His replacement's name is Daudi. He will be filling in as a TLT until Jim's special duty ends. I have most of my swing shift staff hired and now are being trained. They will be closing gates and restrooms again as well as other district maintenance needs. Jorge is the only returning swing shift seasonal. The two new hires are named Samantha and Mia. I still am hiring seasonals for dayshift. So far I have hired only one. His name is Carl. I am planning on hiring at least three more seasonals. Shane, who's been working here since 2017 as a seasonal, has been promoted to full time and will now be reporting to Marymoor Park in Redmond.
- Supervisor III update: Aaron Hall will be working full time with the leads of Job and Housing Crews which is a Federally-granted Program until the end of the year. Sam Whitman will be taking over his role until he returns. He is the PDMC (Park District Maintenance Coordinator) for South Utility Trail Crew.
- Back Country Trail Crew has hired a new Supervisor. Her name is LeeAnn Jensen. She will be working on all trail issues and concerns throughout King County Parks.
- Other items we will be focusing on this summer and fall are trail maintenance, spraying invasives, removing Ivy and injecting holly and laurels.

Trail Plan Accomplishment Review (Gary Johnson):

Gary led the Committee through the below list of Trail Plan accomplishments from 2020 to present, grouped by project category from Trails Plan (Park Stewardship/Environmental) and/or group that took ownership for the projects' completion within that grouping:

Park Stewardship/Environmental:

- Ivy/invasive species removal (extensive clearing of multiple areas)
- Native restoration – planting of 100+ plants
- Pond restoration (east side)
- Repaired Park bench (west side)

Washington Trails Association/Back Country Trails:

- Raised boardwalk eliminating muddy intersection (W11)
- Repaired Denny Creek back staircase
- Worked on trail erosion (WTA Youth)

King County Parks:

- Parking lot gravel improvement (west side)
- Invasive weed control
- Downed tree removal (too numerous to count!)
- Beaver dam removal

Friends of Big Finn Hill Park Trails (FBFHPT):

- Crosswalk trail closed, redirected and rebuilt
- Halls Pass go-round for walkers designed/built and erosion remediation
- Closure of unauthorized trails (W6-W7 and E8)
- Trail segments worked to address erosion/abatement/drainage (W14-W15, W58-W62, W25)
- Invited speakers to present at FBFHPT Executive Committee Meetings:
 - Paul Fischer, King County Department of Natural Resources
 - Kayla Swerin, University of Washington Grad Student

Gary Johnson then led the Committee in a review of the following un-prioritized list of 2022 projects that could be impacted by the FBFHPT Executive Committee. There was discussion about selecting from this list for regularly-scheduled work parties to continue the accomplishment momentum.

- Log ride skills area (soil augmentation)
- Unauthorized trail building (ongoing closures to be prioritized)
- Trail directional signs (There was group discussion over the growing number of signs needing repair, replacement or removal, along with the value of physical markers and alternatives. Wayne Hoofnagle volunteered to research the online applications used by the biking community as alternatives to physical markers (i.e., Trail Forks, All Trails) since it is believed the biking community finds the most value in intersection markers.
- 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)
- E32 between new bridges since they become impassable when flooding occurs (KCP Project)
- E8-Juanita Drive (abatement/reroute)
- General Park Stewardship to include preservation of ecological restoration, along with invasive weed control and vegetation management
- Skills development area (SE exposure) – Blackberries cleared; lies fallow.
- Turnpike extension needed on Mainline trail (near intersection 78)
- Construct new trail on East side connecting to new property acquired on East side (2023? project)
- Construct new trail/boardwalk along 72nd to 138th (West side)

Walk-in Topics/Other Business:

- In response to King County's discontinuance of web support for the FBFHPT, Frederik Schaffalitzky created a new FBFHPT web page accessible through the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance website ... Thank you, Frederik! This will take you to the new page with one additional click: finnhill.org/parks. This will take you there in one click: finnhill.org/fbfhpt. The ideal would be to find at least one of these links from the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance home page since it is believed more people visit that site so Frederik offered to ask the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance Board for consent to add a link from there.
- Bill Blanchard announced that his proposal to the City of Kirkland for a pathway along 72 Avenue NE and NE 138 Place to address the sidewalk gap was accepted as a 2022/2023 project for Kirkland's Active Transportation Plan. Subsequently, Bill learned that while the City has identified the area as a sidewalk gap, it did not make it among the list of projects for the specified timeframe since priority is currently being given for access to activity centers, transit, etc. and finishing sidewalks on at least one side of arterials. Bill is committed to continue to push for this project and will update the FBFHPT Executive Committee accordingly.
- The next meeting of the FBFHPT Executive Committee is on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, from 3pm to 5pm. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.