

Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails – Organizing Meeting
Wednesday, April 23, 2014
Finn Hill Middle School
8040 NE 132nd St, Kirkland
7 – 8:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

- 39 people signed in
- King County Parks staff: Mike Crandell, Frana Milan, John Turner

Agenda

1. Introduction

- a. Welcome and Staff Introductions
- b. Why we are here

- i. Project Goal

Encourage sustained community involvement in the implementation of the 2014 Big Finn Hill Park Trails Recommendation Plan by establishing the “Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails”, a community-based group representing a variety of trail interests.

- ii. Meeting Goals

1. Present an initial structure and game plan for launching a “Friends of” group
 2. Select individuals who represent a variety of park interests to serve on the inaugural “Friends of” organizing committee

- iii. Meeting Ground Rules

- Share the air.
- Consider the broader community.
- Keep in the larger benefit in mind.
- Identify multiple victories.
- Turn opposition into proposition.

2. Context

- a. Review Big Finn Hill trails maps and need for trails planning
- b. Review recent progress: installation of kiosk, trail work at a couple of locations
- c. Recognize and thank the individuals who served on the Trails Planning Committee

3. Establishing Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails

- a. Why?

- i. Establishing a “Friends of” group was a recommendation of the trails planning committee
 - ii. General agreement around the need for improved communication about what’s happening in the park/on the ground and about ways to get involved

- b. What?

- i. “Friends of” groups can be...

- Self-governed with oversight from a county staff person (liaison)
 - Formal (i.e. 501c3) or informal; can use a fiscal sponsor if going to do fundraising
- ii. Examples of what a “Friends of” group can do...
- Initiate and coordinate volunteer projects and activities
 - Facilitate communications among park user groups
 - Disseminate information about park happenings among user groups and the broader community
 - Advise King County Parks on park issues and concerns
 - Support and advocate on behalf of the park
 - Develop partnerships among the community, park user groups, local businesses and King County Parks
 - Participate in park planning processes
 - Harness community resources and raise funds for park projects, improvements and activities
- iii. Examples of King County Parks’ partners
- Friends of Marymoor Park
 - Friends of Island Center Forest
 - Friends of Skyway Park
- c. Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails – Concepts/Roles
- i. General Concept
- Assist King County Parks with implementing the trails plan, through activities such as:
- Coordinating volunteer events
 - Engaging community members and park users in volunteer opportunities
 - Harnessing community resources
 - Promoting better communication about what’s happening in the park to the various user groups and greater community.
- ii. King County Parks’ role
- Provide direction/assistance to form “Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails”
 - Provide staff to function as liaison
 - Provide oversight of trails plan implementation
 - Schedule and coordinate logistics for volunteer work parties
 - Provide resources (ex: vol supplies; project materials; signs; staff time; electronic resources like webpage, email list, etc)
- ii. FBFH Trails – Organizing Committee
- Expectations
- Serve 1-year term
 - Represent the interests of your affiliation/user group type, while balancing the interests of the larger community
 - Be point of contact for your affiliation/user group type
 - Attend organizing committee meetings (monthly, then less frequent)
 - Commit time outside of meetings to organize activities, promote events, gather resources, and conduct other business of the Friends of group

Structure

- 2 members representing each major trail user group type (Neighbors; Walkers; Dog Walkers; Mountain bikers)
- 2 “at large” members
- The Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails organizing committee will establish things: like mission/charter; selection of officers; decision-making structure/governance; by-laws; etc
- All meetings are open to the public.

iii. Questions?

King County Parks and meeting attendees spent approximately 10 minutes answering questions and discussing suggestions related to Friends of groups generally and how this particular group could function.

d. Organizing Committee selection exercise

Meeting attendees self-selected into the five groups and after internal discussion, selected two representatives to serve on the organizing committee.

Each representative was provided a contact sheet of the other members of that affiliation group.

4. Next Steps and Wrap-Up

- King County Parks will post meeting proceedings to www.kingcounty.gov/parks/bigfinnhill.
- King County Parks will create an email list and post updates – if you checked the “email list” box on the sign-in sheet, you will be automatically added.
- King County Parks will work with the organizing committee members to schedule the first meeting and King County Parks will use the email list to notify community members of this meeting date/meeting proceedings, as well as future meetings.

For questions, contact Mike Crandell at email: mike.crandell@kingcounty.gov or tel: (206) 618-5619.

Thank you!