

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

Friends of Big Finn Hill Trails Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Sept 21, 2016 Time: 7 pm

Location: Inglewood Presbyterian

Facilitator: Bill Blanchard

Note taker: Jeanette Leach

Attendees: Janice Gerrish (at large), Nicholas Rhodes (at large), Bob Gerrish (dog walkers), Mark Garnick (mtn bike), Bill Blanchard (neighbors), George Meredith (walkers), Jeanette Leach (walkers), Joseph Hughes (KC Parks), Debbie Meyer (friend of Friends)

Absent: Gary Johnson (dog walkers), Troy Kasper (mtn bike), Joe Pyzychodzen (neighbors)

Basic business: 15 min

- Quorum present? Yes. At least one rep from all five interest groups present.
- Review and Approve notes of 5/2016 Approved
- Review and Approve notes of 6/2016 Approved
- Review and approve notes of 8/2016 Approved
- **ACTION:** JL to send all approved minutes to Frana
- Can we approve minutes/notes by Email?
 - Group agreed: If a meeting does not have a quorum present, the reps of the missing group will be asked for their approval or comments by Email.
- Room charges for use of Inglewood Presb. Church and alternatives
 - The church proposed \$60 for 4 meetings to cover janitor etc.
 - Several of the attending group members and friend of Friends contributed to cover the \$60 for this meeting and the next three. Bill B took the cash and will write a check to the church. **ACTION:** Bill pay church.
 - Other meeting locations suggested include Chainline Brewing, Kenmore Library, Firestation on 84th (**ACTION:** Bob will call to inquire if available), Bill's office, Bar/Brewery's near 522. Individuals like a central location and free, easy parking as well quiet private meeting spaces.

King County Parks Update

- **Eagle Scout Projects**
 - **Apple Orchard Project:** delayed to bring new scout master up to speed. Current target mid October. Joe H has plenty of mulch. Noted that many people have mid October commitments so he needs to identify dates. Also request not to put mulch on the young clover planted this spring.
 - **Kiosk:** site identified near access gate near 3 ballfield parking lot. The kiosk will have panels for baseball, community as well as trails. The scout master thinks the kiosk may not be sufficient, so are looking to have additional project. George M has ideas (see below in trail repair projects)

- **Juanita Drive Crosswalk project**
 - Joe H has no more information but Bob reports that at Dennyfest (Sept 17) one group said they had met with county, and have identified location and are now planning for “spring”.
 - **ACTION:** Joe H will call to see what is going on.

- **Recent and future scheduled Volunteer Projects**
 - 9 Sept Expedia in Juanita Woodlands – cleared blackberries around plantings of native trees. Approximately 50 volunteers. They made excellent progress.
 - Oct 15 – LDS church will work on ivy (proofing area where other groups have removed ivy uphill from playground)
 - Oct 25 - Environmental Adventure School (EAS) will be planting native plants just west of the bowl near the fence. This area has been prepared by EAS (and other groups) who have removed ivy over the last couple of years.

- **Pink flagging on dead trees – what is it?**
 - KC Parks is flagging dead trees before the leaves fall so they can cut some during the winter. It was noted pink flagging is being removed so suggested it be higher or spray painted on.

- **Playground** - work started today with a fence set up. Only the play area for older children will be rebuilt. The rope climbing structure and the younger people playground will not be affected.

- **Sharp things on trails** Reports of tacks, metal fragments, glass etc on St Ed’s trails south of Holmes Pt Drive. King County Parks saw a lot of vandalism in the weeks before school start with spray paint on trees, destruction in restrooms etc. and glass on trails. Old glass is also working its way up on trails from old garbage dumps from the homesteads. (Sept 22 – another round on the St Ed’s trails)

- **White pine:** The large white pine that fell on the trail between W3 and W4 has been cut so that the trail does not go through two very close trees where handlebars were causing damage. Logs have been rolled into “log rollovers” and removed, and rebuilt, and removed again. Discussion: how to cut trees so the logs aren’t moved into log rollovers?

