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Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails
Organizing Committee Meeting

September 18, 2014

7 – 8:30 pm

Windermere Office (Bill Blanchard's Office)

737 Market St, Kirkland

MEETING MINUTES

Action Items

Table with 2 columns: Topic, Who. Contains two rows of action items: 'Send sample text for outreach re: replacing cmte members at Oct mtg' assigned to Frana, and 'Confirm location for Oct mtg' assigned to Mike.

NEXT MEETING

Weds, Oct 15

7 – 8:30

Finn Hill Middle School (tentative – Mike to confirm)

8040 NE 132nd St

1. Meeting was called to order (7:05 pm) and introductions made.

In attendance:

Organizing Committee: Janice Gerrish, Bob Gerrish, Mark Garnick, Troy Kasper, Bill Blanchard, Joe Przychodzen, George Meredith (proxy for Jeannette Leach)

Community: Donovan Handrich, Debbie Meyer, Bill Hall, Jill Bartlett, Aaron Lefohn, Tom Fitzpatrick

King County Parks: Frana Milan, Mike Crandell

2. Meeting business

- A quorum was established.
The group reviewed the ground rules and agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.
The committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from the July and August meetings.
Updates / Info sharing for the good of the order
Mike mentioned that with the change in seasons comes a change in sports and other uses, mostly in the active part of the park. There will be cross-country and other sports using the park now that school is back in session.
There was a question about blue tape markings found around the park in the past few days. Mike said that he connected with the person who put it in, said that she was leading a group ride and did that so members of her group could better find their course. Mike said that the group was only 10 people and that she promised to remove the tape after their event was done.

- Mike said that KCP's Backcountry Trails Crew is scheduled to be in his district next week. When he scheduled them 6+ months ago, he had hoped that they could do the boardwalk, but since the materials are still not available, he will reassess what projects they will be working on. They may or may not be working at Big Finn Hill, Mike will determine that next week and inform the committee.
- Mike provided a summary of the Madrone report that was completed last month. He said the take-home messages are that madrones are failing everywhere and that regeneration isn't really happening, that that's not just in Big Finn Hill Park. Nursery settings also have not been successful. In terms of trails, the recommendation was that the trails aren't affecting the trees per se, and that it is best to keep the trails and people away from the trees so as not to scar them and make them any more vulnerable.
- There will be a volunteer event at Juanita Woodlands, Sat Sept 27 at 9 am. Contact Mike for more information.

### 3. Committee Governance and Operations

- Volunteer event recap

The goal was to do 3 projects (bench installation, trail re-route, and rock garden) during the Sept 13 volunteer event. Seven people, including several from the committee, participated. The only project that was completed was the bench installation.

The event (and event lead-up) was less than stellar, with a break-down in communications and tension among all involved. Frana reflected on some of the issues that arose, including misunderstandings and poor communication among committee members and between the committee and KCP; poor interpersonal communications; and differing expectations and interpretations about process and how to go about the trail re-route.

Frana reminded the group that despite our different hobbies/activities in the park and perspectives, we're all here for the same fundamental reason: because we love the park and want to keep it the special place that it is. Also, she reminded the group that we're not always going to agree, but it is important to be respectful and courteous in our interactions with each other.

- Mission and role of group discussion

KCP reminded the group that the creation of a Friends of was one of the recommendations of the Trails Plan and that while KCP has had good experiences with Friends of groups at other parks and generally encourages the development of these group, KCP was concerned about whether or not the group even wanted to continue to pursue the formation of the Friends of group at all. Mike said that there are several alternative ways to implement the trails plan if a Friends of group was not successful, but that that was not KCP's preference.

The group was asked to revisit the expectations that everyone contributed at the June meeting (see below) and was asked to reflect on what kind of group they wanted to be.

#### Expectations of participation in group (as individual)

- Inform and solicit feedback from the neighbors about the Friends of group
- Participate in the process to help implement the plan
- Lead outreach and input
- Lead volunteer activities/work parties
- Get as many people involved as possible
- Nurture cohesive group to work together
- Provide input to outreach activities

- Gather support and participation to get people out on the trails
- Delve into the dog issue
- Represent respective user group
- Be a conduit to neighbors and keep them informed

#### Expectations out of the Friends of group

- Be a cohesive group working together to be a good conduit of the community
- Ensure proper implementation of plan
- Implement the plan that was passed
- Be organized to communicate and coordinate activities of various user groups
- Get organized to get people to help / to be involved with the park
- Promote the park to get more people to enjoy the park
- See people working together with healthy sustainable forest to support the committees goals and decisions
- Be a watchdog for plan implementation
- See people working toward healthy and sustainable forest and trails
- Address other items of interest not addressed in plan

There was general agreement that participants did want to continue and that group needed more time to gel and come together.

A smaller sub-group of committee members met on Mon, Sept 15 to craft a mission statement. Bill Blanchard provided an overview of what that group considered and how they arrived at the proposed statement.

After some discussion about the wording, the committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed mission statement with the addition of the word "Park":

The approved mission statement:

***"Friends of Big Finn Hill Parks Trails promotes safe, sustainable, multi-use trails within a healthy, natural environment while fostering relationships and engaging the broader community."***

#### **4. Next steps**

- Replacing organizing committee members

Two organizing committee members have stepped down. The group discussed different ways to go about replacing those positions (at large, dog walker). There was general agreement that a similar process to the selections from the April meeting should be used – that is, separate into affiliation groups and have each group discuss and select among themselves the representative.

Next meeting will be Weds, Oct 15, where this process will take place. Committee members from those affiliations are going to reach out to the original lists of people from the April meeting and inform them of the opportunity.

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**7 – 8:30**

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