- **Other KC Parks items**
 Troy Lester now arborist.
Blackberries: Joe plans to bring in a machine to cut blackberries and wants some guidance on areas to cut and areas to avoid. The machine does not remove roots so will need volunteers for removal. **ACTION:** Meeting on site Sept 28 (Joe H will send out an announcement).
Back country trail crew: is finished in ravine connecting with O. O. Denny park for this year. Their work has been well received and is helping people stay on the real trail.
Birches: by BB field 4 are going to be removed as they are dying of copper birch borer.
Million trees: Frana is involved in getting a million trees. Jeanette volunteered to lead a planting work party or two. Jeanette mentioned planting can occur in the Juanita

Woodlands if the bike jumps can be removed by January. **ACTION:** Joe H to meet with park rep to evaluate flattening the jumps and holes in preparation for planting.

Drains: for baseball fields 1 – 3 to be cleaned.

Bins for soil etc to be constructed behind field 3 shielded with arborvitae.

Business:

- **By-laws – annual meeting time, officers, meeting frequency**

Several concerns about details were expressed:

- By-laws say annual meeting in Oct. (Last meeting was April, propose wording not so specific).
- By-laws say monthly meeting – propose changing wording to allow some variation (such as cancelling meeting in December)
- By-laws require 10 d notice of meetings to public, yet we've not been doing this consistently.
- By-laws say we need to have officers (group agree to address these at next meeting)

ACTION: Jeanette to propose wording for minor tweaks of the by-laws to the group for consideration at next meeting.

ACTION: Agenda for next meeting – election of officers

- **Trail repair project(s) proposal – George M**

1. Muddy spot between W11 & W15 – there is an area that collects moisture and gets very rutted during the wet season. George proposes a project peeling off the top approx. six inches of soil, putting in several inches of gravel and then putting the original soil on top. The section is 20 to 30 feet long and about 6 feet wide. This would be a good project for Eagle Scout work.
2. Off-plan trails near W18: two or three new trails have been created near W18. George proposes closing the trails with vegetation and posting a sign “revegetation project, please stay on main trail” with KC Parks logo. Joe H approved sign draft, so George will send sign electronically to Joe so he can print and laminate. The revegetation project will take 2 or 3 people a few hours. Joe H suggested large rocks or logs to help block the trail. Group agreed, source not identified. **ACTION:** George to send electronic version of sign to Joe H. Joe H to print and laminate several copies.

- **Update on Hall Pass**

Mark is meeting on Saturday (9/24) with people with trail building expertise and who understand the vision of the current trail design to help carry the project forward. All sections of the trail will be walkable and passable for beginner bikers. Mark expressed concerns about some huckleberries being removed although they were flagged for retention.

Several members suggested that Mark and/or Troy offer a walk through for the group mid project to have the value of different perspectives mid project. A concern was expressed about trail cutting between two cedars less than 6 feet apart.

ACTION: Mark &/or Troy to schedule Friend's walk through.

- **W47 plan responding to community feedback**

Joe P was not present, and the group would like to review the proposed actions with Joe P directly to ensure clarity provided by dialog. Discussion was tabled to next meeting. Group decided that if Joe P does not attend next meeting, the project will continue without him.

Any other business

- **Dead trees cutting:** Inquiry what happens with logs? Most will be left in place. Those near roads or trees will be chipped.
- **Phases in BFHP trail plan:** question was asked on ensuring we are following the phases and fully completing one before jumping ahead. Group agreed to review phases and status at next meeting. **ACTION:** agenda for October to include a review of status.
- **Trail guidelines:** An inquiry about which trail guidelines are being followed and are they specific to address “bike features” and multiuser trails or do they leave interpretation to the imagination. Frana will be addressing this along with other members of KC Parks. It was suggested that having written clear guidelines will help working together. **ACTION:** Frana et al to get back to Debbie and Friends of.
- **Review of W47 by Dennis:** Did he have an opportunity to walk through the trail? What was his feedback? **ACTION:** Joe H to summarize at next meeting.

Identify Facilitator & notetaker for next meeting

Not identified!